

ARTIFICIAL PRODUCTION OF CONINE.—It is said that Socrates terminated his life by drinking conine, extracted from the poisonous hemlock, *Conium maculatum*. The oily liquid is highly poisonous, and closely resembles the nicotin obtained from tobacco. The artificial preparation of this body has more than ordinary interest, as it suggests the possibility of our being able to make other alkaloids, such as quinine, morphine, and the like; and if we can succeed in this, why not prepare the less complex compounds, sugar, starch, etc? The conine was prepared by Hugo Schiff, by heating alcohol and ammonia at 210° , together with butyraldehyd, precipitating with a platinum salt, and distilling the product. The artificial alkaloid exhibits the same products as the native. It is a violent poison, and in other respects is analogous to the extract from hemlock. As the first step in the synthesis of vegetable alkaloids, the discovery of Professor Schiff is one of the most important in chemistry.—*Phila. Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

MARKET REPORT.

There has been a fair amount of business done during the past month, and there is every indication of its continuance. Changes in price are not very numerous; a few articles are lower than our last quotations, amongst which may be noted the salts of morphia, which have fallen very considerably. The extracts of Belladonna and Henbane, are somewhat easier, as also English oil of peppermint. The season for White Hellebore is, of course, over, and, as a consequence, the price has receded; the powder is quoted at 17 to 20 cents.

Owing to the demand for iodine exceeding the supply, the price of that article, as well as all the iodides, is very much higher, and still advancing. Resublimed is now quoted at 7.75, and iodides of potassium at 6.50 to 7.00. Balsam Peru, and oil of Lemon have advanced. Potash bichromate is rated higher. Senega root is quoted at 1.35, and likely to advance, as all the stock in New York is in the hands of one firm, who have held it at 2.00. Carbonate of soda is very firm, and relatively higher at place of production than here.

Dyestuffs are in good demand; Japonica is held at an advance. Spices are quiet—Nutmegs and Mace being much firmer.

In Dry Paints, Vermillion is a little easier—English being quoted at 1.15 to 1.25. Whiting has advanced from 80 to 85 cents.

In Naval Stores we note spirits of Turpentine, which has lately been very unsettled, is now a little lower, rating at 65 to 70 cents. Black pitch has advanced considerably.