

Improved Method of Bending Tubes.—A writer in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* recommends the use of sand for producing an even and regular bend in glass tubes. The tube to be bent is filled with dry sand, the ends are stopped, and heat is applied. It is said that the tube may be doubled upon itself without unsightly creases, or a flattening of the external angle. Sand is often thus applied in the bending of lead pipe.

Estimation of the Tannin Value of various Substances used for Dyeing.—According to Kurz (*Reimann's Farberzeitung*) one pound of tannic acid represents, respectively, 40 pounds sumach, 18 pounds myrobalans, 14 pounds divi divi, or 11 pounds gall-nuts.

Books and Pamphlets.

PHARMACEUTICAL LEXICON; *A Dictionary of Pharmaceutical Science, containing a concise explanation of the various subjects and terms of Pharmacy, with appropriate selections from the collateral sciences; by H. V. SWERINGEN, Member of the American Pharmaceutical Association.* Philadelphia: LINDSAY & BLAKISTON, 1873, 8vo., pp. 576.

To do thorough justice to so comprehensive a title as that borne by the work under review, would entail a task of no ordinary magnitude, and, for its elucidation, would require a volume of no common size. The range of subjects embraced by the term, pharmaceutical science, is very extensive, comprising four, if not five, distinct branches of knowledge, each containing an almost endless variety of subjects. The author appears to have recognized this fact, and, on behalf of his work, modestly concedes a certain amount of imperfection, but, at the same time, claims to have produced, within reasonable limits, a work which will prove practically serviceable for ready reference, by supplying immediate and concise information upon *many* of the innumerable and varied topics of professional inquiry. In this respect we think he has succeeded, and we believe the dictionary will prove very useful to those whose time will not allow of more extended research, and whose purposes do not require them to go beyond an extended definition of the term or subject upon which they may desire information.