powder may be levigated with some molten ointment base on a tile and the resulting mixture returned to the remaining molten mass and stirred to achieve a homogeneous product.

The incorporation of liquids into an ointment base

- **Non-volatile, miscible liquids** may be mixed with the molten fat in the evaporating basin. Alternatively, if a pre-prepared base is used, then incorporate as for volatile or immiscible liquids.
- **Volatile or immiscible liquids,** e.g. coal tar solutions, should be triturated with the ointment on the glass tile.

  A very small amount of the ointment should be placed on the glass tile and a 'well' made in the centre. Traditionally, small quantities of liquid should be gently folded in to avoid splashing. An alternative method is to spread a small amount of the ointment on the tile and then score it with a spatula. Then add small quantities of the liquid and fold into the base gently.

  If using coal tar or other volatile ingredients, these should not be weighed until immediately before use and the beaker in which it has been weighed should be covered with a watch glass to prevent evaporation. In addition, always remember that volatile ingredients should not be added to molten bases.

Worked examples

Example 6.1

The preparation of Simple Ointment BP

You receive a prescription in your pharmacy with the following details:

Patient:	Mr Martin Ally, 5 Longmeadow, Astonbury
Age:	56
Prescription:	Simple Ointment BP
Directions:	Mdu
Mitte:	30 g

1. **Use of the product**
   The product is used as an emollient (*Martindale* 33rd edn, p 1408).
2. **Is it safe and suitable for the intended purpose?**
   This is an official formula for an emollient, therefore the formula and frequency of application are safe.
3. **Calculation of formula for preparation**
   Prepare 30 g Simple Ointment BP.