

CANADIAN
PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL

VOL. VI, No. 9.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1873.

WHOLE No. LX

Original and Selected Papers.

OLEIC ACID AND OLEATE OF MERCURY.

BY H. MACLAGAN, LINDSAY, ONT.

Having been called upon a short time since, to prepare some oleate of mercury, and thinking it likely to become a popular preparation, I have transcribed my experience, hoping it may prove of service to those who may have to perform a similar operation.

The first step in the process was to obtain olin, and the expressed oil of almonds, which consists almost entirely of that substance, was chosen, as being sufficiently pure for the object in view, without further preparation; the object being to obtain a definite chemical compound of mercury and an oleaginous body, and not a mere mechanical mixture. The oil was saponified with potash, and to the resulting soap hydrochloric acid was added, with constant stirring, until the mixture had acquired a decidedly acid reaction. It was then poured into a glass funnel, stopped at the bottom with the finger, and allowed to rest until the oily portion of the liquid (oleic acid) had risen to the surface; the finger was then partially re-