

This style of manufacture, known as lump borax, is largely carried on in this country and on the continent; but the Patent Borax Company, for whose "Californian" borax special properties are claimed, manufacture the article under Patented processes by which the largest percentage of borax is ensured in the compound. In the preparation of this Patent Borax the boric acid and sodium carbonate are mixed in proper proportions, and then treated with steam or water until their amalgamation takes place. The moisture is then drained off and heat applied until the mass is reduced to a proper consistency to form small crystals or granular borax. Although the use of Borax in general and medical practice is comparatively modern, its properties as an antiseptic were known to the Egyptians and Romans some thousands of years ago, who not only used it in embalming processes, but also for ablutionary purposes in the bath. The therapeutic properties of both borax and boric acid are now well known, especially as to their value as antiseptics.

Internally, borax is occasionally employed as a diuretic and antacid, and combined with ergot is also used as an emmenagogue. It is most esteemed as a local application to the mucous membrane of the throat, or in aphthous conditions of the tongue and mouth, on which it exerts a wonderful sedative and soothing influence. It is said to possess the power of checking the zymotic action of yeast, diastase, emulsine, and myrosin. In metallurgy, it is largely employed as a flux, especially in the melting of gold, also in the manufacture of pottery and the ceramic arts. In medicine, it is exhibited in several forms, the commonest being those in which it is combined with glycerine or honey, both of which form excellent vehicles for its administration.

Glycerine and borax is prepared by rubbing down one part of powdered borax with two parts of water in a mortar, and four parts of glycerine, then gently heating the whole until all the borax is dissolved and a clear liquid results.

This is a very useful application in certain conditions of the throat, and when ulcerated or inflamed may be employed as a gargle with advantage, by adding a dessertspoonful to half a tumbler of water. The admixture of honey forms a preparation of thicker consistence, and more suitable for application to the mouth. The curative properties of borax and honey in thrush and similar mouth troubles are well known, and perhaps unequalled. This preparation should not be made hap-hazard, as it often is, by taking so much honey, then

adding a pinch of borax and stirring together; but to prepare it properly, on which much of its medicinal value depends, you must take a clean mortar, and rub down two parts of powdered borax with one part of glycerine to a fine paste, then add sixteen parts of good honey and mix well together.

It will be useful to remember the solubility of borax. In cold water it will dissolve 1 in 22 parts, while boiling water will take up 1 in 2, but as the water cools, the excess of the borax falls down in flaky crystals. It is soluble in its own weight in glycerine, and with the aid of 1 part of glycerine an equal quantity of borax may be dissolved in 12 parts of water.

The following formula from the Consumptive Hospital makes an excellent gargle for an inflamed throat: Take of powdered borax one drachm, honey two drachms, and add water to four ounces. Combined with equal parts of tincture of myrrh, sixteen parts of Eau de Cologne, three parts of water, and the same quantity of syrup, it forms an excellent astringent tincture for the mouth. A teaspoonful of this in half a tumbler of water makes a good mouth-wash, and will relieve and harden inflamed and soft gums. This is the tincture of myrrh and borax of the shops.

A useful application for chilblains and cracked nipples is prepared by mixing borax one drachm, balsam of Peru one drachm, with simple ointment six drachms. This forms a most soothing ointment for the skin when cracked or inflamed.

A good lotion for the face and skin generally, especially for the fraying and exposure caused by cold, is made by dissolving two drachms of powdered borax in one ounce of glycerine, and three ounces of rosewater.

A good mild astringent gargle may be made by taking of borax 24 grs., glycerine 24 grs., tincture of myrrh 24 minims, and water to 1 ounce. This formula is also recommended by the Throat Hospital Pharmacopœia. Borax combined with starch powder is occasionally used as a detergent in insufflation for the throat and nose. The value of the boric acid bath, so frequently used in hospital practice, need not be dwelt upon. Mixed with starch powder in the proportion of 1 to 4, it forms an excellent dusting powder for infants, and is the active ingredient in many of the much advertised preparations for that purpose.

Those troubled with excessive perspiration from the feet, which is so often induced by much standing, will get relief by dusting a little powdered Borax over the soles of the feet and into the stocking

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