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LABORATORY NOTES.

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Use of Glycerin in the Estimation of Tannin.

The estimation of tannic acid by means of a solution of gelatin is generally a tedious and troublesome process. The precipitate formed is so slowly deposited that, without resorting to a filtration almost as inconvenient, it is difficult to determine the exact point when a sufficient quantity of the precipitant has been added, as also to separate the precipitate at the close of the operation. In order to ascertain the completion of the process, Wheeler* suggests that a tube, loosely closed at the bottom with sponge, be dipped into the solution; the filtered liquid which enters the tube is then tested with a further quantity of the gelatin solution. Muller† accelerates the clarification of the liquid by adding a certain proportion of alum. I have found that both these ends may be more easily accomplished

* Mem. Chem. Soc. iii. 319.

† Chem. Centr. 1859, 42. Watts' Dict. ii. 765.