

MOLYBDIC ACID A TEST FOR MORPHIA.—*Zeitschr. f. Anal. Chem.*, 1869.)—M. Almón has thoroughly tested the value of Fröhde's test for morphia—sulphuric acid which is contaminated with, or contains molybdic acid, purposely added. A beautiful purple tint is produced when such acid is brought into contact with either pure morphia or its salts.

PREPARATION OF PERFECTLY PURE OXYGEN GAS.—(*Bul. Men. da Soc. Chim. de Paris*, 1869, No. 2.)—Böttger recommends, for this purpose, to heat permanganate of potash: it is true that this salt only yields about 10 per cent of oxygen, but it is perfectly free from chlorine, as well as from ozone. There remains, as residue, a mixture of manganate of potash and oxide of manganese, readily re-convertible into permanganate.

Notes and Queries.

A correspondent, Mr. McConnell, of Cobourg, sends the following formulæ for some preparations of bismuth, which are said to yield excellent results:—

BISMUTH ET AMMON. CIT.

- I. Dissolve a troy oz. of bismuth subcarb. in 720 grs. nitric acid, and add aqua ζ ss.
- II. Dissolve 600 grs. potassio citras in the Oij. aqua dest.

Mix the two solutions; nitrate of potash remains in solution, citrate of bismuth being precipitated; wash and dry on bibulous paper; rub up the citrate of bismuth in a little water, till it forms a paste, and add slowly ammon. fort till saturated; filter solution; evaporate and dry on glass.

LIQ. BISMUTHI.

Take 260 grs. of the prepared salt, and dissolve in aqua ζ xiv.
Add a little liq. ammonia fort (1 add ζ ij.) and sp. vin. rect. ζ ij.

Dose of the salt gr. ij.—liquor ζ j.

Subscriber wants to know the best way to make EXT. VANILLA. There are several methods employed; as that by maceration of the bean, cut in small pieces, or rubbed up with loaf sugar. Maceration is never effectual in exhausting vanilla, unless a large quantity of spirit is used, or the partially exhausted materials are subjected to a repetition of the process. It is sometimes recommended to digest the bruised beans in hot water, for a short time, and then to add the spirit. This is also objectionable, as the volatile matters are, to some extent, driven off, and the resulting tincture is not as bright as it might be. The best way, in our opinion, is to cut up the beans with a knife, or scissors, and then give them a thorough pounding in an iron mortar, with the addition of a large proportion of clean broken glass; when the whole has been rendered as fine as possible pack tightly, and percolate with proof spirit (6 alcohol to 4 water, by measure.)

W. P., asks "what is '95 alcohol,' and why is it so designated? The number 95 refers

to the percentage of absolute alcohol, by volume, which is supposed to be contained in the spirit. We say, 'supposed,' for in reality but a small proportion of alcohol marked 95% is really such. United States spirit is generally branded in this way, as the alcoholometer of Tralles is adopted by that country. By the process of ordinary distillation, and that only as practised by the best operators—spirit cannot be made containing more than 95%, by volume, or about 92%, by weight. This corresponds, very nearly, with what is known in England, and this country, as 65 over proof—having a specific gravity of .817 at 60° F."

Changes.

Mason & Hamilton, Brantford, have been burnt out. Stock partially saved. Insured for \$2,000, which will not cover the loss.

A. A. Merrick, Merrickville, is not able to pay his creditors.

John A. Chase has bought the business lately carried on by Parker & Cattle, in Paris, Ont.

J. H. Nasmyth has commenced business at Stratford.

A new business at Stouffville has been opened by W. Fead.

Trade Report.

Reviewing the general condition of trade for the past half year, *stagnation*, and *drifting*, will best express the condition of affairs. There have been some few items maintained at high rates, but this has arisen more from real or supposed short supplies, than from active demand; the general course of prices has been downward. Payments have been slow, arising from the blocking up of roads by severe snow-storms in winter, and latterly by the heavy withdrawal of circulation by all the banks, in anticipation of the Government issue scheme. The ease which would have naturally followed the postponement of that measure, was prevented by the stoppage of the Royal Canadian Bank. Trade has presented the apparent anomaly of the farming and artisan classes being fully employed, and doing well, while traders are suffering. This condition of affairs has been caused by over-importation and overtrading, and will find its cure either in an expansion of the consumptive wants of the country, or the weeding out of the superabundant trades, and promises to be a slow process by either method. We repeat our warning to all, reduce expenses, engage in no doubtful speculations, collect accounts as promptly as possible, buy no goods that cannot be paid for at maturity. These measures will mitigate the pressure, if they do not avert the storm.

Drugs—Cantharides are scarce, and slightly higher. Ergot scarce. Gum Arabic dearer. Gum Assafetida scarce and dear. Gum Tragacanth, all qualities dearer, the best especially. Almond Oils lower. Caster Oil lower for forward delivery, but in low stock for the moment. Oil Lemon, super, low. Oil Bergamot advanced. Opium is lower, with very little doing. The speculation in this article has been maintained by the outlay of a large amount of money, and in face of what appears to have been a full average crop. The new crop is said to be largely contracted at prices equal to \$10 here, but cannot appear in this market until about October. Meantime, outside parcels are offered at a reduction from the extreme prices of March and April. White Hellebore has been in very active demand. Ipecac and Jalap are lower. Rhubarb without change. Canary Seed lower. Cardamons very dear.

Chemicals.—Ammonia products are dearer. Camphor, crude and refined, lower. Glycerine lower. Iodine and Iodides firm. Bromides dearer. Morphia held at former rates. Potash Bichromate lower. Cream Tartar firm. Quinine has varied from time to time; with a tendency to higher prices. Sodas are dull, lower, and altogether unprofitable to all concerned.

Dyestuffs.—Anilines, Cochineal, Indigo, Madder, Logwood and Extract are all higher and quite firm.

Spices.—The only change of importance is in Cassia, which is higher than for many years.

Paints are without features of interest. The demand has been pretty good. Prices uniform.

Sundries.—The wholesale drug trade are devoting more attention to this branch, and have generally stocks so well assorted as to preclude the necessity for going to fancy goods houses to make up wants in the retail branch of the business. In this department it is almost impossible to sell or quote without reference to actual stock.

Oils, &c.—Olive and Salad are lower. Lard very scarce and dear. Cod firm. Seal low. Linseed has been sold at low rates, but there are indications of an advance.

PERFUMERY.

HANDKERCHIEF Extracts, Jockey Club, Frangipanni, Patchouly, West End, Musk, Spring Flowers, Mignonette, New Mown Hay, Sweet Pea, and all the popular scents.

Extra Quality.—6 oz. Octagon Cut; 3 oz. Octagon Cut; 1½ oz. Plain, stoppered.

Best Quality.—1½ oz. Plain, stoppered.

No. 1 Quality.—1½ oz. Squat Cork'd; 1 oz. Stone Jug; 1 oz. Glass Jugs; ¾ oz. Panel; ½ oz. Squat; ¼ oz. Squat; ¼ oz. Oval; ¼ oz. Squat.

Hair Oils, Pomades, Tooth Washes, Tooth Powders, Cognes, Lavanders, Sals, etc., Camphor Ice and Roll, Toilet Vinegar, Milk of Roses, etc., in all the popular styles.

Price Lists on application to
LYMAN, ELLIOT & Co.,
 157 King Street East,
 Toronto.