

note in which he alludes to the product of *Ferula alliacea* which was recently described by Professor Dymock in a late paper, a notice of which appeared in this journal. Prof. Fluckiger says that this asafœtida is identical with the third form of the drug as given in his *Pharmacographia*. The odor of Hing is different from that of ordinary asafœtida and more closely resembles that of garlic. Prof. Fluckiger made several experiments to determine whether the essential oil, to which the odor is due, contained sulphur. A few ounces of the drug yielded, by distillation, a gram or two of yellow oil. During the operation an intolerable stench, described as being uncomparably repulsive, was given off. Reagents showed the presence of sulphur, but the author thinks that this oil differs from the sulphuretted oil yielded by ordinary asafœtida.

STANDARD OF QUALITY OF OPIUM IN THE UNITED STATES.—A *Philadelphia Drug Exchange Circular* defines the government standard for opium to be that of the U. S. P., 1860, or seven per cent morphia. It is maintained, apparently on just grounds, that the present Customs' regulation, requiring nine per cent morphia, is not in strict accordance with the law, and that this amount though perhaps correct enough in regard to dried opium, should not be held to apply to opium of commerce, which always contains a considerable proportion of moisture.

Books and Pamphlets.

The Cholera Epidemic of 1873 in the United States. The Introduction of Epidemic Cholera through the Agency of the Mercantile Marine; Suggestion of Measures of Prevention. By John M. WOODWORTH, M. D., Supervising Surgeon, U. S. Marine Hospital Service, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1875. 8vo., p.p. 1025.

This volume—one of the latest and most comprehensive on a very prolific subject—contains the results of an investigation made in accordance with a resolution of Congress requiring a report on the facts concerning the spread of the disease and its mode of propagation, with a view to the prevention or limitation of future outbreaks.

The first portion of the work has reference to the clinical history