

The factory of Solvay & Co., in Couillet, produces now 100,000 cwt. of soda of a purity hitherto unknown in the market; the new one, erected on a salt deposit at Varangeville-Dombasle, in France, now produces 160,000 cwt., and will be able before the end of this year to produce 320,000 cwt., or 16,000 tons. When completed, it will probably be the most important soda works in the world. The two English works produce at present 160,000 cwt. annually, and are to be still further enlarged.

It is difficult at the present time to determine what effect the development of the Solvay process will have on the soda industry. As long as chlorine cannot be made from the chloride of calcium, which is at present the waste product of this process, there will still be room enough for the Leblanc process. It is nevertheless worthy of mention that Solvay took out an English patent in 1872 for the use of magnesia, instead of lime, for decomposing the sal ammoniac; thus chloride of magnesium is formed, which can be decomposed by simply heating it, and the magnesia thus recovered used over again and again.

An analysis of soda made by the Solvay process gave the following results:

Carbonate of soda	-	-	-	-	-	99.4385
Chloride of sodium	-	-	-	-	-	0.21
Silica and carbon	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Oxide of iron	-	-	-	-	-	0.0015
Alumina	-	-	-	-	-	trace
Carbonate of lime	-	-	-	-	-	trace
Water	-	-	-	-	-	0.31
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						100.00

The industrial production of almost chemically pure soda will render it possible to make essential improvements in different industries, such as glass making. The insignificant quantity of iron deserves especial attention.

## PHARMACAL NOTES.\*

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### SYRUP OF RHUBARB.

The Pharmacopœia directs this syrup to be prepared by adding fluid extract of rhubarb to simple syrup. This method of procedure often gives unsatisfactory results, the resinous matter in the fluid

\*From the Pharmacist.