terbalanced by the complete removal of the albuminous and pectinous deposits which generate fermentation, and would soon decompose more polygalic acid than the magnesia removed.

I therefore submit the following formulæ, adhering as closely to the U. S. Dispensatory as practicable, and would remark that the use of carbonate of magnesia is sanctioned by that authority in the case of the active principle of ipecacuanha, which the reader will see by referring to the method of preparing *impure emetia*, U. S. D., under the article "Ipecacuanha :"

Syrupus Scilla Compositus.

Take of Squill, in moderately coarse powder,
Seneka, in moderately fine powder, each, four troy ounces.
Tartrate of Antimony and Potassa, forty-eight grains.
Sugar (refined) in coarse powder, forty-two troy ounces.
Diluted Alcohol,
Water, each, a sufficient quantity.
Carbonate of Magnesia, sixty grains.

Mix the squill and seneka, and, having moistened the mixture with half a pint of diluted alcohol, allow it to stand for an hour. Then transfer it to a conical percolator and pour diluted alcohol upon it until three pints of tincture have passed. Boil this for a few minutes, evaporate it by means of a water-bath to a pint, add six fluid ounces of boiling water, rub the liquid with the carbonate of magnesia in a mortar till thoroughly mixed, filter, and add through the filter sufficient warm water to make the filtrate measure twenty-two fluid ounces. Dissolve the sugar in the filtered liquid, and, having heated the solution to the boiling point, strain it while hot. Then dissolve the tartrate of antimony and potassa in the solution while still hot, and add sufficient boiling water, through the strainer, to make it measure three pints when cold. Lastly, mix the whole thoroughly together.

Syrupus Senegæ.

Take of Seneka, in moderately fine powder, four troy ounces.
Sugar (refined) in coarse powder, fifteen troy ounces.
Diluted Alcohol, two pints.
Water, a sufficient quantity.
Carbonate of Magnesia, thirty grains.

Moisten the seneka with two fluid ounces of the diluted alcohol, then transfer it to a conical percolator and gradually pour upon it the remainder of the diluted alcohol. When the tincture has ceased to pass, evaporate it by means of a water-bath, at a temperature not exceeding 160°, to half a pint. Rub it with the carbonate of magnesia in a martar till thoroughly mixed, filter, and add sufficient warm water through the filter to make the filtrate measure half a pint, and, having added the sugar, mix well together and note accurately the measure of the mixture while cold; then dissolve the sugar with the aid of a gentle heat, strain the solution while hot, add sufficient warm water through the strainer to bring the syrup, when cold, to the previously noted measurement, and mix them thoroughly.

Syrupus Ipecacuanha.

(Modified from former editions of the U.S.P.)
Take of Ipecacuanha, in fine powder, two troy ounces.
Diluted Alcohol,
Water, each a sufficient quantity.
Sugar (refined) in coarse powder, twenty-nine troy ounces.
Carbonate of Magnesia, forty-five grains.

Moisten the ipecacuanha with one fluid ounce of the diluted alcohol, let it stand for twenty-four hours. Then transfer it to a conical percolator, and grsdually pour upon it diluted alcohol until one pint of tincture has passed. Evaporate this by means of a water-bath to six fluid ounces, and ten fluid ounces of warm water, and, having rubbed it thoroughly with the carbonate of magnesia, in a mortar, filter, and add sufficient warm water through the filter to make the filtrate measure one pint; then add the sugar, and dissolve it with the aid of a gentle heat, and, having strained the hot syrup, add sufficient warm water, through the strainer, to make it measure two pints when cold.

It will be seen that the chief point of difference between the two first formulæ above given and the U. S. P. requirements is the filtration of the evaporated tinctures through carbonate of magnesia instead of paper only; but I would call the attention of the authors and revisers of both the Pharmacopœia and Dispensatory to the lack of explicit directions in many of the formulæ for syrups, from which I, with many others, have suffered loss and trouble. The difficulty is mainly in the want of full and accurate directions in regard to the various measurements. For example, the closing direction, in the formulæ for compound syrup of squill read thus :—"*Add sufficient boiling water, through the strainer, to make it (the hot syrup) measure three pints*" (while *hot?*) In view of the tartar emetic, the *design* of the formula must be to make the syrup measure three pints when *cold*, but a *fair* interpretation of the *directions* cannot mean that. Now it is plain that three pints of *hot* syrup will not, upon cooling, be three pints of *cold* syrup, admitting that no evaporation takes place in the act; but most commonly a considerable evaporation will take place during the process, and of necessity a crystalization of sugar takes place. The fault is even worse in the formula for syrup of seneka. The directions read: "*Filter, and, having added the sugar, dissolve it with the aid of a gentle heat and strain the solution while hot.*" No account is taken of the loss of liquid in filtering, nor of evaporation in dissolving the sugar. If the directions are followed *precisely*, in such cases crystalization will *inevitably* take place, even if the amount of sugar prescribed is not a little too great, as I am of opinion it is in the two first of the syrups herein discussed. I believe that in practice *twenty-nine troy ounces* would be found to answer as well as *thirty troy ounces*, or a proportional reduction of other quantities.

NOTES ON AROMATIC SULPHURIC ACID.*

BY JOHN W. EHRMAN.

Every dispenser is acquainted with the objections which may be brought up to the present officinal formula for aromatic sulphuric acid. As the committee on revision of the pharmacopœia is now in session, it is to be hoped that the formula under consideration may be modified, and with it several others of a like nature.

*From the Chicago Pharmacist.

The aromatic sulphuric acid is used most extensively as a solvent for sulphate of quinia, in prescription, usually with watery or syrupy vehicles. When prescribed alone for the medicinal effects of the acid, it is not unfrequently diluded in order to modify its taste, and, avoiding the use of drops, to render its administration more convenient.

Now, when the elixir of vitriol is associated in this manner with watery fluids, the coloring and extractive matter, becoming insoluble in the menstruum, precipitates, and the result is a muddy mixture instead of the clear solution we should otherwise obtain. But the elixir of vitriol, even undiluded, is constantly undergoing change, with the continual deposition of a bulky precipitate, so that it can be dispensed in a bright condition only by frequent filtration. This, of course, is exceedingly annoying, and it is a reproach to the progress of pharmacy that the formula has been so long retained without material change. The old method of preparing it by exhausting the powders with the mixed alcohol and acid is preferable to that now employed, as it gives a preparation less prone to deposit by standing. The other objections, however, apply to this with equal force; for the ingredients afford to the menstruum principles, which must of necessity separate upon dilution.

In revising this formula we should keep in view the fact that the resulting preparation should be miscible with water without precipitation, hence aromatics of an oleo-resinous nature cannot be used.

The following formula we have used for some time, and have found entirely satisfactory :—

Take of Sulphuric Acid, three troy ounces;
Fluid Extract of Orange Peel, one fluid ounce;
Red Rose leaves, two drachms;
Boiling Water, one fluid ounce;
Alcohol, a sufficient quantity.

Add the acid gradually to half a pint of alcohol, and pour the boiling water upon the rose leaves; when both liquids have become cool, unite them, add the fluid extract, and sufficient alcohol to make up the measure of eighteen fluid ounces. Mix thoroughly and filter.

Elixir of vitrol, thus prepared, has a pleasant aromatic odor and flavor, and the beautiful red colour of the rose leaves, heightened by the presence of the acid. It is miscible with water without turbidity, and a specimen, after long keeping, has deposited but a trace of sediment.

CASTOR-OIL SOAP.*

BY F. M. RIMMINGTON.

It is somewhat remarkable that our present English pharmacy has no pure medicinal soap possessing any characteristic property or medicinal activity. The ordinary Castile soap, being that which is commonly used for that ordered by the Pharmacopœia, can scarcely be considered a satisfactory article when we consider its composition and the mode of its manufacture. Having recently had occasion to direct my attention to this subject, it occurred to me that castor-oil offered some advantages, and would yield a soap possessing qualities very desirable in an article which so frequently formed the medium or adjunct for administering other active remedies. On putting this idea into practice,

*From the Pharmaceutical Journal, London.