that I had originally distilled, and found salicylic acid in the oil, I made a request of Messrs. W. H. Merrell & Co., through him, that the same be placed at my disposal, to which they kindly consented. I received a barrel about three-fourths full of the magma, and distilled it with water. I obtained from it a portion or all of the alcohol, and by continuing the distillation and cohobating the watery distillate obtained six gallons of a milky distillate, but only slight traces of oil floating upon it. This distillate was set aside over night, and upon examining the same in the morning, found there had formed nearly two inches deep upon the bottom of the vessel holding the liquid, a mass of long needle-shaped crystals, some an inch and a half long; the supernatant liquid was syphoned off, and the crystals then collected on a filter. These were tested as the former, and with ferric chloride gave the same dark bluish-black colour. The water syphoned off also gave the same, and the alcohol distilled from the magma gave the same result. I obtained no oil to test for salicylic acid, and could not detect it in any of the distillates. From this lot of buchu I have obtained nearly three ounces of this crystalline body, in long needle-shaped colourless crystals, having an odour indicative of their origin, yet different. What it is, I am not yet able to say, but shall examine it more fully and report at some future time.

Buchu, from what has been shown, evidently contains some substance, that by its chemical change, will yield salicylic acid, and probably it is the crystalline body I have found in the three last experiments. This is sparingly soluble in water at ordinary temperatures, freely at the boiling-point; which solution upon cooling, becomes turbid from separation of oil drops, which afterwards turn to crystals soluble in alcohol and ether; and the aqueous solution with ferric chloride forms an intense, I may say, inky blue colour, so intense as to render the solution opaque even in a test tube half an inch in diameter.

Nitrate of silver also occasions a precipitate of a purplish colour, deeper than that of chloride silver, exposed to the action of light.

Cincinnati, Dec., 1875.

EXTEMPORANEOUS COATING OF PILLS.*

BY A. F. W. NEYNABER, NEW YORK.

Why can pills as they are made in the retail prescription department not be coated there also with sugar, gelatine, or some such-like substance?

They can easily be coated with gelatine according to the directions given in the old edition of Griffith's Formulary, or in Wood & Bache's U. S. Dispensatory, 12th or 13th edition, with a little experience of the pharmaceutist.

*From the Druggists' Circular, January, 1876.