

	Citric Acid.	Ferric Oxide.	
London Pharm, 1851...	100 parts.	57.3	Added as ferrous salt.
British Pharm, 1864...	"	33.4	Added as ferric salt.
" " 1871...	"	41.8	"
U. S. " 1873...	"	40.0	"
French Codex.	"	53.0	"
Pharm. Germ., 1872...	"	?	"

The London and British Pharmacopœias describe the amount of ferric oxide resulting from incineration with free exposure to air, but the Codex and German and American Pharmacopœias do not state the amount of ferric oxide perfect specimens of their respective salts should contain.

Pharm. Lond.,	1851.....	34	per cent.	Fe_2O_3
Brit. Pharm.,	1864.....	26.5		"
" "	1867.....	27.0		"
U. S.	1873.....	?		"
French Codex.....		?		"
Pharm. German.,	1872.....	?		"

Most of the recent formulæ have one feature in common, viz., the complete saturation of the acid by the oxide of iron, but the quantities ordered by each work with this object in view are very disproportionate.

The British Pharmacopœia, 1867, says, "*dissolve the citric acid in eight ounces of distilled water, and having applied the heat of a water-bath, add the oxide of iron, and stir them together until the whole, or nearly the whole, of the oxide has dissolved.*"

It is presumed that complete saturation is intended by the expression "*until nearly the whole of the oxide has dissolved,*" and that the amount of oxide produced by the precipitation of the persulphate of iron ordered is in slight excess of the quantity required for such saturation.

Be this as it may, upon referring to the Codex we find an amount of hydrated oxide ordered which shall be equal to 53 parts of anhydrous oxide, whereas the British Pharmacopœia, 1867, orders an equivalent of 42 parts only.

Practically I have found that the French Codex formula is much more like the basis of ammonio-citrate of iron of the best makers than is the British Pharm. formula, although fifty parts (half its weight) would more accurately represent the amount of ferric oxide