

Many foreign pharmacopœias prescribe a Tincture made without Potassium Iodide, and with much larger amounts of free Iodine than the above. Thus, the French Codex prescribes 1 part in 12 parts (= 8.5 per cent) of Iodine; the United States Pharmacopœia prescribes 1 part Iodine in 14.3 (= 7.0 p.c.)

Tinctures of Iodine are prone to decomposition, and this is particularly true of those made without Potassium Iodide. These last are unsuited for internal use, since their Iodine is precipitated more or less, on dilution with water.

While many pharmacopœias authorize a higher percentage of free Iodine than does the British Pharmacopœia, none prescribe a lower amount. I have considered it permissible to allow samples to pass as genuine, in which the free Iodine does not fall below 2 per cent.

Five samples are found to contain less than 2 per cent. of free Iodine; and it is noteworthy that all of these are made with Wood spirit (methyl alcohol) instead of Ethyl Alcohol, as prescribed by all the pharmacopœias. One sample (No. 26394) contains no free Iodine. Of course such a Tincture possesses none of the discutient properties of the pharmacopœal tincture. A decolorized tincture is described, unofficially, in the British Pharmacopœia, and in the United States (National) Dispensary, 1896; but should not be confounded with Tincture of Iodine.

Fourteen samples are found to contain methyl alcohol, in place of ethyl alcohol, as prescribed by all pharmacopœias.

The following is quoted from the 5th Edition of the National Dispensary (U.S.A.) p. 157:—"The vapours of methyl alcohol, diffused in the air, give rise to headache, "dizziness, nausea and loss of appetite. It was at one time employed as a stimulant in "pulmonary consumption, chronic catarrh, dyspepsia, and verminous affections, but is "now entirely disused."

There can be no doubt that the substitution of Wood Spirit (methyl alcohol) for Ethyl alcohol, constitutes an adulteration under the Act.

I beg to recommend the publication of this report as Bulletin No. 152.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.

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