that crystallized cyanide of potassium may be obtained, commercially, pure enough for extemporizing hydrocyanic acid; and that it is permanent enough for general use; that in the decomposition of cyanide of potassium, by sulphuric or tartaric acid, in the presence of alcohol, only part of the cyanogen is liberated as hydrocyanic acid, but that after the precipitation of the potassium, as an acid tartrate, in the presence of a small quantity of water, the subsequent addition of alcohol, or alcohol and ether, yields an acid not deficient in strength; that crystallized cyanide of zinc and potassium may be substituted, with advantage, for cyanide of potassium, being free from deliquescence and tendency to decomposition; that for the preservation of the acid, a common corked bottle is all that is necessary, and probably better than one with a stopper.

A paper, presented by Mr. W. A. Shenstone, had especial reference to the substitution of the double cyanide of zinc and potas sium for the officinal acid as recommended by Mr. Towerzey; and also to the suggestion, made by Dr. Tilden, that the officinal acid should be diluted to one-tenth it present strength. With regard to the double salt, the author came to the conclusion that a dilute solution might be regarded as perfectly stable, and provided for consent of the prescriber were obtained, might be substituted for With regard to the dilute acid it was shown the officinial acid. that when of a strength of about 0.2 per cent it might, with ordin nary precautions. be preserved unchanged for a considerable length Acid stronger than this gradually lost strength until this of time. point was reached, when it remained of tolerably constant composition.

In a paper detailing the result of a great number of carefully conducted experiments Mr. Louis Siebold stated his experience with the silute aqueous acid. A quantity of officinal acid was mixed with nineteen times its weight of water, and put into sixteen ounce Two of these were stoppered, and secured with bladder bottles. and stored upon their sides in a cool, dark place. The remainder were also kept in a cool place, but were placed in an upright post tion, and were opened three times a day, each time for about a Their contents were examined and estimated quarter of a minute. daily, for the first three days, and once a week, during six weeks, of the conclusion of this time the acid had only lost 0.0054 per cent of strength : while the contexts of the strength; while the contents of the two bottles which had been carefully tied over, and left undisturbed, exhibited, at the expiration of two months, no appreciable change. On the strength of these experiments Mr Siebold recommends wholesale houses to supply, and retail chemists to keep, a dilute hydrocyanic acid containing one-tenth of a per cent of HCN, of which twenty minims are equivalent to one minime and the D. S. of which twenty minimes are equiv valent to one minim of the B. P acid. This might be conveniently stored in eight ounce bottles. When the strength of the acid fails