

parations of Calabar bean that have heretofore been manufactured were made of strong alcohol, with very few exceptions. Our deceased co-labourer, Professor William Procter, recommended a menstruum composed of seven fluid ounces of alcohol, and three fluid ounces of water, and one troy ounce of bean, which makes a half-pint of tincture when the preparation is completed.

I do not favour the use of strong alcoholic preparations, so long as a weaker alcohol will answer the same purpose. Physostigma is the active principle of the bean, a certain per cent. of which is soluble in water; and, knowing this to be the case, I therefore recommend a menstruum composed of alcohol and water for the different preparations, and used in the proportions of three (3) parts alcohol and one (1) part water; and, as the seeds are so tenacious, I would also recommend a preliminary maceration of the drug before proceeding with the percolation, otherwise the exhaustion will be imperfect. The following embraces all the preparations of the bean that I am acquainted with, solid extract, fluid extract, tincture, calabarized paper, and calabarized gelatin, besides the alkaloidal principle physostigmia.

Extractum Physostigmatidis.

Take of Calabar Bean in moderately

fine powder	. . . . .	12 troy ounces.
“ “ Alcohol (95 per cent.)	. . . . .	9 fluid “
“ “ Water (distilled)	. . . . .	3 “ “
“ “ Glycerin	. . . . .	1 “ “

Mix the alcohol, water, and glycerin together; moisten the powder with five fluid ounces of the mixture, pack in a conical glass percolator, and cover the surface of the powder with a disk of paper; pour on the balance of the mixture, cork the percolator, and cover closely, and set aside in a moderately warm place for four days, after which remove the cork, and proceed with the percolation, with a menstruum composed of three parts alcohol and one part water, until completely exhausted; distil off the alcohol, and evaporate in a porcelain vessel by means of a water-bath to the proper consistence. The object of the glycerin is to keep the extract in a soft condition, which makes it more convenient for manipulation, and especially when it forms one of the component parts of a pill mass.

Extractum Physostigmatidis Fluidum.

Take of Calabar Bean in moderately

fine powder	. . . . .	16 troy ounces.
“ “ Alcohol (95 per cent.)	. . . . .	12 fluid “
“ “ Water (distilled)	. . . . .	4 “ “

Moisten the powder with six fluid ounces of the above menstruum, pack in a conical glass percolator, after which cover the sur-