

are readily decomposed by acids and alkalies in the presence of water. Their English names terminate in "in" and their Latin in "inum."

Examples.—Digitalin, Salicin and Santonin.

(k) Alkaloids.—These are nitrogenized organic bases formed in plant and animal life, generally crystalline, a few being liquid. They resemble alkalies in that they turn red litmus paper blue and form salts with acids. As a rule they are sparingly soluble in water, readily so in alcohol, chloroform, benzine and ether, while their salts are the reverse. Their English terminations are in "ine" and their Latin in "ina."

Examples.—Morphine, Strychnine.

Organic Drugs from animal sources include substances obtained from parts of animals as the dried Thyroid Glands of the sheep, Cod Liver Oil, the ferments such as Pancreatic Solution and Pepsin; the Fats as Lard; whole insects, as *Cantharidis*, or the products of insects as White and Yellow Wax; and of later date the group of substances known as the Sera, which are the prepared blood serum from animals immunized by the repeated injections of bacteria or their toxins.

GALENICAL PHARMACY.

This includes those preparations made from crude drugs of any source by some physical process as distinguished from chemical processes. Of the processes more commonly used in the preparation of pharmacopœial products we have the following:—

SOLUTION.—By this is meant the process of making a solid or liquid to disappear in a liquid vehicle or menstruum. This may be a physico-chemical or a chemical procedure. Physico-chemical or simple solutions are those in which the substance dissolved suffers no change except of its physical form and from which it may be recovered, as would be the case in making a solution of Bromide of Potassium.

Chemical Solutions on the other hand are those in which the substance dissolved undergoes chemical change becoming another substance, as in dissolving Iron Wire to make the Solution of the Perchloride of Iron.

EXTRACTION.—Under this heading we may consider four processes.

(a) INFUSION.—The process of treating a suitably powdered or bruised drug of vegetable source, with either hot or cold water until its active principle has been extracted. The fluid portion is strained off and preserved, the solid rejected.

(b) DECOCTION.—The extraction of the active principles of vegetable drugs by boiling in water.

(c) MACERATION.—The exhaustion of vegetable drugs by exposing them in a suitably powdered state to the continuous action of a solvent, as in preparing some of the Tinctures. The powdered drug is placed