order that it might be made with greater facility, at shorter intervals, published formulæ for shorter processes for this and other allied syrups, in which phosphoric acid, sp. gr. 1·5, is used, instead of the ordinary dilute acid of the Pharmacopœia. As the phosphates to be used in these processes were only to be a few days old, and would practically have to be made purposely, it is very questionable whether the processes would be shorter than the B.P. method. More recently, two writers have proposed a liquor ferri phosphatis to be mixed with the syrup when required. It has been stated that the solution keeps for an indefinite length of time. It becomes interesting to know whether it is as stable as has been claimed for it. In the early part of last December I prepared solutions of phosphates of iron, iron and manganese, iron and lime, and manganese. Bottles were filled with the solutions and placed in a dark cupboard. In June last, six months after having been made, no change was perceptible. Being out of the syrup I had to open the bottle and use some of the liq. ferri phosph. Since that time a slight but distinct deposit has taken place, whilst the colour has remained unchanged. The latter fact seems to confirm the conclusions of the President of the Conference, that the dark colour is due to the production of caramel by the action of the phosphoric acid and the iron salt upon the sugar.† The brown tinge noticeable in all the solutions containing ferrous phosphate is the same as when first prepared, and is probably due to the partial oxidation of the salt during washing. It is not discernible when mixed with syrup. Considering the length of time the solution has been made, the amount of deposit is very small, and consequently the solution is an excellent method of preserving the salt.

In the following formulæ the proportions of phosphoric acid and phosphates correspond to those given by Mr. Carteighe :—

Liq. Ferri Phosphatis.

Sulphate of Iron	224 grains.
Phosphate of Soda	200 "
Acetate of Soda	74 "
Phosphoric Acid, sp. gr. 1·5 .	7 fluid drachms.
Distilled Water	q. s.

Dissolve the sulphate of iron in 1 oz., and the phosphate and acetate of soda in 2½ ozs. of warm distilled water. When quite cold, mix and well stir the two solutions, allow to remain for a few minutes and then wash the precipitate, by means of decantation, with distilled water. Collect the precipitate on a filter and allow to drain. Lastly, add it to the phosphoric acid and make up, with distilled water, to 2 fluid ounces. One fl. drachm is equivalent to 6 fl. drachms of syrup.

The tediousness of washing the precipitate as ordered in the B. P. is well known. I have not been able to find, but I have some

†*Ibid.*, 2nd series, vol. xi., p. 138.