

# CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL

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## Original and Selected Papers.

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### LABORATORY NOTES.

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Phosphomolybdic acid has long been used as a test for alkaloids. Phosphotungstic acid has also been recommended for the same purpose, and recently Scheibler has called attention to two new acids prepared by him, the formulæ of which seem somewhat doubtful, but which are excellent tests for alkaloids. The writer has made a few experiments with a solution prepared very easily, by boiling, for a few minutes, common tungstate of soda with half its weight of syrupy phosphoric acid. Quinine gives a distinct milkiness almost immediately in 10,000th dilution, and after 24 hours in 100,000th dilution. Morphine gives the reaction plainly enough in 10,000 dilution, but not in 100,000. Strychnine gives it quite plainly in 200,000th dilution, as stated by Scheibler. This strychnine precipitate may be used for the chromic acid test, and the morphine