

PRESERVATION OF HYDROCYANIC ACID.—M. Petit, (*Bulletin de la Soc. Chem.*) states the results of experiments on the comparative keeping properties of dilute hydrocyanic acid when of the strength of one-tenth and one-thousandth. The stronger acid was rapidly decomposed, while that which contained one-thousandth of the pure acid was quite unchanged after the expiration of six months. It was also found that dilution with water had the effect of arresting and preventing the further decomposition of acid which had already become affected.

PRESENCE OF SILVER IN COMMERCIAL SUBNITRATE OF BISMUTH.—Mr. Charles Ekin, F.C.S., (*Pharm. Jour. and Trans.*) examined fifteen samples of the commercial salt, and found seven of these to contain distinct traces of silver. Eight of the samples contained subchloride in varying proportions—from a mere trace to 6.5 per cent., while one specimen consisted altogether of subchloride. Four of the samples were pure. The method adopted for detecting these impurities consisted in dissolving the salt in nitric acid, collecting on a filter any insoluble residue, washing with dilute nitric acid, and then with water, finally, treating with ammonia. The presence of silver was sufficiently proved by the residue on the filter being blackened by exposure to light, and by its dissolving when treated with the ammonia, and giving, in its ammoniacal solution, a lemon-colored precipitate with iodide of potassium. The chloride of silver was precipitated from the nitric solution, and estimated in the usual way.

STARCH AND ALBUMIN.—Mr. R. Rother, (*Pharmacist and Chem. Record*) in operating upon a percolate obtained by exhausting licorice root, remarked that although the solution contained both starch and albumin, the latter substance was not coagulated, although exposed to a temperature of 212° . He was led to attribute this result to the presence of the starch, and further experiments, in which the two substances were alone operated upon, confirmed the supposition. He therefore concludes that starch