

small quantities, a sufficiency of benzine to make it dry with a suitable grain—too little making the varnish too transparent, and excess making it crapy. The quantity of benzine required depends upon its quality—from half an ounce to an ounce and a half or even more; but the best results are got with a medium quality. It is important to use washed ether, free from spirit.—T. GARRATT in *Brit. Jour. of Photography*.

Selections.

TURBID WINE OF COLCHICUM SEEDS contains, according to Vulpus, a large number of minute yeast cells, originating, probably, from the nitrogenated principles of the seeds. They will readily pass through the filter, but may be removed by agitating the turbid wine with finely powdered colchicum seeds, in the proportion of 1000 to 1, and filtering immediately and repeatedly through the same filter, after which it will remain clear for many months.—*Pharm. Centr. Halle, 1872, No. 10.*

Ferrous Sulphate, precipitated by alcohol, contains less water of crystallization than the crystallized salt, and loses a portion of it readily on exposure to dry atmosphere. G. H. Barckhausen found that 1 gramme of the crystallized salt required 17.2 c. c. of a solution of chlorinated lime for oxidation, while the same quantity of the precipitated salt, immediately after drying, required 18.8 c. c.; after four hours' exposure at the ordinary temperature, 19.5 c. c., after one hour's exposure to about 80° F., (25 to 27° C.) 20.6 c. c., and after another hour, 21.4 c. c. of the same solution of chlorinated lime were necessary for complete oxidation.—*Archiv d. Pharm. 1871, Dec., 197. in Am. Jour. Pharm.*

TESTING ETHYLIC AND ACETIC ETHERS for ALCOHOL, by C. Frederking.—In a graduated glass tube equal volumes of ether and anhydrous glycerin are thoroughly mixed; the alcohol obtained in the ether is taken up by the glycerin, and its volume increased, whereas that of the ether decreases by the amount of alcohol contained in it. Ether may therefore be deprived of water as well as alcohol previous to its rectification, in order to produce it pure, and the glycerin mixed with the water or alcohol may again be obtained pure by evaporation. In this manner essential oils may also be tested with glycerin, for the amount of alcohol fraudulently added.—*Polyt. Centralblatt, 1871, p. 728, abstracted in Pharmacist.*

PREPARATION OF COLLODIUM.—The process which has been for years successfully used in the laboratory of the university of Munich is as follows: 30 grm. finely powdered saltpetre and 30 grm. sulphuric acid are mixed in a glass cylinder by means of a glass rod until the former is dissolved, 2 grm. cotton are then added and the whole well stirred for five minutes. After washing with much water, then with alcohol and drying, the cotton dissolves readily in a mixture of equal parts of alcohol and ether, and the solution leaves on evaporation a perfectly transparent film. The presence of much nitric acid in the oil of vitriol seems to render the