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PAUCIN.—Paucin is the alkaloid of the nuts of *Penthuulethra macrophylla*, growing in the Congo States. It is obtained by alcoholic extraction after distilling; the residue is subsequently extracted with petroleum ether, to separate the oil and the other com-

ponents, the alkaloid dissolved out with dilute acids and liberated by an alkali. It crystallises in yellow foliaceous crystals which melt and decompose at 126° C. They have the formula $C_{27}H_{39}N_5O_7$, are soluble in soda solution, but not in ether or chloroform.—*Pharm. Zeit. f. Russ.*, xxxvi., 295.

DECOMPOSITION OF IODOFORM BY LIGHT.—The decomposing action of the actinic rays on solutions of iodoform has been found, after a time, to cease. Various theories have been advanced to account for this. Fleury considers that the free iodine in solution prevents the passage of the ultraviolet rays. He finds that when reduced metallic silver is placed in the solution so as to combine with the iodine as soon as it is formed, practically the whole of the iodoform is decomposed by light.—*Journ. de Pharm.* [6], vi., 97.



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