

mass, so as to form an emulsion, from which, if well made, the oil light does not separate. Next, an excess of an aqueous solution of acetate of lead is added, which is mixed with the mass by stirring with a glass rod. The addition of this lead salt causes the separation of the light oil of petroleum, and in it will be dissolved any paraffin present in the wax. The same operation is twice repeated with the contents of the test-tube, that is to say, petroleum is again and again added, and allowed to separate; the separated petroleum is placed into a retort, and the light oil removed by distillation. Pure yellow wax loses, by this process from 14 to 16 per cent; but wax has been met which lost 57 per cent in weight; the specific gravity of the residue of adulterated wax is 0.88. When it is desired to obtain the paraffin in a pure state freed from any dissolved wax, this may be effected by cautiously decomposing the wax supposed to be adulterated with paraffin, by means of fuming sulphuric acid, which does not affect paraffin.—*Chemical News.*

### Notes and Queries.

**Member.**—PURE QUINIA is best prepared from the sulphate; dissolve one part in twenty of water, by means of a little dilute sulphuric acid; precipitate by a solution of caustic soda, added by drops until a clearly alkaline reaction is observed, and a filtered portion is no longer rendered turbid by the precipitant; collect on a filter and wash well with distilled water, dry by a gentle heat. By this means 10 parts of sulphate of quinine (if pure) yield 7 parts of the alkaloid. It is commonly recommended to precipitate by ammonia; neither this alkali, or potash, are as good as soda, as quinia is soluble, to a small extent, in both. If they are used, care must be observed not to add a large excess, or the yield will be diminished.

**Photographer.**—PURITY OF NITRATE OF SILVER.—The chief impurities are the nitrates of potash, soda, lead, and copper. The two former, and, perhaps, the third, may be regarded as adulterants, intentionally added to increase the weight; the last—copper—is derived from impure silver, and denotes want of care or skill in the manufacture of the nitrate. Occasionally the copper may be found as oxide. Where the purification of the nitrate has been effected by fusion, this is liable to be the case. Another impurity which results from this cause, is the nitrite of silver, a salt very injurious to successful photography; sulphate and chloride of silver may also be present, from the use of impure nitric acid. The purity of the salt cannot be determined by one operation, but a rough approximation may be made by dissolving a given weight of silver in distilled water and precipitating with chloride of sodium or hydrochloric acid, not in great excess; washing, drying, and weighing the precipitate, which may be taken as equal to three-fourths

silver; 170 parts of the nitrate should give 108 parts silver, or 143.5 parts of chloride. Copper may be detected by adding ammonia to the nitrate, in solution; a blue color is developed. Lead—A dilute solution gives a precipitate with sulphate of soda. Potash and Soda—Evaporate the clear solution, after precipitating the silver as chloride; nitrate of soda or potash will appear in the residue, which, if dried, may be weighed. Nitrite, sulphate or chloride of silver are left behind after dissolving the salt in an equal weight of cold water; the two former as very small gritty crystals, the chloride as a soft white, or dirty white powder.

**J. E. S.**—COLORING FOR ESSENCES AND OILS.—For Lemon, curcuma is generally employed. Peppermint, santalum, or curcuma, or a mixture of both; a tincture of the leaves of the herb is, however, best and most appropriate. In the absence of this, a coloring made by macerating common grass, slightly bruised, in alcohol, answers a good purpose; the leaves of parsley are sometimes used in this manner. For Cinnamon, use santalum; for Cloves, the same, or, preferably, caramel, which imparts a browner color. Raspberry and Strawberry: tincture of cudbear, or magenta. Pineapple and Pear; curcuma. A yellow color, resembling that of olive oil, is sometimes given to a mixture of castor oil and spirit, by an alcoholic tincture of annatto. Rose hair oil is made with a solution, in oil, of the coloring matter of anchusa. This is much to be preferred to magenta, which is sometimes used, as the latter color is liable to attach itself to the hands.

**Specific Gravity, Montreal.**—"What is the density of absolute ether?" The density of sulphuric ether is variously stated; as a rule the later the authority the lower the specific gravity given. Lavoisier, in his *Elements of Chemistry*, 1790, gives it at .7394; Watts' Dictionary at .723 at 12.5° C., which nearly coincides with that in the last edition of Fownes' *Chemistry*—.720 at 15.5° C. (60° F.) The United States Dispensatory places it at .713, but on what authority we cannot state. The figure .720 may be assumed most correct. Although ether is amongst the lightest of liquids, its vapor is extremely heavy, being about two and a half times denser than air.

### Changes.

Dr. Alway has opened a new business at Smithville, to be carried on under the management of J. H. Hewson.

Alfred Major, Halifax, N. S., has made an assignment of his stock.

H. A. Wilson, Paisley, assigned.

J. R. Stewart, Southampton, has recommenced business.

### Trade Report.

We are happy to be able to say that business during the past month has been very much better than for some time past.

There are a number of changes, which we enumerate below, and which are principally in favor of the buyer.

**Drugs.**—Opium has fallen considerably, and the present price cannot be called a very unreasonable one. Cardamon seeds are also very much lower, the best Malabar having fallen one dollar per lb. Quinine remains firm. In Essential Oils it will be noticed that Super. Bergamot, Eng. Lavender and Sassafras are very much lower, these goods which are against the purchaser are Vanilla and Cantharides, which are considerably advanced, and reported as likely to be still higher. We report Carb. Ammonia unchanged in price but in very large demand, and very short supply.

**Spices.**—The demand for Mace has been greater than we have ever known, and it has consequently run up the price.

In Naval Stores we report Spts. Turpentine a little advanced and held very firm.

In Oils we have no material change to note, except in Seal Oils, which are slightly advanced and held very firm. Linseed Oils are in large demand and low in price.

**NOTE.**—The notes quoted in our price list are constantly varying, and are intended to show the limits within which a retail druggist should supply himself. The range of prices is caused by the difference between cash and credit, whole packages and smaller lots, and, in some cases, difference of quality.

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