

1906, I shall continue to persist in my claim that I was the first to use it for this purpose.

Most of the paraffin which is now used for internal administration is of the liquid variety—"Petroleum liquidum purum"; it is, however, a body of very indefinite composition. The official standards, while authorizing certain limits as to the volatility and specific gravity do not fix definitely the chemical composition of the oil.

It thus comes about that no two samples are exactly alike either as regards taste or composition, and manufacturers have taken advantage of these inconsistencies to sell special brands under registered names at fancy prices. As long, however, as a liquid petroleum is tasteless and free from toxic compositions, one kind is as good as another, and it certainly is unwise to pay a fancy price for a fancy name.

When the idea first occurred to me in 1906 to treat the constipation of infants by petroleum I thought I would try my old friend the original petroleum emulsion which had been so largely advertised as a substitute for cod liver oil, but then I remembered that it was fortified with considerable quantities of mixed hypophosphites, which might introduce fresh and undesirable complications. I therefore took counsel with the dispenser at the St. Marylebone General Dispensary, and between us we devised the formulary of an emulsion which, under the name of "Marylebone Petroleum Emulsion," has acquired quite a local reputation. The emulsifying agent in this preparation is a decoction of Irish moss, a very much better medium than gum acacia or tragacanth, which is usually employed. It is much cheaper, and it contains a small quantity of iodine, which I believe has a really beneficial influence on most of the conditions for which the emulsion is usually given. The flavoring is quite pleasant, and the small addition of benzoic acid preserves the decoction of Irish moss from fermentative changes. The following is the formula of the Marylebone emulsion:—

Paraffini liquidi B. P.	33.0
Acidi Benzoici	
Glusidi	a a 0.05
Olei Cinnamomi	0.10
Decoetum Chondri Crispi	ad 100.00

The chief trouble in prescribing this emulsion is that it is practically impossible to make it in small quantities; it must be made in bulk if it is to be of good quality. Another objection to the use of an emulsion of petroleum instead of the plain oil is that larger