

with that of Bloxam. We are of opinion that more attention should have been directed to the processes (for detection) of Fleitman and Davy, the latter of which, when properly executed, is wonderfully delicate. It is very doubtful, as stated by Otto, if there is any advantage in employing a retort instead of an open dish in the first solution of the organic substance—that is, ordinary precautions being taken. It may also be noticed that the very characteristic reaction of potassium iodate upon arsenical spots is altogether omitted.

Under the head of the separation of hydrocyanic or other volatile poisons from viscous mixtures, it might be added that the passage of a current of steam is very efficacious, and avoids the disagreeable accidents which sometimes occur. With regard to phosphorus, too, it may be mentioned that the test corresponding to Fleitman's for arsenic, viz., by caustic potash and silver nitrate paper, is a very excellent one, more especially as it is available in daylight, and forms a good class illustration.

With respect to the detection of alcohol, when but small quantities are present in the distillate, the determination by means of the specific gravity can be relied upon only in very accurate experiments. For very small traces, the iodoform test, *i. e.*, with aqueous solution of iodine and potassium hydrate, seems quite equal to the chromic acid reaction. The odour and crystalline shape of iodoform are strongly characteristic.

Again, there are many poisonous alkaloids omitted, which might, with benefit, have been introduced. But, on the whole, we can most strongly recommend the work as well adapted to the proposed end, as a highly accurate and practical compilation.

MODE OF ADMINISTRATION OF CHLORAL IN SOLUTION.—A number of patients refuse to accept chloral, even when associated with syrup of gooseberries. To cause the painful sensation to disappear, which the passage of this medicine provokes in the back of the mouth, it suffices, says Dr. Lebert, to add to the aforesaid mixture one drop of pure chloroform for each gramme of chloral.—*Le Practicien.*

## Miscellaneous.

THE MORALITY OF MEDICINE.—The criminal statistics of Brooklyn for the past year show 25,706 arrests were made by the police. One was a clergyman, one an editor, eight were artists, six actors, two custom-house officers, *forty-seven lawyers* (Jerusalem!), and eleven undertakers; but not a physician was there in the lot.

EFFERVESCENCE OF URINE.—There is another example of effervescence which is, I believe, often misunderstood—that of cold healthy urine when nitric acid which has been exposed to the light is added to it. The brisk effervescence which ensues is frequently attributed to the presence of carbonates, even when the urine is quite recent and faintly acid in reaction. It is, of course, really due to the conversion of the urea into nitrate of ammonia and carbonic acid by the hyponitrous acid present in the test. And the proof is, that no effervescence occurs if strong hydrochloric acid be added to the same urine, nor if perfectly pure colourless nitric acid be used in the same way.—*G. F. Masterman, L.K.Q.C.P., Ixworth.*

STRUCTURE OF THE BLOOD CORPUSCLE.—As microscopic appliances and knowledge increases history repeats itself in the battle now occurring between Heitzman's and Curtis's disciples. Haller, in 1757, in "Elementa Physiologiae," resolved the solid parts of animals and vegetables into the "fibre" and an "organized concrete." The fibre being to the physiologist what the line is to the geometrician, "Invisibilis est ea fibra, solâ mentis acie distinguimus." A reaction against the fibre theory took place in 1779, when Prochaska and others, down to the present century, adopted the views of Leueenhoeck, who in 1687 announced the "globular" structure of the primitive tissues of the body. Huxley, Virchow, Bennett, Todd and Bowman, Beale and others, have finally elaborated the cell doctrine into its present more satisfactory shape; but another Haller, Dr. Heitzmar, of New York, proposes to land us a century back by claiming the discovery of a trabecular structure for the cell. Dr. L. Curtis, of this city, repeated