

is found in the last heavy oil, has gained a special importance, and in obtaining it the tar is often distilled until only coke is left, in order to obtain as much as possible of this substance, which is so important for the manufacture of artificial alizarin.

There remains to be described the distillation of wood and similar substances for the manufacture of wood tar and wood vinegar. In this department Austria is well represented. The old tradition of the distillation of wood in Blansko, where Reichenbach carried on his celebrated investigations, which have become in many ways the foundation of our knowledge of dry distillation, still has its effect. Dr. Oppler, near Nuremberg, manufactures wood vinegar and iron mordants, as well as ammonia salts and tin preparations; both his establishment and that of the Chemical Union, at Mainz, deserve a more detailed description. It is well known that in the Grand Duchy of Hesse there are many oak forests, and the excellent oak bark from here has rendered celebrated the leather of the Rhine, and especially Mainz leather. After peeling off the bark, the wood is left in short sticks about an inch thick, which are subjected to distillation. By carefully regulating the temperature, a large yield of very good charcoal is obtained, and the valuable wood vinegar, which is purified as usual, and also wood spirit tar. This company possesses in all seven factories, which in 1871 produced \$285,000 worth of these articles. Besides various acetates, including some beautiful verdigris, and pressed coal from the refuse of the charcoal, and there were also interesting specimens of butyric, valerianic and capronic acids, prepared from the mother liquors of the acetate of soda. The presence of these acids there has only recently been demonstrated.

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA ADDENDUM.*

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Discussions upon the nomenclature, the weights and measures, the preparations, and other matters connected with the British Pharmacopœia, have on many occasions during the past three or four years, occupied the members of this Society at their evening meetings.

Although the repeated invitations of the President, to have subjects of pharmaceutical interest brought forward for discussion, have not been as heartily responded to as he and other well-wishers to pharmacy could be desired, still, it is beyond dispute that when opportunities have occurred for the interchange of ideas upon such

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