

expense, which is of no use when we take this carbonate and again replace chlorine by substitution for the acid.

I have digressed a little from my subject to explain the reason I have to give a certain name to the Strychnia precipitate; this precipitate I think, from the way that it is formed should be called the Chloruretted Hydrochlorate (chloride) of Strychnia.

When you have this product obtained, it should be washed to remove all soluble substances, and then treated with liquor potassa. By this its appearance is changed and it is not so bulky as it was previously; it seems at first to be almost dissolved, but on standing a little a precipitate forms and settles down to the bottom, which is Strychnia, and is of a gelatinous flaky appearance at first; after having washed and dried it, dissolve it in sulphuric acid and water, by the aid of heat, and when this hot concentrated solution cools, the sulphate in a pure state is deposited around the sides of the vessel, in needle like crystals, which form themselves into star-like groups. If the pure alkaloid be required it is precipitated in crystals by adding ammonia to the hot solution of the sulphate, or in an amorphous form if the solution be cold.

If it be preferred you may take the first precipitated strychnia, dissolve in alcohol, decolorize if it be required, and crystalize from the alcoholic solution. I am not able to say from the quantities with which I manipulated whether brucia be thrown down with it or not; I know the solution after the white precipitate was separated from it by filtration was a little coloured by strong nitric acid, but it may have been a mere casual circumstance; I think that very likely liquor sodæ would answer as good a purpose to abstract the chlorine from the Strychnia, in the white precipitate as liquor potassae; but as I did not try it I cannot say for certain anything about it. I think that this method would do for some of the other alkaloids, as quina, which have similar reactions with respect to sodium chloradine, but it is out of place here.

I have also prepared Strychnia by adding the ioduretted solution of iodine to an acid decoction of nux vomica seeds; an insoluble compound of strychnia is thrown down of a dark colour, which upon being acted on by liquor potassa, became of the same colour as if chlorine had been used: and the alkali was obtained by continuing out the before mentioned process. By this method I thought, I have obtained only the strychnia and without brucia. If iodine were used in preference to chlorine, the iodine might be all saved, as the iodide and iodate formed might be separated from the mixture, and the iodate converted into iodide, by exposure to a red heat.