

I then directed him to keep the following lotion constantly applied by means of lint soaked in it, viz:—R. Tinct Arnica, ten ounces; aqua, one grain, one drachm, ft. Lotio. The inflammation subsided rapidly and in two days the patient was perfectly well.

The above I have presented without comment. It may perhaps be found interesting as an example of numerous cases in which the young practitioner is obliged to exercise his own ingenuity in modifying the usual rules of surgery.

---

ART. VI.—*Strychnia ; being extracts from the Materia-Medica Prize-Essay, of the Session 1856-57, McGill College.* By MR. ALEXANDER REID, London, C. W.

PREPARATION.—I have tried another method, altogether different from any yet mentioned, (the Pharmacopœal and Molyn's) and which, with the quantities manipulated with, I have found very successful. Every procedure, at present used, is very expensive, so that the value of the manufactured article becomes much more expensive than it would be if a cheaper means were employed. I shall not say that my explanation of this process is correct as regards chemical decompositions, but that you may obtain the desired product is I think certain. One advantage which my method presents is that the substances used to separate the alkaloid from its natural combinations are very cheap, and easily obtained of the proper purity required. The agent I use to separate the alkaloid from extraneous substances is chlorine. If it be applied as chlorine water I have not found it act with much certainty, but if used as the solution of Hypochlorite of Soda, it acts very well. I prefer the Hypochlorite solution prepared by precipitating the lime from the dissolved chloride of lime, of commerce by carbonate of soda. If the other article be used, which is prepared by passing chlorine through a solution of the carbonate of soda, you have a large quantity of bi-carbonate of soda present, which can be of no use in making the alkaloid; and further, when this solution is added to the decoction, it changes to a red colour without causing a precipitate.

I make a decoction of the rasped or powdered nux-vomica seeds, in water acidulated with sulphuric acid; if the decoction be not acidified when the chloride solution is added, in place of a dense white precipitate, you have a very small quantity of a tawny or light-yellow colour. I think that the sulphuric acid in the decoction serves a double purpose; firstly, decomposing the Strychniate, and forming the more soluble