

AN APOLOGY.

We regret that the publication of the *CANADIAN DRUGGIST* has been unavoidably delayed this month, but will be able to promise prompt issue on the 15th of each month in future.

An Easy Method of Preparing Mucilage.

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Mucilage of gum arabic is a very delicate and troublesome preparation, apart from the consideration—so prominent in these days—that it is almost impossible to obtain such a quality of the raw material as will give a satisfactory solution.

But even with a reliable gum at hand it is by no means easy to prepare a sample of mucilage which will, without some addition, keep well and free from decomposition, as evidenced by the retention of its viscosity, and by the absence of sourness—the latter a condition of paramount importance.

It has been suggested, with considerable justness, that to a certain extent the instability and tendency to decomposition characteristic of most mucilage depends upon the method of preparation, so that very wisely the attention of the pharmacist has been called to the necessity of discovering the conditions which are most favorable to yielding a reliable and permanent product, and of devising those modifications of the ordinary process of haphazard maceration of the gum in water which will be most conducive to the same desirable issue.

Although this subject has probably not attracted so much notice as it required and deserved, yet this much at least has been determined with relation to the preparation of a satisfactory article: (1) that the lower the temperature at which solution is effected the more permanent the product; and (2) the more effectually air is excluded from the mixture of half-dissolved gum and water the more likely is the pharmacist to obtain a mucilage which will remain unchanged for a reasonable length of time.

The method which I can recommend from my own experience is based upon these considerations; it may not be new to all, but it certainly is by no means generally known or so widely applied as its simplicity and effectiveness merits.

It is necessary that a glass-stoppered bottle should be used, of such a capacity that the gum and water, when introduced in the proper proportions, shall quite fill it, so that when the stopper is *in situ* (not being so placed until adhering air bubbles have been removed from the gum by gentle gyration of the vessel) all air shall be completely excluded. It is naturally somewhat difficult to hit the right quantities of gum and water to use in order to fulfil this condition at the first trial; but when they have been once determined by experiment, the figures are entered in the note book, and used as guides in all subsequent operations.

By avoiding contact of the mixture with air in the manner described, and by conducting the solution at the lowest possible temperature, all

the possible precautions against premature decomposition have been taken. It only remains to allow solution to take place.

But this is not most rapidly effected by merely allowing the bottle to stand on the counter and giving it an occasional shake. Under such conditions the gum forms a semi-solid homogeneous mass at the bottom of the water, which no amount of shaking will disturb. Of course the glass rod must not be called into requisition, primarily because it cannot be introduced into the full bottle without displacing a portion of the contents, and further, because by opening the vessel in this way we should stultify all our previous precaution to prevent the access of air.

The best way to proceed is first to shake together the gum and water, having secured the stopper with string, and then allow the bottle to rest on one side. After a time it is taken up and inverted, *i. e.*, is allowed to stand on the stopper, supported in any convenient manner. As there is no air space in the bottle, no portion of the gum is out of contact with the water when the bottle is turned upside down—an important factor. The gum, therefore, gradually falls, by virtue of gravity, in the form of "strings" through the water, and is quickly dissolved. A repetition of the inversion two or three times will be sufficient to perfect solution in much less time than could possibly be effected by the common method of stirring occasionally with a glass rod or a pestle, the mixture of gum and water contained in an open dish or mortar.

The last operation is straining. This should be done by means of fine flannel not previously moistened with water, and is generally supposed to be advisable. This material will be found to give a brighter solution with no more trouble than muslin (the meshes of which soon became blocked with impurities and dried gum); and if the finished product be filled into small bottles (say 2 oz.) and securely corked it will be found to keep well for an almost indefinite time—at least as long as will be required in any average pharmacy.—*British and Colonial Druggist.*

Glycerin Suppositories.

Suppositories composed chiefly of glycerin have recently come into use to quite an extent, as a remedy for constipation, particularly of children. They seem to work like a charm; the glycerin being absorbed and relieving the constipation.

Dietrich gives the following formula for making these suppositories:

Stearin soap, dialyzed	10 parts.
Glycerin, pure	90 parts.

Dissolve the soap in a little hot water mix with the glycerin and pass through a steam filter. The melted filtrate may be divided into suppositories of 26 to 38 grains which should be enclosed in tin foil.

This formula is inexpedient for general use because dialyzed stearine soap is not readily obtained nor is a steam filter a convenience possessed by most druggists. We therefore present the following which we think will be suited to the wants and conveniences of the drug trade:

Dry white soap in powder	2 drachms.
Glycerin by weight	5 ounces.
Water	½ ounce.

Mix the soap and the water and add the glycerin boiling them together until all the water has evaporated and vapor no longer rises, then run in suitable moulds or allow to cool and shape to the required form into suppositories of about 50 grains. These can be covered with tin foil, or better yet be dipped in melted cacao butter to protect them from absorbing moisture.—*Fenner's Formulary.*

Iodine Wine.

It seems, says Barnouvin, in the *Reportoire de Pharmacie*, that iodine wine is the most efficacious form in which iodine can be made available in the treatment of phthisis and scrofula without using those preparations whose taste and causticity make them very disagreeable, and hence unfit for exhibition in treating children. Hitherto this wine has been prepared by letting algae rich in iodine ferment with grape juice, a process which produced a wine very rich in tannin, and to this fact (the formation of an iodine tannate) was attributed the absence of the sharp disagreeable iodine taste from the wine. Barnouvin now demonstrates that the tannin really plays no such part, and that an iodine wine can be made which is of pleasant taste and yet entirely free from that agent. It is prepared by dissolving iodine in the proportion of 1 part in 1,000 in any tannin free wine.

Veterinary Pharmacy.

In reference to relative dosage for animals and men we doubt very much whether any ratio really exists. Many things do not have the same effect on animals as on men, for example, belladonna is and can be taken very freely by horses without danger. We append a short list of doses, taken from Morten's Veterinary Pharmacy, which we hope will be of service:

Acid, arsenious, 5 to 10 grs.
Acid, carbolic, externally only.
Acid, hydrochloric (10 per cent.), 2 to 4 drs.
Acid, hydrocyanic, 2 per cent., ½ to 1 dram.
Aconite tinct. 10 to 20 minims.
Aloes, 4 to 8 drs.
Ammonia Muriate, 1 to 2 drs.
Antimony and Potash Tartrate, ½ to 1 dr.
Argenti Nitras, externally only.
Belladonna Ext., 1 to 2 drams.
Camphor, 1 to 2 drams.
Cantharides, 5 to 10 grs.
Capsicum, 10 to 20 grs.
Cascara, 2 to 4 drs.
Chloroform, 1 to 2 ozs.
Croton Oil, 20 to 30 drops.
Copper Sulphate, 1 to 2 drs.
Digitalis, 1 to 2 drs.
Ergot, 2 to 4 drs.
Iron Sulphate, 2 to 4 drs.
Galls, 2 to 4 drs.
Gentian Root, 2 to 4 drs.
Hydrargyn Oxide, 1 to 1½ drs.
Hyoscyamus Ext., 1 to 2 drams.
Iodine, 5 to 10 grs.
Magnesia, ½ to 1 oz.
Opium, 1 to 2 drs.
Plumbi Acetas, 1 to 2 drs.
Potash Nitrate, 2 to 4 drs.
Quinine Sulph., 20 to 30 grs.
Sodium Sulphate, ½ to 1 lb.
Strychnine, 1 to 3 grs.
Sulphur, 1 to 4 ozs.
Zinger, 1 to 4 drs.