

The powder/fatty base mixture may then either be returned to the evaporating basin with the remaining cream and stirred until cold or the remaining cream in the evaporating basin may be allowed to cool and triturated with the powder/cream mixture on the tile.

- **Fine powders** may be triturated into the otherwise finished cream on a glass tile. Small amounts of powder should be added to an equal amount of cream, i.e. using the ‘doubling-up’ technique. These should be well triturated.

Figure 5.2

An ointment tile and spatulas.



The incorporation of liquids into a cream base

- **Non-volatile, miscible liquids** may be mixed with the molten cream 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 cream on the glass tile.

A very small amount of the cream 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 cream 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.