

error is reproduced in the "Companion to the Pharmacopœia" by Peter Squire, whose firm have long prepared what in this country is known as the genuine syrup, an examination of which I have found to bear out what has just been stated. The quantities of iron and lime obtained from the samples I have examined being somewhat under the theoretical yield of the formula. With the view of still further sifting the matter, I have lately procured, through the kindness of Mr. P. S. Smith, several sealed bottles of the syrup direct from Parrish's pharmacy in Philadelphia; but unfortunately it turns out to be such poor stuff, as you will perceive by consulting the table,

PARRISH'S SYRUP. STRENGTH PER FLUID DRACHM.

	Sp. Gr.	Total Iron calculated as $Fe_3P_2O_8$.	Phosphate of Calcium. (Indefinite).	Hydrochloric Acid.
English	1.320	.447 grain.	1.37 grain.	none.
American No. 1.	1.212	.160 "	0.87 "	present.
" " 2.	1.235	.200 "	1.06 "	present.

that we must consider it almost out of the argument. The negative evidence, however, which may be deduced is that evidently no attempt is made to arrive at Parrish's stated strength.

It might be asked, why not discard Parrish's recipe altogether and adhere to the statement, and on it found a new formula, the product of which would have a closer relation to the object aimed at? In the first place by so doing we would produce a new syrup—not Parrish's; and though it is not denied that it is quite possible to produce a syrup having this extreme strength, yet it must be borne in mind that it is not a chemical preparation we are fabricating, but a syrup the popularity of which is in great measure due to its palatable character; and further that being given to young persons and children, the extreme strength, if really existing, besides making the syrup somewhat disagreeable on account of its acidity and smaller proportion of sugar, would require to be prescribed in most cases in fractions of a teaspoonful. You will notice that this latter argument does not apply to the B. P. phosphate of iron syrup, nor to Easton's, though both of these preparations when the original formulæ are followed are not up to the stated strength, yet with them it would I think be quite consistent, as far as the dose is concerned, to improve the formula so as to make it agree with the statement; Easton's syrup being very seldom indeed prescribed for any but adults and the quantities per fluid drachm given in the statement being no more than a moderate dose.

I therefore consider that the strength of one grain of iron and two and a half of lime per fluid drachm rests only on a loose and inaccurate statement which has been freely reproduced on labels, etc., and which unless care be taken might be made a point in a