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ON SOME PREPARATIONS ERYTHROXYLON OF COCA.

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Some time ago, a sample of coca leaves, weighing several pounds, was forwarded to the writer, and was accompanied by a request that experiments should be made with a view of determining the most eligible form in which the drug might be administered. As the coca plant is coming more frequently into notice, and as its powerful remedial properties favor the idea that, sooner or later, it will be introduced into the materia medica, I have thought it advisable to offer a record of the result of these experiments together with that of others made for the purpose of ascertaining the best formulæ for possible preparations of the drug.

In devising formulæ of this kind it is essentially necessary that the nature and properties of the active principle or principles of the drug operated upon be well understood. The literature of coca does not, however, afford information of as precise and thorough a character as might be desired, but, for practical purposes it may, perhaps, be deemed sufficiently definite. Niemann* made a proximate analysis of the plant, and gives, as its constituents, a crystal-

* Arch. Pharm. ciii, p. 120 and 291, Chem. News, July 1860.