

In the near future, a number of these will be tentatively adopted by votes of the Committee. It is recommended that after such adoption they be referred to the Council and upon the approval of that body that they be printed in the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

In addition to the above list of topics the following items have been accepted by referees and their reports are anticipated in the near future:

Antimony Oxide	Antimony Sulphide
Burgundy Pitch	Caramel
Chionanthus	Corydalis
Elecampane	Garlic
Helianthemum	Hydrangea
Mellilot Tops	Potassium Formate
Quinine Valerate	Sodium Formate
Strychnine Valerate	Yeast, compressed
Galega	Nepeta
Orris	Pimpinella Root
Parsley Root	White Sandal Wood
Xanthoxylum Berries	Zedoary
Rumex	Thyme

As it is contemplated to include in the National Formulary Revision a number of formulas and drugs dismissed in the U. S. P. Revision, it will likewise be necessary either for this Committee or the Committee on National Formulary to give some attention to the standards for these drugs before they are admitted into the revised National Formulary and such approved monographs should be reported as part of the work of this Committee and printed in the Journal.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE M. BERINGER, Chairman.

THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPŒIA AND NATIONAL FORMULARY IN THEIR RELATION TO THE FOOD AND DRUG LAWS.

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The discrepancies in the standards of the U. S. P. and N. F. soon become apparent when an attempt is made to enforce drug laws in which these works are named as standards. It is of course a well known fact that these two books were not originally intended to be standards in the sense that they are now used, but since Congress and many State Legislatures in their wisdom have seen fit to incorporate the standards laid down by the U. S. P. and N. F. into the laws, it becomes necessary for officials charged with the enforcement of the law to use them.

It is the purpose of this paper, therefore, to offer some suggestions based on practical experience as a drug official, which would, in my opinion, vastly increase the worth of the U. S. P. and N. F.

In the first place we need a U. S. P. and N. F. that will be standards in every sense of the word. In order to accomplish this we must have a definite standard for every preparation possible in these two books, as well as accurate methods for assays. In the present U. S. P. there are 961 articles which may be divided into two classes, those that have an assay and those that have not. The class

that has an assay may be sub-divided into two parts. Those that have an assay for each ingredient and those that have an assay for the principal ingredient.

A resume of the U. S. P. shows that 29 percent of the preparations fall in the first class and have an official definition as well as a reliable assay. The other 71 percent have neither. Of the first class about 1 percent have an assay for each ingredient and 28 percent have an assay for the principal ingredient only. Of the latter, viz, those that have an assay for the principal ingredient, only Tincture of Iodine is a good example. Potassium iodide is used in this preparation for two reasons: First, to aid in the solution of the iodine and second to keep hydriodic acid from forming. Therefore, if potassium iodide is such an important ingredient, it would seem that a method for its assay should be incorporated and furthermore the official definition should state the amount of iodide the finished preparation should contain. Another good example of this same class is Elixir of Iron, Quinine and Strychnine. It is my opinion that this all important preparation needs revising if any does.

Have you ever attempted to calculate the iron content? The elixir is made from the Tincture of Citro-Chloride of Iron N. F., which is made from the solution of Ferric Chloride U. S. P., which in turn is made from metallic iron. Attempt to calculate the iron content before an average jury and see where you land. Before you get through the judge, jury and even yourself will be disgusted. Then in all probability the lawyer for the defense will arise and move that the case be dismissed as there is no official standard or official method of assay. It would seem, therefore, that this preparation should at least have an official definition stating the percentage of the principal ingredients that it should contain.

Seidlitz Powders is another important preparation. The U. S. P. says that the blue papers shall contain 10.33 grams and the white 2.25 grams. Now what if the blue papers contain only 9.5 grams and the white 1.9 grams? Shall we condemn the sample or pass it? Here again shows the need of a minimum and maximum standard for the principal ingredients of each and every preparation.

We need more methods of assay and more definitions and if the degree of experimental error or tolerance limit to be expected, be given with each method, it will save much time and work on the part of the drug officials and be another step towards uniformity. As it is if a U. S. P. or N. F. product is sent in by one of our drug inspectors which the chemist has not analyzed before, he must first try out the method on a number of known samples to see just how much variation he can allow.

Tablet Triturates it seems present an obstacle. Since it is impossible to place every triturate in the U. S. P. or N. F., therefore, why not have a general provision reading somewhat like following: "All tablet triturates shall contain that quantity of medicinal substance which is represented on the container thereof."

It is my understanding that the use of the word "about" will be eliminated in the next edition. This I heartily approve of as there has always been and still is a question of just how much variation we must allow on account of this word. In this connection it seems that there are a number of other words or phrases that could very well be eliminated.

In regard to Spirit of Nitre, there seems to be a difference of opinion on the

keeping qualities of this product. By experimentation it has been shown many times that this product may be kept in perfect condition for a number of months if kept in accordance with the U. S. P. Therefore, it would seem that the phrase "When freshly prepared" could very well be eliminated from the definition.

In conclusion it seems that the crying need of the U. S. P. is a clear, concise definition for each preparation, giving a minimum and maximum standard for the principal ingredients and a method for their determination. I am heartily in favor of converting the U. S. P. into a book of simples and the N. F. into a book of formulas, with provisions for a yearly supplement to each. Further, I believe it might be well to have all methods worked out and adopted by the A. O. A. C. take precedence over the methods of the U. S. P., and after approval by some official body representing the revision committee of the U. S. P., these methods be printed as a supplement to the U. S. P. This would give us an opportunity to use new methods and at the same time feel that they were official, without waiting for the ten year meeting of the revision committee.

MICHIGAN DAIRY AND FOOD DEPARTMENT LABORATORIES, 1913.

DOING A FAVOR.

Mr. Business Man, there are two ways of conferring a favor, and if you can grasp the right way and stick to it, it will mean many hundreds of dollars in your pocket during the course of your business life. When you are asked to do a favor, make your decision mentally. If you have to give your answer on the spot, you may have to do some quick thinking, but take a few minutes and make your decision mentally. If your decision is no, say no, and let that end it. But if your decision is yes, say it with a smile.

If you have to make a sacrifice, let it yield you a return. Do it gracefully. Do it with a smile. It seems a simple lesson, yet some men never master it. They go through life, granting as many favors as other men, and always doing it in a grudging way. This is a huge mistake.

We know of no better lesson for a young business man to master than this: If you have to do a favor, do it gracefully, and with a smile.—*National Druggist.*