

MISTURA ASSAFŒTIDÆ AND MISTURA AMMONIACI.*

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The preparation of these two mixtures in accordance with our Pharmacopœia is not calculated to inspire, in case of the former, the most agreeable impressions imaginable upon the olfactories of the pharmacist; nor in the latter, if an impatient customer is waiting for it.

From the instability of the aqueous mixtures of these gum resins, we are precluded the possibility of keeping them always ready for dispensing.

To overcome this disadvantage I have devised the following convenient, and, I presume, altogether unobjectionable mode, which will at once commend itself at least to those whose remembrance of odorous mortar and wearied elbow does not contribute to the charms of the profession. The improvement consists in forming a solution, or at least suspending the gum resins in a certain proportion of pure glycerin, which mixtures are to be kept for adaptation to their purposes, as follows :

R.—Assafœtidæ electæ ℥ii.
Glycerinæ puræ ℥vi.

Cut the assafœtidæ into small pieces, and, together with the glycerin, introduce into a capsule, and subject to a moderate heat, constantly stirring and triturating with a pestle. In a short time the solution will be effected, and the result will be a liquid, not too thick for easy manipulation, each troy drachm of which will represent fifteen grains of the gum resin. Transfer to a wide mouth bottle, and label according to contents.

Now, if we receive a demand for, say four ounces of *mistura assafœtidæ*, we need simply ascertain the weight of the bottle, and add therein exactly four drachms (troy) of the above glycerole of *assafœtida*, and afterwards water sufficient to make the measure, and, with a shake or two, the thing is done, the result being a handsome preparation, much less susceptible of change than the official *mistura*, by the presence of the glycerin, which is certainly unobjectionable, and may possibly be advantageous therapeutically.

The only extra precaution necessary in preparing the glycerole is to guard against employing too great a degree of heat, so that the volatile oil may not be dissipated.

Mistura ammoniaci is prepared in precisely a similar manner as the foregoing, the proportions being the same, and the result being equal, if not superior, to that made by the official formula. It certainly, in point of convenience and facility, possesses a decided advantage.

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