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DR. DAVY'S NEW TEST FOR ARSENIC.

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Dr. Edmund Davy\* has proposed a modification of Fleitman's test for arsenic, or rather for arseniuretted hydrogen, which, for convenience, ease of execution and susceptibility, seems to leave nothing to be desired. The objections to Marsh's test are that the zinc or the sulphuric acid may contain arsenic, and may vitiate the test, unless previous trials be made for the purpose of ascertaining their purity. The apparatus required, especially where very small quantities have to be sought for, may not be within the reach of those who have not a tolerably well-appointed laboratory. Nothing can exceed Marsh's proof for elegance and accuracy when properly carried out, but it appears to the writer that the new plan is so satisfactory and simple as to warrant its introduction in by far the larger number of cases.

Fleitman recommended the production of arseniuretted hydrogen by the action of caustic potassa on zinc, in presence of arsenic. The gas evolved was made to act on paper moistened with silver nitrate, when a dark brown stain is produced by arsenic, but none by antimony; the latter metal not giving antimoniuretted hydrogen in alkaline solutions. To avoid the possibility of arsenic in the

\*Chemical News, No. 846.