

used. From experiments made by the author, it was found that, in the presence of large quantities of water, a considerable excess of iodide must be used in order to develop the blue color; and that it seems necessary for the solution to contain a certain proportion of iodine before its action on starch will commence. For further particulars in regard to the color, and decolorization of the so-called iodide we must refer those interested to the original paper.

Test for Bismuth in Ores.—Von Kobell (*Nues Report f. Pharm., in Pharmacist*) proposes, as a test for small quantities of bismuth, that the powdered ore be mixed with equal weights of iodide of potassium and sulphur, and placed upon a charcoal support. If bismuth be present, the mixture will, when heated before the blowpipe, assume a scarlet color, due to the formation of iodide of bismuth. If the ore contain sulphur, the sulphur in the formula may be omitted.

Preparation of Caramel.—A writer in *Dingler's Journal* recommends a process for sugar coloring in which carbonate of ammonia is added to the boiling sugar at the time that the charring action commences. The proportion of carbonate used is three ounces to each ten pounds of sugar. The salt should be in the condition of a coarse powder.

Compound for removing Nicotine from Tobacco Smoke.—Some years ago it was announced that tannin possessed the property of abstracting nicotine from tobacco smoke. We notice that this has recently been made the subject of a patent in the United States. The smoke is drawn through a sponge saturated with a solution of tannic, tartaric or citric acids, glycerine, and a flavoring ingredient, as Florida, or clove water.

Meconate of Quinia.—P. T. Austen, (*Am. Chemist*) has obtained this salt by adding to an alcoholic solution of quinia a similar solution of meconic acid. The meconate falls as a white, curdy precipitate, which is soluble in hot water, crystallizing therefrom in definite and regular form. The aqueous solution gives reactions for meconic acid and quinia. The salt contains, by calculation, 56.66 per cent of alkaloid.