

in so doing, measurably prevent extraction upon Stas' plan. Doubtless, the best results in these cases would follow the use of measured quantities of standard solutions of the acid employed to salify and the alkali employed to liberate the alkaloidal material.

The residues of morphia from ether, chloroform, and benzole were amorphous; from amylic alcohol crystalline. The residues of cinchonia from ether and from amylic alcohol were crystalline, from chloroform and from benzole amorphous.

Determinations of solubilities, when the ratio of solvent to solid is very large, must necessarily be approximate rather than precise, even when the stable, saturated solutions are determined. And when the instable, *supersaturated solutions* are undertaken, it is evident that variations must be greater. The time taken in filtration, for instance, and the atmospheric temperature during filtration must effect the results. The effect of temperature of the solvent, when applied to the alkaloid at moment of its liberation, the writer has not yet investigated.

THERAPEUTIC ACTION OF THE OLEUM ALEURITIS TRILOBÆ.*

Dr. Calixto Oxamendi gives the therapeutic history of a new agent which may be considered as a good substitute for castor-oil (*Anales de Medicina de la Habana*, 1874).

The "Aleuritis triloba" is a large tree of the euphorbiaceous family, which grows principally in India, and in all the intertropical countries. It is commonly designated in India under the name of the "Candle-nut-tree" or "Candle-berry."

The oil produced from the nuts of this tree is used for different industrial purposes. The natives of Ceylon call it "Kekune oil," and it is known in England under the names of "Nut oil" or "Artist's oil."

Very little has been said about the therapeutic properties of this plant; nothing can be found on the subject in the works treating of materia medica. A little notice is, however, given in *Griffith's Medical Botany*. This author says: "The nuts of the aleuritis triloba are considered as aphrodisiac when used in small quantity and in a dry state; they have laxative properties when taken in large quantity and in a fresh state." In one of his *Annuaire de Thérapeutique*, M. Bouchardat says, that the oil of aleuritis triloba has purgative properties in a dose of thirty grammes. Ranato de Grosourdy expresses the same opinion in his work on medical botany, but he thinks the oil must be used in a dose of two ounces (sixty grammes) in order to move the bowels.

* From the London Medical Record.