

parts, against 6.701, the theoretical yield, or 6.700 the yield by the method with simple water. In large operations, some of this dissolved biniodide may be recovered by evaporating to dryness the drainings and first washings, washing away the deposited chloride of ammonium, and thus leaving the more insoluble biniodide. The operation must be performed quickly or the biniodide will also dissolve. Williams' method cannot be recommended except where expedition and convenience are paramount considerations to that of cost. The product is of a darker color, and more granular than by other methods, and somewhat resembles that prepared by the old Edinburgh process, in which the compound formed by a direct union of mercury and iodine is dissolved and crystallized from a solution of chloride of sodium.

A word in regard to Williams' method for purifying the green iodide of mercury. I have lately tried this plan and found it to work very satisfactorily, being equally efficient, quite as convenient, more expeditious, and much more economical than the process with alcohol. The washing may be best performed by repeated agitation and decantation, using fresh solution of chloride of sodium.

ADULTERATION OF TARTARIC ACID.

BY H. MACLAGAN.

In the account of the proceedings of the Am. Pharm. Association, in the November number of the JOURNAL, I noticed a reference to the presence of sulphuric acid in commercial tartaric acid. That it is sometimes present, and in considerable quantity, I can fully attest, having once suffered considerable annoyance therefrom. Complaint was made by a customer of our seidlitz powders—that there was something wrong with them, as a quantity of white powder remained in the tumbler after drinking. I found, on mixing one, that such was indeed the case—that when the effervescence was about ended, the mixture became cloudy, and in a very short time a considerable white deposit had accumulated in the bottom of the glass. This was collected and examined, and proved to be bitartrate of potassa. Suspecting the tartaric acid, I examined it, and found it to contain sulphuric acid, which sufficiently explained the