

sacrifice of a portion of the soap or a portion of the spirit may be attended with disadvantages or the reverse, and some difference of opinion on these points may be entertained; but the question is, perhaps, rather of a medical than a pharmaceutical character, and it must be understood that I do not propose these modifications as a readily available solution of the problem where large quantities of ingredients have to be dealt with. They are simply given to show that something at least may be done in this direction. We have another alternative in the use of a different kind of soap which shall be a pure oleate of soda dissolving readily when added to the water and spirit. Almond oil and castor oil soaps have both been proposed as fulfilling these conditions, and it remains to be seen whether at some future period they can be rendered available for the purpose. In the meantime as our inquiry has especial reference to hospital needs, it will be interesting to observe how the question is regarded by those medical authorities who, in the Pharmacopœias of their respective institutions, have taken note of this preparation. In the following table I give the formulæ of the hospitals mentioned, the quantities of each ingredient being estimated as near as need be for one pint of liniment :

HOSPITALS.	Soap.	Camphor.	Spirit.	Water.	Remarks.
Guy's.	3 ozs. (soft.)	1 oz.	16 fl. ozs.		Contains no water. Ol. Origan. 2 fl. drms. to pint.
Gt. Northern.	2½ ozs. (soft.)	1 oz.	2 fl. ozs.	16 fl. ozs. (boiling)	Water "boiling," Camphor not dissolved. Contains no essential oil.
London.	3 ozs. (soft.)	6 drms	3 fl. ozs.	15 fl. ozs.	Ol. Tereb. 4½ fluid drms. to pint.
St. Bartholomew's.	3 ozs. (soft.)		2 fl. ozs.	15 fl. ozs. (boiling)	Contains no Camphor. Ol. Tereb. 7½ fl. drms., Ol. Marjoram ½ fl. drm. and Sol. Ammon. 5 fl. drms. to pint. "Boiling" water.
Middlesex.	2 ozs. (soft.)			20 fl. ozs. (boiling)	Consists of soft soap and boiling distilled water only.

It will be observed that in each case *potash or soft soap* is the kind employed,† and whilst we have all spirit and no water at Guy's we are reduced to all water and no spirit at Middlesex. Here, then, we have medical authority for the use of soft soap in combination with spirit in varying proportions even to omitting it altogether. As we can scarcely think that medical men would willingly sacrifice the

†Other considerations apart, soft soap from its ready solubility and its freedom from all tendency to gelatinize, meets the difficulty we have been considering most completely.