

out its details. It is the opinion of the writer that if the same amount of care and labor were expended in the preparation of the oxide, and in its subsequent solution, which are, of necessity, bestowed in making the perchloride directly from the metal, the quality of the product would be favorable to the former. The quantity of acid can be regulated with a greater nicety, and though, at present, both the formulas of the British and United States Pharmacopœias indicate that a considerable excess of acid is intended, it is questionable whether the preparation is exactly what the designers of the old tincture desired it to be. In tonic effect the present tincture is perhaps in advance of the other, as the excess of acid would tend to this result, but the injury done to the teeth of the patient is much greater. And it may further be assumed, that if the physician wishes to employ a mineral acid, he should be left at liberty to do so, and not be forced to administer that agent whenever he treats his patient with iron.

Some years ago a process for making tincture of iron was designed by R. Rother,* in which the disagreeable employment of the nitric acid was avoided by the substitution of an equivalent of chlorate of potassium. Shortly after the publication of this notice, I made a pint of tincture by that formula, but used no more hydrochloric acid, than was, theoretically, necessary. It has remained perfectly clear and free from deposit up to the present time—a period of three years. Of course it contains chloride of potassium, and could not be substituted for the officinal tincture, but, nevertheless, the process is worthy of note.

In a former paper† I have indicated the method which I have found most advantageous in making the solution of iron, so that this part of the subject need not be pursued further. It may, however, be said that as the specific gravity of the liquor was then found to be 1.443, instead of 1.338, the density of the tincture will vary in like proportion.

The tincture of iron of the British Pharmacopœia, and that of the United States, are generally believed to be identical in strength, and are so stated by some authorities. There is, however, a difference of about ten per cent., which Canadians, who are in the habit

* Pharmacist and Chemical Record, Vol. II. No. 1; and Canadian Pharmaceutical Jour., Vol. II. No. 17.

† Can. Phar. Jour., Vol. VI. No. 57.