

HYDNOCARPUS SOAP

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About a year ago in Batavia, Dr. Lampe very kindly provided me with a prescription for hydnocarpus soap. The soap is made as follows:

Sodium Hydroxide	143 grams
Water	143 grams x 3
Hydnocarpus Oil	1,000 grams

Dissolve sodium hydroxide in water (3 times as much) and allow to cool. Then add hydnocarpus oil and mix well. Place into moulds and allow to harden.

During the past year cakes of this soap have been given to selected patients and it has been useful in quite a number of ways. Most patients like it and it makes an acceptable reward for regular attendance. Patients claim that it allays the tingling feeling of the skin that sometimes persists for a day or two after large doses of hydnocarpus oil or esters. It makes cleanliness more interesting. On its specific value in leprosy or its prophylactic value when used by leprosy workers, I have no view. Manufacture of this soap forms a practical method of using up old or contaminating oil. The soap retains the disagreeable clinging smell of hydnocarpus oil. Addition of a little eucalyptus oil remedies this for the time being but if the soap is left for some time the smell of the more volatile eucalyptus oil disappears leaving the hydnocarpus odour again predominant, "elegant" preparations can easily be made by the further addition of glycerine, dettol, zinc, oatmeal, and so on. Ordinary skin medicaments and colouring matter can of course be added as desired.