

may, *mutatis mutandis*, be fairly set down as 750 ounces, or over 46 lbs., and where economy is of paramount importance, as it is in most of our London hospitals, such waste should, if possible, be avoided. Now the question arises, can the Pharmacopœia form be dealt with alike to the saving of time and the prevention of waste, the liniment remaining as effectual as before in the specialties of hospital practice? It is true that if we disregard the instructions given and employ heat to dissolve the soap, gelatinization of the liniment occurs at comparatively low temperatures; but it is noticeable that this decreases as we weaken the spirit to a certain point. From this point continuing the same process the gelatinization again appears until, in using water only as in using spirit only, we have the same congealed mass which is so troublesome to encounter. In the proportion of proof spirit, or better still equal parts of each spirit and water, the margarate of soda no longer gelatinizes the fluid but is precipitated in a flocculent form. Taking advantage of this circumstance, and being prepared to sacrifice the necessary amount of spirit, we have only to submit our liniment, after solution by heat, to a temperature a little below freezing for one or two hours and then filter. Thus prepared it will remain bright and clear, and in respect of any tendency to congeal will scarcely be distinguishable from the Pharmacopœia preparation. The same result may be insured if we are prepared to part with a portion of our soap, in which case the whole of the spirit may be retained. By reducing the proportion to two-fifths of the quantity ordered (and this it will be remembered is but little less than is taken up below 70°) we obtain, on exposure to the cold as in the former case, the separation of the greater portion of the gelatinizing substance, which, having been filtered out, no further trouble will be experienced.\* The

\*In the modifications here proposed the formula would stand thus:

## I.

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| R Sapo. Dur.....                       | 2 ozs.         |
| (To be thoroughly dried and powdered.) |                |
| Camphor .....                          | 1½ ozs.        |
| Ol. Rosmar .....                       | 3 fl. drms.    |
| Sp. Rect. ....                         |                |
| Aq. Destill .....                      | aa 10 fl. ozs. |

## II.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| R Sapo. Dur.....                       | 1 oz.       |
| (To be thoroughly dried and powdered.) |             |
| Camphor. ....                          | 1½ ozs.     |
| Ol. Rosmar. ....                       | 3 fl. drms. |
| Sp. Rect. ....                         | 18 fl. ozs. |
| Aq. Destill. ....                      | 2 fl. ozs.  |

Add the oil of rosemary, the soap, and the camphor, to the water and the spirit previously mixed, and dissolve by the heat of a water-bath. Then expose to a temperature a little below freezing for two hours, with occasional agitation, and filter.