

Correspondence.

Dispensing Difficulties.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

I have on hand a sample of bismuth subnitrate, which, when mixed with ac. hydrocyanic, becomes quite black. What is the impurity in the bismuth?

I have also had sodium salicylate which became quite dark when dissolved in water, and after two or three days the solution became almost as black as ink. What was the matter with this sample?

Toronto, May 5th, 1895. J.A.

[Can some of our readers explain these difficulties?—Ed. C.D.]

College of Pharmacy.

The annual graduating exercises of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy took place April 18th, before a large and appreciative audience. The degrees were conferred by Prof. E. P. Walsh, vice-president of the college. The class this year was exceptionally large, numbering no less than forty-six members. The programme was interspersed with musical selections by Saenger's orchestra.

The conferring of degrees was followed by a valedictory on behalf of the faculty, delivered by Prof. H. M. Whelpley. He congratulated the class in well-chosen terms on the intellectual victory which they had achieved. He dwelt at length on the responsibilities of their chosen calling. The commercial side of pharmacy, he said, was fast being superseded by its professional aspects. He closed by exhorting the members of the class of '95 to emulate the greatness of the graduates who had gone before them, and never by word or deed to cast odium upon the fair name of their *alma mater*.

A pleasing feature of the exercises was the presentation to the faculty of a beautifully-engraved class plate by the class of '75, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of their graduation.

Suggested B. P. Emulsions.*

By CLAUDE F. HENRY.

The present-day demand for elegant pharmacy and agreeable medicine warrants, at least, the consideration of the claim of emulsions to a place in the next pharmacopœia. The object of the present note is to suggest a few formulæ for the emulsions most frequently in request. Speaking generally, a creamy emulsion is to be preferred to a paste, and as to flavor those I have suggested are what are personally agreeable to myself; but tastes differ, and these can be changed. Gum acacia has been adopted as the emulsifying agent, because of its being ready for use sooner than tragacanth, ghatti, Irish moss, etc., and requiring less preparation.

The following is the suggested formula for emulsio olei morrhue:

Take of—

Gum acacia.....	1 ounce.
Cod-liver oil.....	4 ounces.
Elixir of saccharin.....	40 minims.
Oil of cassia.....	2 minims.
Hypophosphite of soda.....	16 grains.
Hypophosphite of lime.....	16 grains.
Distilled water, q.s. to make.....	8 fluid ozs.

Make mucilage by dissolving the gum acacia in two ounces of the water. To this gradually add two ounces of cod-liver oil, stirring constantly until a thick emulsion is formed, then add two ounces more water, in which the hypophosphites have previously been dissolved, and stir in as before the remainder of the oil. Add next the saccharin elixir and the oil of cassia, mix thoroughly, and make up to eight fluid ounces with distilled water. A 50 per cent. white creamy emulsion is thus produced. 75 per cent. of oil can easily be incorporated, but such an emulsion requires more flavoring, and is not so well tolerated by the stomach.

In preparing the emulsion the whole gum, which can be broken up in a mortar to facilitate solution, should be used in preference to the powder, and the mucilage should be prepared fresh when required, the tendency to acidity being thus prevented. The formula would necessitate the inclusion of elixir of saccharin and oil of cassia in the B.P. The former is a very useful preparation, and that suggested by the B.P.C. unofficial formula committee should be chosen. The emulsio olei morrhue of the B.P.C. is not so good as the above. Its sickly color is an objection, and eggs are not well suited for pharmaceutical manipulation even when they can be obtained fresh. A satisfactory castor oil emulsion is also, I think, a B.P. want. The *mistura olei ricini* of the present B.P. is, I think, objectionable, because of its being prepared with liquor potassæ, and because of the quantity directed to be used, the maximum dose, 60 drops, being required for each six drachms of oil; of course this may not do much harm in the form in which it is taken, but it is an emulsion that is wanted, not a soap.

From the following formula a perfect emulsion can be made containing 50 per cent. of oil:

Take of—

Gum acacia.....	½ ounce.
Castor oil.....	1 "
Elixir of saccharin.....	20 minims.
Oil of almonds.....	2 "
Oil of cloves.....	3 "
Distilled water, q.s. to make.....	8 fluid ozs.

Malt and cod-liver oil is now frequently prescribed, and a good thick emulsion can be made from this formula:

Take of—

Gum acacia.....	1 ounce.
Cod-liver oil.....	4 ounces.
Liquid malt extract.....	4 "

Mix the malt extract with the gum acacia, let the mixture stand for four hours, then gradually stir in the cod-liver oil. No flavoring is required, but a few drops of saccharin elixir may be added. A more liquid preparation may be made

by dissolving the gum in two ounces of water, adding one ounce of liquid malt extract, and stirring in slowly one ounce of cod-liver oil.

The only other emulsion in much demand is cod-liver oil with eucalyptus, which might be termed *emulsio eucalypti co.*, or *emulsio olei morrhue cum eucalypto*, or *cremor eucalypti co.* From the following formula a satisfactory preparation can be made:

Take of—

Gum acacia.....	¾ ounces.
Cod-liver oil.....	4 "
Oil of eucalyptus.....	2 drachms.
Elixir of saccharin.....	1 drachm.
Oil of cassia.....	2 drops.
Distilled water, q.s. to make.....	8 fluid ozs.

Prepare in the same way as cod-liver oil emulsion, adding the eucalyptus oil after the cod-liver oil. The flavoring may be left out entirely; in fact, there is a danger of over-flavoring emulsions with the idea of making them very palatable; but disagreeable eructations are apt to occur after swallowing too highly flavored preparations. In closing this fragmentary note, I should like to say that some of the formulæ given are not quite suitable for stock preparations. They are merely suggestions for B.P. preparations, which, when prescribed, pharmacists can make up fresh, as ought always, in these instances, to be done.—*Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions.*

Creosote Syrup.

Von G. Vulpus (*Suedd. Apoth. Ztg.*, 1895, No. 16) recommends the following procedure for making a syrup containing 10 per cent. of creosote: Triturate 10 parts of beechwood creosote with 3½ parts of calcined magnesia; let it stand, well covered, for several days, mixing it every hour for a few minutes; then pour upon it gradually, with constant stirring, a mixture of 16½ parts of peppermint water and 70 parts of simple syrup. The odor and taste can still more be covered by the addition of 10 drops of spirit of peppermint. Another, more convenient though not more expedient, process is this: The magnesia and creosote in the above proportions are put into a bottle and moistened with the peppermint water; then the simple syrup is added, and the whole is vigorously shaken. This is repeated at intervals of a few hours. At the end of two days the mixture will have become thick, so as to be unable to flow; but by vigorous shaking, or stirring with a glass rod, it can be rendered liquid again, after which it will not solidify again. On the contrary, the mixture becomes more limpid every day, but remains homogeneous, separating only after long standing, or not at all.—*Merck's Report.*

Messrs. Archdale Wilson & Co. report that their advance orders for fly pads are much larger this year than ever before.

*Paper read at the Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants' Association.