

produced by the alteration of the primitive colouring matter. The following facts show that such is probable :—

When we add to an alcoholic solution of chlorophyll some drops of chlorohydric acid, it loses its beautiful green colour and becomes yellowish brown. If we then add to it an excess of acid, the green colour reappears but with a blue tint different from the primitive colour. If we add to the liquid some drops of nitric acid it becomes of a nearly pure blue colour. The same changes take place with it, therefore, as with xanthine.

Preservation of Fresh Flowers.—We may preserve many flowers for a long time in a fresh state by enclosing them in sealed tubes. At the end of some days all the oxygen of the air confined in the tube will have disappeared and become replaced by carbonic acid.

If we introduce into the tubes a little quick lime, it removes from the flowers some of their humidity, which facilitates their preservation. Lime also takes up the carbonic acid, and the plant becomes placed in pure nitrogen.

All flowers are not alike preserved by this process ; yellow flowers are those which are altered the least.

It would be very easy for botanists to forward thus fresh flowers upon which they verify characters difficult to observe upon dried specimens.

I have placed before the Academy some flowers which have been preserved several months and of which the colours are not sensibly altered.—*Jour. de Phar. et de Chimie.*

INSECTICIDES.

I have directed chamomile powder—that is to say, the flowers carefully dried in an oven, then powdered, to be dusted on the parts, in four cases, two of them children, infested by lice. I directed brown soap and warm water, liberally employed, twice daily, then the chamomile powder, previously confined in a muslin bag, to be well dusted in. The result in every case, and within a very brief period, was the destruction of these hideous parasites.—*Dr. McCormack, Dublin Med. Press.*

Discussion on safety bottles.—At the Pharmaceutical Society, December 2nd 1860, Mr. Schweitzer read a paper in which he described the narrow-necked bottles which have been previously mentioned in the *Lancet*, introduced for prevention of accidental poisoning. An improved model was described, intended especially for the use of chemists and surgeons who dispensed their own medicines. A lively discussion ensued. Mr. Squire thought there would be some difficulty as to determining which were poisons, and observed that an inconvenient number of bottles would be required. Mr. Waugh was in favour of a distinct white and black label. He said that if it were compulsory to put poisons in such bottles, the public might come to think that any fluid which ran out freely, whiskey for instance, might be drunk *ad libitum*. If not compulsory, it would be long in reaching distant parts, so that nurses in going down from London might make mistakes from this very cause. Again nurses were very often very tired at night, and occasionally resorted to artificial stimulants ; and he suspected that Mrs. Gamp would hardly know whether she was pouring from a square bottle or a round one. Considering how fond the British public were of taking physic in all shapes and of all kinds, it was to him a standing miracle that so few accidents took place, the danger was therefore a bugbear, a myth. Mr. Squire said there was no recognised maximum dose for any thing, and with many things it would be a matter of option whether it were placed in a poison bottle or not. Really, if people, in dealing with medicines would not give themselves the trouble of reading the label they ought to be poisoned. He believed that to trust to the shape of the bottle was to trust to a broken staff that could afford no support or protection. Mr. Hazelden said that there could be no doubt as to the utility of the small bottles for Laudanum, which, if sent out in that way, could never be taken in a hurry, and swallowed for some thing else. Mr. Squire suggested that danger would arise should the bottle be broken and the Laudanum be put in a common bottle.—*Lancet, Jan. 19, 1861.*