

An oily secret

By Mary Garner

Ancient formula is modern success

A LINIMENT made to a secret formula which has been in one family for generations is helping to relieve muscle pain, not only in many parts of Britain but also overseas.

The secret of Olew Gwynau — Muscle Oil, according to the label — is now in the hands of Mr Gwyn Evans, of Cennin View, Bryncir, who took it over from his father, Mr John Evans, when he died 13 years ago.

The name on the bottle is Richard Evans, Bonesetter, of Pwllheli, who was Gwyn's great-uncle and brother of his grandfather.

"I don't know how long the family have been making it — it goes back further than anyone can remember," he said.

"We never advertise, but the demand for the oil seems to be growing."

One American visitor who bought a bottle at Ffestiniog later wrote to the shopkeeper from Buffalo, asking if he could have a large bottle sent to him.

He enclosed a cheque for £35 to cover the cost of the oil,

packing and postage.

The liniment sells at at under £1 for a 185 ml bottle, and is sold through outlets mainly in Dwyfor, Arfon and Anglesey, though it also sells at health shop in Chester and Rhyl.

Mr Evans said: "A lot of people who are crippled with arthritis swear by it. It isn't going to cure the arthritis but it seems to give some relief."

He makes it in the kitchen at his mother's bungalow behind his hown home at Bryncir, as

and when the demand arises. The batches are small — just enough to fill 110 bottles at a time.

Most of the ingredients can be bought at the chemist's — but there is one healing ingredient which makes it different from other liniments.

Mr Evans is a descendent of the Evans family who founded the orthopaedic hospital at Gobowen, and says several members of the family, including his great-uncle Richard Evans, had the gift of being able to set bones.

They made the limiment to help the patient's recovery.

The label on the bottle describes the limiment as: "Healing and Soothing".

The instructions are simple: "Rub well on painful parts."



Mr Evans getting the Olew Gwynau ready for bottling.



Olew Gwynau muscle oil) bottle.