

recent one of percolation, while the compilers of the present pharmacopœia generally recommend a quasi combination of both.

At our first meeting at Bath, a very interesting paper was read by Mr. Savage on some of the tinctures of the last edition of the Pharmacopœia, and a table of results appended. His plan of examination seemed good in many respects, and we have taken it as our guide in compiling a complete epitome of the tinctures and wines, each of which has, with few exceptions, been prepared in three ways for the purpose of comparison, viz. :—

1. By the maceration (marked in the table M.)
2. By the Pharmacopœia formula (marked P.)
3. By the same, as modified by the authors (marked S.)

They have all been made with the greatest and most scrupulous care, and the sp. grav. of the spirit or wine ascertained and adjusted before being used.

There are 65 tinctures and 10 wines ordered in the Pharmacopœia; of these 10 are simple solutions, 24 are prepared by maceration, and 40 by a combination of maceration and so called percolation. Our table gives the results of an examination of all, except 26, which have no relation to the methods in question, and is arranged in columns in the following manner:—

1. The method of preparation employed.
2. The weight per ounce of ingredients ordered.
3. The sp. grav. of solvent.
4. The sp. grav. of the resulting tincture.
5. The total contents, per ounce, of the tincture.
6. The percentage of ingredients dissolved.

*Preparation by maceration.*—This is the oldest process and consists in bruising or coarsely powdering certain roots, barks, seeds, etc., and placing them in spirit or other menstruum for a specified time. After the time for maceration has elapsed, the fluid is strained off, and the remainder submitted to the action of a powerful press. Filtration completes the process.

Many persons still strongly advocate maceration, because it gives tolerably uniform results which they cannot so easily obtain by other means. The objections are the length of time required, the great waste from evaporation, and the marc left in the press being still rich in active principles. It is in our opinion the last method that ought to be adopted by the careful and economically inclined pharmacist for the perfect extraction of the soluble matter of any herb or plant. There have been many suggestions for improving the process and saving the time, such, for instance, as that recommended by Dr. Burton, where the ingredients were suspended in the upper part of the solvent. The spirit, as it becomes saturated, and therefore of greater density, falls to the bottom of the vessel, its place