

Take :

Pulv. columbo, No. 20... .. 4 oz. troy.
 Alcohol 22 fl. oz.
 Glycerin.....
 Water.....aa 5½ fl. oz.
 Alcohol, dil. q. s.

Mix the alcohol, glycerin, and water, moisten the powdered columbo with the mixture, pack in a close vessel, and set aside to macerate for six hours; then pack it in a glass funnel prepared for percolation, and gradually pour upon it the remainder of the menstruum, and when this has passed from the surface, continue the percolation with diluted alcohol, until thirty-two fluid ounces of tincture are obtained.

The slight excess of the menstruum proper, directed in the formula, is intended to form a stratum which will, in a measure, prevent the intermixture of the auxiliary menstruum (dilute alcohol) with the percolate.

The short preliminary maceration allows the powder time to become thoroughly saturated and to swell, and it is, therefore, less likely to cause trouble in percolation, besides insuring a more thorough exhaustion of the drug. The powder, after being moistened to the proper degree, is often found, at the expiration of the preliminary maceration, too dry, and it is necessary to remoisten it slightly before packing it for percolation.

When the powder is packed with proper care (not too tightly), percolation proceeds nicely, and the tincture obtained is bright and clear and, I believe, will remain permanently so.

I have three samples of this tincture, two of which were made by the above formula, and the other was made by a slight modification of it. They have stood since last October, and remain perfectly transparent; two of them are without any deposit, but the other contains a slight one, not sufficient, however, to be of any consequence.

But why this one should deposit at all, and the others remain perfectly unchanged, I cannot tell, unless, it is because it has been kept exposed in a white glass (ordinary shop bottle), while the others had been incidentally placed in what are known as "government" quart bottles, of colored glass. I am, therefore, inclined to the belief that light has been the principal cause of deposit in this case, as it so frequently is in the case of many other tinctures.

The alcoholic strength of the tincture of columbo, as prepared by the above formula, is somewhat greater than that of the official formula; yet, this increase of strength is of but little, if any consequence. In the maximum dose (a tablespoonful) there are but forty minims; while in the minimum dose (a teaspoonful) there are only about ten minims more of spirit than the same dose of the official tincture contains. Besides, it is seldom that the tincture of columbo