

STANDARD FORMULÆ FOR CERTAIN NEW PREPARATIONS.*

The Societe de Pharmacie of Paris some time ago appointed a commission, consisting of Messrs. Schaeufele (president), Baudrimont, Gobley, Marais, and Petit (reporter), to prepare standard formulæ for certain new preparations, from whose report we select the following:

1. *Salicylic Acid.* A concentrated solution of commercial caustic soda is exactly neutralized with crystalized phenol, the liquid is evaporated in an iron kettle, and constantly stirred, until a pulverulent mass remains. This is sodium phenate, which is very hygroscopic, and must be kept, unless used immediately, in hermetically sealed vessels. This salt is introduced into a tubulated glass retort placed into an oil-bath, and as soon as the temperature has reached 100° C., a current of dry carbonic acid gas is passed through the contents of the retort. The temperature is gradually allowed during 3 or 4 hours to raise to 180° C. It requires some time before phenol begins to distil over, which is obtained in considerable quantity. Finally, the heat is raised to 220° C., and lastly to 250° C. The operation is finished as soon as the current of carbonic acid gas, at this temperature, carries over no more traces of phenol. The retort then contains only brown basic sodium salicylate. This is dissolved in water and decomposed by hydrochloric acid. The crude salicylic acid is transferred to a filter, drained and washed, and once or twice recrystallized from boiling water. It may be obtained very pure by sublimation in brilliant needles.†

2. *Thymic Acid.* Add an aqueous solution of potassa or soda (1 : 10) to oil of thyme, and agitate repeatedly to facilitate combination. Thymic acid or thymol enters into solution, while thymene, the accompanying hydrocarbon, remains unacted upon. The solution is filtered and treated with an acid, hydrochloric acid for instance, which liberates the thymic acid. The crude acid is washed with water, and, after drying, distilled. Thymic acid thus prepared is liquid, but it may be obtained crystalline by exposing oil of thyme for some time to the cold. It is but little soluble in water, but very soluble in alcohol. It is strongly caustic.

3. *Crystallized Aconitine.* Exhaust the powdered root of *Aconitum ferox* with concentrated alcohol, to which $\frac{1}{100}$ part of tartaric acid has been added. The solution is distilled at a moderate heat, out of contact with air, to recover the alcohol. The residue is taken up by water, which leaves all fatty or resinous substances be-

*From Repert. de Pharm., in New Remedies.

†Complaints have been made of the sublimed acid being not sufficiently pure. Dialysed salicylic acid has been placed upon the market by E. Schering, and is no doubt the purest form in which it can be used. See New Rem., v., 329.