$Pb_2NO_3+2KI=PbI_2+2K, NO_3$

331 parts of nitrate of lead and 332.2 parts of iodide of potassium yield 461 parts of iodide of lead. Therefore, one ounce of iodide of lead will require for its preparation 0·728 of an ounce of nitrate of lead and 0·720 of iodide of potassium.

V.—*(W. A. C., Orono).*—I have obtained satisfactory results by conducting the process of percolation as follows:—The percolator generally in use, was originally constructed for a funnel. Composition, glazed earthenware, capacity four pints: with a neck sufficiently large to admit your fourth finger. This neck is stopped with a piece of sponge, moistened with the menstruum, and through which the liquor passes, the sponge acting as a filter. For a receiving vessel, a wide mouth bottle, graduated; capacity 80 ozs. The percolator is adapted to the vessel by means of a perforated cork. Of the tinctures officinal in the B. P., forty are ordered to be prepared by displacement; and in every case, except tinct. zingib. fort., the drug, or drugs in coarse powder, are macerated for forty-eight hours, in about ¾ of the menstruum, agitated occasionally then transferred to a percolator, and when the fluid ceases to pass, the percolation is continued with the remaining spirit, after which the contents of the percolator are pressed; the product filtered, the liquids mixed, and sufficient rectified or proof spirit added to bring the tincture to the original bulk of the menstruum employed.

This official process gives satisfactory results, and tinctures are easily prepared in this way. In conducting the process, no skill is required in packing the drugs in your percolator, indeed, no packing is to be done; but I make it a point in practice, to cork my percolator, and allow the solid ingredients to subside, forming a layer under the menstruum, before suffering the liquid to pass. This would seem to more completely exhaust the drug than if the crude semi-macerated drug with the menstruum, be carelessly introduced into the percolator, and a large amount of the liquid pass before the solid ingredients have completely subsided. But, is this process superior to that of the U. S. P., in which the drugs in coarse powder are generally moistened with spirit, and after standing for a definite length of time, are packed in a percolator, and then the greater bulk of spirit added; due precaution being exercised in powdering, packing, &c., as will insure the liquid passing slowly, but not too slow to render the process tedious. If complete exhaustion of the drug be the point in view, certainly no objection can be raised to a tincture prepared by either process, if it be properly conducted, and the menstruum be of the required strength. I often conduct the process of percolation as follows: observing B. P. strength. The drugs (e. g. Fol. Digital, or Rad. Rhei.) are reduced to a moderately coarse powder, in an iron mortar; as the powders supplied by our wholesale houses are in too fine a state of division for successful percolation. The stems, &c., which may be mixed in connection with the leaves, having been rejected previous to weighing; and the roots selected of the best quality. In preparing compound tinctures, or where more than one drug is to be acted upon, care should be taken to intimately mix the different articles before moistening them with the spirit. Little difficulty is experienced in reducing the drug to the proper degree of fineness, but some experience is required to know just how fine the article should be powdered. The moist drug which I generally let stand from two to four days should be evenly and carefully packed in the percolator; and a knowledge of the firmness with which this should be done, can only be acquired by careful practice and experience. That in the two under consideration—the digitalis requires to be pressed quite firmly, while the other, intimately mixed with the bruised seeds, and saffron, requires but a slight amount of pressure.

After the solid ingredients to be exhausted are properly packed, I cover them with a disc of paper, before introducing the spirit, that the packed drugs may not be agitated, while pouring on the menstruum; the percolator is then covered with a glass plate to prevent evaporation, and the process allowed to proceed.

In some cases, as in preparing a saturated tincture from Rad. Podophyllum—after the alcohol ceases to pass, all alcohol remaining in the percolator may be displaced by adding water. As the water penetrates the powdered root, the root expands or swells, and can be removed from the yet firmly packed root, to which the water has not yet penetrated. The displacement of the alcohol in this case seems complete, and it is easy to discern when all the spirit has been displaced, as the pulpy substance remaining has not the slightest taste of alcohol or podophyllin. Whether this or the process as conducted by the B. P. is to be preferred, or which most thoroughly exhausts the crude drug, I am not prepared to say; I use either, as occasion may require.

When percolating with ether (e. g. Liq. Epispastic) I use a small tin air-tight percolator, and the suggestions above enumerated will hold good in this case.

[Mr. Maclagan calls our attention to an error in the answer given by W. A. C. to the fifth question given in the JOURNAL for January. The formula of quinia is given as $C_{20}H_{24}N^2O_2$; but the combining weight is wrongly stated as 378 instead of 324. This is certainly an error, but may be truthfully charged to carelessness on the part of W.A.C., as well as to ourselves, as it will be readily seen that the combining weight stated takes into account the three equivalents of water =54, although the formula is omitted. We are glad that our students go over the answers so carefully, and shall always be glad to have errors pointed out and corrected.]

ORDER OF MERIT.

NUMBER OF MARKS AWARDED FOR ANSWERS.

	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	Total
1. *W. A. C., Orono*	6	5	5	5	9	30
2. *Price Jackes, Toronto*...	5	7	5	5	7	29
3. *H. Maclagan, Lindsay*..	7	5	5	5	6	28

BOOKS OFFERED AS PRIZES.

ROSCOE'S *Lessons in Elementary Chemistry.*
WILSON'S *Inorganic Chemistry* (Macadam.)
HOFFMANN'S *Introduction to Modern Chemistry.*
WITTSTEIN'S *Practical Pharmaceutical Chemistry.*
BEASLEY'S *Druggists' Receipt Book.*
BEASLEY'S *Book of Prescriptions.*
PAREIRA'S *Prescription Book.*
GRAY'S *How Plants Grow.*
GRAY'S *Lessons in Botany.*
HUXLEY'S *Lessons in Elementary Physiology.*
British Pharmacopœia.
United States Pharmacopœia.

Any other scientific book, the price of which is about a dollar and a half, may be substituted for any of the above.

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting was held on Friday evening, Feb. 17th, at the Mechanics' Institute. The chair was taken by Hugh Miller, Esq.

The Secretary stated that the meeting had been convened in accordance with a resolution passed at the last monthly meeting, and that the business of the meeting would be to see what steps would be necessary to be taken by the Society under the provisions of the new Act.

Mr. Brydon said that one of the first things to be done was to obtain a correct list of all members in good standing. A number of persons had been elected who had not even paid their first fee, while many others had omitted to send in their annual subscription, though notified that such was due. According to the Constitution of the College, those who were two months in arrears were no longer entitled to membership. He wished the Society to direct him as to the course to be pursued.

Mr. Shuttleworth said that there was but