

amylic alcohol, and reserves that portion of the liquid for final purification which distils between 96° and 100° C.

Tanner* takes advantage of Redwood's process for spirit of nitrous ether (the British pharmacopœia process), and prepares the amyl nitrite in this way. Other processes have also been suggested, which I should recommend to your notice.

The chief points in the production of this body in a state of either absolute or even medicinal purity, first and foremost hinge upon the thorough fractional distillation of the fousel oil, until the amylic alcohol selected for use has a constant boiling point of 132° C. The crude nitrite, prepared by either of the processes indicated, must be washed with caustic soda, to remove prussic acid formed during the process, and nitrous compounds, and finally rectified over potassic carbonate.

That portion only is reserved for use in medicine which distils between 96° and 100° C.

The boiling point, as given in the Pharmacopœia, is not, I presume, intended to be the boiling point of absolutely dry and pure amyl nitrite, indicated by Guthrie, as 99° (210° Fahr.), but rather an average boiling point of good medicinal nitrite, ranging through some eight or ten degrees of Fahrenheit's scale.

The specific gravity, as represented in the Pharmacopœia, is, I believe, for medicinal purposes, sufficiently accurate. Some three years since,† I found that some specimens I then examined were not amylic nitrite, but were contaminated with nitrites of radicals much higher in the series than amylic alcohol.

Chloroform Water is, perhaps, one of the best of the introductions into the Pharmacopœia. All, at some time or other, have been inconvenienced by the sparing solubility of chloric ether, when ordered in a mixture in such quantity as to be only partially dissolved, which difficulty has been considerably aggravated by the variable strength of chloric ethers as compared with the official spirit of chloroform.

The water, containing one-half per cent. (fluid) of chloroform, seems to be, as far as I have observed, a fully saturated solution.

Areca nuts, as they are termed in commerce, are introduced as a vermifuge.

It has been urged that this remedy to exert its maximum anthelmintic force, must be in a certain state of division, and not prepared as a fine powder.

My opinion is that this is more imaginary than real, and that, in all probability, when a specimen has been pronounced inert, it was due either to partial destruction by an insect of the betel seed

**Pharmaceutical Journal*, Nov. 25, 1871, p. 421.

† *Pharmaceutical Journal*, Nov. 26, 1870, p. 422.