

moved and the watery portion permitted to run slowly off, the funnel being again closed. When this was nearly completed, more water was added, the mixture agitated, allowed to rest, and the water run off as before. This operation was repeated several times until the acid was thoroughly washed. It was then transferred to an evaporating dish and gently heated to separate perfectly the remaining water, and, after resting a short time, the supernatant oily liquid was carefully poured off. About three ounces of acid were obtained from four of the oil.

The oleic acid being prepared, the rest of the process was simple. It consisted in merely dissolving in it peroxide of mercury, which is easily accomplished by the aid of a *gentle* heat. A high temperature must be avoided, or the peroxide will be reduced and become insoluble. The peroxide used was prepared by decomposing a solution of pernitrate with potash; the commercial article being said to be difficult to dissolve. Three solutions have been spoken of, containing severally five, ten and twenty per cent of peroxide, but I think it would be better, as well as more economical, to make as strong a solution as possible, and dilute to the necessary strength with olive, or other oil. A preparation thus made would fully answer the required purpose, as there is no particular virtue in the excess of oleic acid, and I think it would be more stable, and also less liable to cause irritation.

It seems to me that this would be an excellent substitute for that very unsatisfactory preparation, *Red Precipitated Ointment*.

ON THE AMOUNT OF ALKALOIDS CONTAINED IN SOME COMMERCIAL ELIXIRS.

BY OTTMAR EBERBACH.

(*Concluded from page 287.*)

At the suggestion of Professor Albert E. Elbert, the writer will present to the Association several formulæ for this class of preparations.

After numerous experiments with the aromatic tinctures of cinchona, obtained by displacing different mixtures of Calisaya bark and aromatics with alcohol and water mixed in various proportions, and treated with ferric hydrate, the writer was convinced