

point indicated. On testing a sample of the product it was found that ferric chloride produced an instantaneous precipitate. The entire product, after cooling, was therefore diluted with water and reduced again, by heat, to the syrupy condition, as directed by Mr. Dohme and others,* and on further dilution mixed in all proportions with the test indicated. From this experiment I infer that the conclusion arrived at by the gentleman referred to will not always hold good, but is dependent on certain conditions not yet perfectly understood.

The process devised by Mr. Markoe, and described at the last meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association,† is a very ingenious one, and may possibly be of use when economy of time is an object. It is not, however, free from danger, as the sequel has proved; and though the late accident could not be charged to the process, yet in inexperienced or careless hands the liability to danger is considerable. There is also a possibility that other compounds than those desired might, under certain conditions, be formed. On the score of economy the process will not compare favourably with that described above.

Toronto, Jan. 11, 1876.

NOTES ON SOME MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE COMPOSITÆ.‡

BY JOHN R. JACKSON, A.L.S.

No natural order has such distinct botanical characters as have the Compositæ, and no other order perhaps with the exception of Leguminosæ has so wide a distribution over the surface of the globe. The properties of the order also vary considerably, for while some species abound in a very bitter aromatic principle, others are tonic and stimulant, while others again abound in a milky poisonous juice. The aromatic principle is notably present in the common Chamomile (*Anthemis nobilis*) and the Wormwood (*Artemisia Absinthium*) both of which are used as stimulant tonics. It is not so

*Proc. Am. Pharm. Assoc., Vol. xxii., p. 511.

†Can. Pharm. Jour., Vol. ix., pp. 112, 161, 197.

‡From the *Pharm. Jour. & Trans.*