

the English market; they are thus buyers of oil and sellers' of cake.

This imported and impure cake is the material from which the ordinary linseed meal of the shops is prepared, and though largely and extensively used, does not fulfil the requirements of British pharmacy. Its price, one-half that of the pure farina or crushed linseed, is a sufficient indication of its character and quality; sometimes the farina of crushed linseed is mixed with the cheap meal so as to reduce its price, and the mixture is thus sold with a semblance of purity.

The conclusion at which I have arrived is, that most of the linseed meal of commerce does not come up to the required standard of the Pharmacopœia. On the other hand, a great deal of that which is commercially pure, is not elegant, containing either too much oil or a large quantity of husk, and sometimes both, and that which is the produce of foreign cake can never be relied on, inasmuch as it contains irritating matter which has in many instances on record resulted in considerable mischief.

To produce good Lini Farina, the linseed—preference being given to that from Bombay or Sicily—should after being passed through the rolls, have a portion of its oil expressed without heat, then be ground, and afterwards have the husk sifted out, the resulting farina when mixed with hot water will then assume a gelatinous consistence, and be quite free from any volatile pungency, such as that of mustard, and if kept in a cask lined with tin, will remain good for several months. This in my opinion, is the Lini Farina best adapted for a linseed meal poultice, a therapeutic agent seldom properly made, generally despised, but for which there has not yet been introduced an efficient substitute, and I trust that some crusher who may have his attention drawn to the contents of this paper, will make it his business to prepare a Lini Farina for pharmacists in conformity with these suggestions.

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## SOLUBLE HYPOPHOSPHITE OF IRON.

BY ROB. F. FAIRTHORNE.

I find that when hypophosphite of iron is added to a concentrated solution of citrate of ammonia it readily dissolves after being heated, forming a green solution. This, upon evaporation, leaves an olive colored salt in scales. I make it by the following formula :

℞	Ferri hypophosphitis,	ʒvj
	Acidi Citrici,	ʒiv ʒij
	Liq. Ammon. fort. q. s. ad sat.	