

good of their patients to economy, or for the sake of pharmaceutical convenience, it is open to us to infer that the *litera scripta* of the Pharmacopœia need not always be strictly followed. On the other hand, the hard soap and the rectified spirit from long usage will doubtless hold their own in the Council and Colleges of the future. The fear entertained that the use of potash soap may be productive of ill results when applied in the weakened form of an embrocation scarcely seems borne out in practice. In hospital pharmacy it is customary to use the commercial kind with methylated spirit. The objection to the employment of the former—namely, that it contains a large quantity of uncombined alkali, may be removed to a great extent by the method of manipulation adopted. It is not unusual, I believe, to commence by dissolving the soap in hot or boiling water. This is objectionable, as well as troublesome, and should be avoided as likely to impart to the liniment properties of an irritating character. The following form will, I think, be found to give satisfactory results where, on medical authority, the Pharmacopœia instructions are departed from†:

R Sapo. Moll. (free from Caustic Potash) ...	1 lb.
Camphor	8 ozs.
Ol. Rosmar	2 fl. ozs.
Sp. Rect	5 pts.
Aq. Destill.	3 pts.

Mix the camphor and oil of rosemary with the spirit, and then add the soap. Stir occasionally during twenty-four hours, and strain or filter. Afterwards add the distilled water and mix.

The spirit rapidly disintegrates the soap and dissolves the neutral portion only, so that the irritating alkaline matter which would be taken up by boiling water is absent from the preparation. The liniment is clear and free from sediment, and remains so at all temperatures

Should this combination be thought to differ to too great an extent from the recognized formula, the specialties of our position will, I trust, be deemed sufficient justification for the adoption of those ready methods which the needs of hospital pharmacy would appear to require. If, as now, we cannot at all times accept the Pharmacopœia as our "standard and guide," it is satisfactory to know of this work that, apart from its many excellencies, it sets up no Procrustes law, but itself proclaims that in the discussions of those who read it and ponder it lies the true road to its perfection.

†We have here an approach to the *depth of colour* which, in medicinal compounds, is so much appreciated by the public, and which seems to be regarded, by the hospital patient more especially, as an indication of efficiency and strength.