DIGEST OF CRITICISMS

Vinum Colchici Seminis.

The seeds should be deprived of the oil before extraction. A. P. A. Comm. (A. J. Ph. 95, 485).

It is a question whether it is necessary to grind, or powder, the seeds, in view of the fact that the active principle resides in the tests. See under Tinctura Colchici Seminis.

Vinum Ipecacuanhæ.

The direction should read to "wash the filter with sufficient wine to make 1000 Cc." Beringer (A. J. Ph. 94, 95).

Paul & Cownley propose a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of emetine hydrochlorate in 4 fl. oz. of white wine. (Ph. J. & Tr. 95, Febr. 692. A. J. Ph. 95, 261.)

Zinci Acetas.

Solubility. Since protracted boiling of the aqueous solution renders the salt less soluble by the formation of basic acetate, it is advisable not to use the granular salt, as at the temperature of the steam pans acetic acid is lost, and basic salt formed. Curtman (Circ. No. 112, p. 704).

Zinci Carbonas.

Formula. The formula has been omitted, because there are quite a number of basic salts containing zinc carbonate and zinc hydrate in various proportions, and it is very difficult to obtain any of them in a state of purity. A very small difference in concentration or temperature will produce different preparations, and these again change readily with change in temperature, dryness of air, &c. If a formula should be given, it would be necessary to give a definite process, including all cautions to insure a uniform product. In addition to the above-mentioned salts, there exist a variety of double salts with sodium, which may form in the precipitate. Protracted washing with cold water will remove most of the sodium carbonate, even from the worst samples. Boiling water extracts it more promptly, but is apt to change the zinc carbonate into the hydrate. Curtman (Circ. No. 112, p. 707).

The basic character should be indicated in the name: A. P. A. Comm. (A. J. Ph. 95, 485).

Zinci Chloridum.

Sulphate. It was deemed best to incorporate a test for sulphate, because in some processes of manufacture zinc sulphate is decomposed by sodium chloride, and the sodium sulphate removed by freezing. Curtman (Circ. No. 112, p. 709).

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ON THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPCEIA.

Zinci Oxidum.

Calcium and Magnesium. To a solution of 1 part of zinc oxide in 6 parts of dilute acetic acid add 30 parts of water and 18 parts of ammonia. This clear liquid must not be rendered turbid, neither by ammonium oxalate nor by sodium phosphate. Salzer (Ph. Ztg. 94, 553. Ph. Rdsch. N. Y. 94, 244. Proc. 95, 967).

Arsenic. On mixing 1 Gm. of the oxide with 3 Cc. of solution of stannous chloride, no brown coloration should appear within one hour. German Comm. (Ap. Ztg. 94, 621).

Sulphur. Schneegans reports a contamination with sulphide, and suggests to test for it by the action of the gas, evolved by solution in acid, on lead acetate paper. (Ph. Centralh. 95 · · · Ph. J. & Tr. 96, Jan'y, 50.)

In the fourth paragraph, "salt" has been changed to "oxide."

Zinci Sulphas.

Pure anhydrous sulphate cannot be obtained by rapid heating; there is always sulphuric acid lost, and basic sulphate formed. Curtman (Circ. No. 112, p. 714).

Nitric Acid. Mix 2 Cc. of a 10-p. c. solution with an equal volume of sulphuric acid, and after cooling supersaturate with 1 Cc. of ferrous sulphate solution: no colored zone should be observed. German Comm. (Ap. Ztg. 94, 621).

Zincum.

Pure. Oxidize with potassium nitrate, and fuse with zinc chloride; it will then be entirely free from As, Sb, S, and P. Lescoeur. (Union Ph. 93, 34. A. J. Ph. 93, 175. Proc. 93, 801.)

Zingiber.

Ash. Should not be more than 8 p. c., of which only 3 p. c. should be insoluble in HCl. (Ph. Centralh. 93, 238.)

Exhausted ginger. Dyer & Gilbard propose to test by the difference in the yield of alcoholic extract, ash, and water-soluble constituents of the ash. (Analyst. 93, 197. Proc. 94, 936.)

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