

Great care should be observed in the use of cyanide of potassium, which is a deadly poison.

Metallic tin is prepared by crushing the ores and concentrating the tin mineral (black tin), roasting to drive off arsenic, sulphur, etc., and fusion in contact with charcoal or with a flux of lime. It is purified by fusion at a low temperature, at which the tin flows, leaving impurities behind. The impurities are arsenic, antimony, bismuth, zinc, titanium and copper. Tin is obtained pure in the laboratory by oxidizing with excess of nitric acid and washing with binoxide so obtained, first with water, and lastly with hydrochloric acid, and afterward fusing in a closed charcoal-lined crucible.

Tin so obtained is nearly chemically pure. The specific gravity of pure tin is 7.178. It is softer than gold, harder than lead, it crackles when bent, and has a peculiar odor when warm. It has but little ductility, but considerable malleability, which is increased when the temperature is raised to 220°. It fuses at 442° F. It is distinguished from other metals by the following properties and chemical relations: It is white, malleable, easily fusible, is reduced to a white oxide by the action of nitric acid, and turns black in a solution of perchloride of gold, with excess of hydrochloric acid, without giving off gas.

THE HOME OF THE PITCHER PLANT.

This curious and interesting plant which is found in tamarack swamps from Labrador to the Rocky mountains, is still unknown to the majority of people, few save the lover of nature in her wildest, which to the botanist is her loveliest state, having ever seen it in its native home.

In cold damp bogs, almost hidden by wild grass, or beneath the sombre shade of the feathery tamarack, the Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia Purpurea* L.) makes its home.

Leaving Sarnia July 7th in company with my friend Mr. S—— we walked across the sand plains to Lake Huron, where, after partaking of dinner, and gathering a number of flowers, not in my herbarium, we started for the swamp where we found the Pitcher Plant and some members of the Orchis family, which are generally found in the same locality, in bloom.

We are told by Gray that this strange plant was named by Tour-