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SOME NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF PHOSPHORIC  
ACID.

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So much has lately been said on this subject that one almost requires to apologize before making any additional contribution. There are some points, however, upon which I feel tempted to offer an opinion, and, at the same time, would take the opportunity of modifying, amending, or confirming certain statements made in a former paper, published about five years ago,\* in which was advocated the use of acid of a much greater degree of strength than that usually employed for the oxidation of the phosphorus. During two years of the intervening period the process indicated was followed, and frequent operations on comparatively large quantities of material afforded ample opportunity for experience.

I am still of the opinion that nitric acid of sp. gr. 1.24 may be safely used. The closest attention of the operator is, however, required throughout, and should the action become violent, by reason of the too great concentration of the acid, or too high a temperature, cold distilled water must be at once added. The frequent addition of cold water, sometimes in unnecessary quantity, forms

\*Can. Jour. Pharm., Vol. v., p. 19.