

ter for this test. But they are not always to be had fresh; lackmus, a preparation of archil, is recommended because it is not so perishable.—In want of these, during the winter season, I accidentally made use of the red cabbage; a strong infusion of it in rain water gives a good blue; and I since find this vegetable recommended in preference to all others, for the trial of alkalies and acids.

It is simply prepared by pouring boiling water upon the red cabbage leaves, cut small, and let stand until cold, when it may be poured off for use.

Any acid may be made use of, even vinegar. The marine acid, called spirit of sea salt, as sold in the apothecarys' shops will be found preferable to any other, for the purpose.

Add to one part of spirit of sea salt, ten parts of rain water, and the acid will be reduced to a suitable strength for the trial.

To ascertain with the utmost precision the *absolute* quantity of what is purely alkaline in any solution of salts, requires so minute an attention to every variation of temperature from hot to cold; to the different degrees of pressure of the atmosphere, in damp or dry weather, and to the precise strength of the acid made use of, as cannot be had without the assistance of expensive instruments; and would prove much too tedious and troublesome for common business.

Chemists.