

Iodo, quinine, sulphate—Herapath— $C^{20}H^{24}N^3O^2I^34H^2SO^4 + 5H^2O$

Iodo cinchonine—Pelletier— $2C^{20}H^{24}N^2O$ , 2I.

Iodo strychnine—Herapath— $2C^{21}H^{22}N^2O^2$ , 6I.

Iodo brucine—Pelletier— $4C^{23}H^{26}N^2O^4$ , 6I.

It seems as if the above reaction might be used as a test for some of the alkaloids. If a solution be made of potassium iodide with a few drops of ferric chloride, so as to give the liquid only a faint yellow color, and a drop of the solution be added to a drop of water containing  $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of a grain of strychnine, an immediate brownish color and precipitate is formed. I purpose to examine the delicacy of this test as compared with the phospho-tungstic and molybdic acids; as applied in the manner described, it is very sensitive for quinine, cinchonine and strychnine, but does not succeed well with morphine.

The result of further experiments will be communicated.

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## ERGOT AND ITS LIQUID EXTRACT.\*

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In bringing this subject forward, the prime objects I have in view are to point out some defects in the official process for preparing the liquid extract of ergot, and to give a method for making it which my experience has taught me will yield a superior preparation.

I will preface my remarks with a brief statement of our present knowledge as to the chemical properties and composition of ergot itself, for I consider this knowledge places one in a better position to judge or decide upon the treatment the drug should undergo for a proper extraction of its active constituents.

Standard works of chemistry and materia medica afford but brief information concerning this drug. Fluckiger and Hanbury, however, in their "Pharmacographia" have brought in coalition the researches of various investigators upon it up to the present time; this excellent work, therefore, contains the fullest information with reference to ergot of any book with which I am acquainted. Following are some of the more important extracts therefrom.

\* Read at an Evening Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, on Wednesday, April 7, 1875, and published in the Transactions.