

factured by Price. With the former a yellow colour was developed, but acid preserved with the latter remained colorless. Experiments are being made in order to determine whether strong acid, say of 32 per cent., can be preserved by this means.

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SOLUBILITY OF OIL OF BITTER ALMONDS IN WATER.—Fluckiger points out the fact (*Archiv der Pharmacie*) that neither ordinary oil of bitter almonds, nor that deprived of prussic acid, dissolves in water to the extent—1 in 30—generally stated in chemical hand-books. With 300 parts of water there is still a slight turbidity, and it is difficult to determine the exact point of saturation. The author thinks that the statement, 1 in 30, may have had its origin in a printer's error, and that 1 in 300 was intended. At any rate, the latter proportion is nearer the truth.

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JABORANDI AN OLD REMEDY.—There is a possibility that our new diaphoretic may not after all turn out to be a drug of very recent introduction. The *British Medical Journal* has been instrumental in throwing some little doubt on the matter by discovering in the works of the Honorable Robert Boyle a reference to Piso's *Travels in South America*, in which an infusion of the root of *jaborand* is mentioned as being very valuable as an alexipharmic. "I saw divers," says he, "as it were in an instant redeemed from death, who had been poisoned by the eating of poisonous mushrooms, and other unwholesome things, only by drinking a recent infusion of the root of *jaborand*."

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CRAYONS OF SULPHATE OF COPPER.—The method of Steffen for preparing these fused sticks, described in this Journal, vol. ix. p. 69, has been tried by K. Calmberg (*Archiv. d. Pharm.*), but has not been found practicable. The author calls attention to a process proposed by him some years ago, and which is stated to be satisfactory. Four parts of sulphate of copper and one of borax are triturated together in a warm mortar. The liberation of water of crystallization gives the requisite plasticity, but if the mass is too dry a few drops of water may be added. The compound may then be rolled into sticks.

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NEW SOURCE OF PICRIC ACID.—Dr. G. C. Wittstein proposes as a profitable source of this acid the acaroid resin or yellow resin