

SOAP-ROOT.—A large commerce is carried on from California in a fibrous substance known as soap-root. It is obtained from a lily-like plant, a species of *Phalangium*, *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, Kunth, which is met with about the mountains, and attains a height of eight feet. The heavy bulb is covered with many coatings, consisting of fibres, which are used for cushions, mattresses, &c. Large contracts are entered into for the supply of this material on a very extensive scale. The inner part of the bulb serves as a substitute for soap, and it might be tried whether it can be utilised for technological purposes like the root of *Saponaria*.

PYRITES EMPLOYED IN FRANCE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SULPHURIC ACID.—Professor Girard and M. Henri Morin have recently published an interesting essay on the pyrites used in France for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, nine-tenths of which, it appears, are obtained from the French mines. The principal sources of supply are St. Bel Sourcieux on the Rhone, St. Julian de Valgalgues and Soulie, and in Gard and Soyon in Ardeche. A small quantity is imported from Belgium and Spain. The quantity now used is about 180,000 tons, or double what it was ten years ago. The development of the soda industry, considerable as it is, and the abandonment of the sulphur formerly used for sulphuric acid will not explain this rapid increase, which is chiefly due to the increase in artificial manures, and especially superphosphates. This is not special to France alone; most manufacturing countries are marked by the same progress, for the imports of foreign pyrites into England have increased in the last ten years from 171,000 to over 500,000 tons. It is pointed out in this essay how essential it is in burning pyrites not only to ascertain the quantity of sulphur it yields, but also the proportion of foreign matters other than sulphur and iron. Among these arsenic is one, and often it is found in considerable quantities, so as to encumber the vessels with arsenious acid. Illustrated maps and detailed analyses, with statistics of the production, are then given by the writers for each of the French localities, from actual investigation and careful experiments.

Registrar's Notice.

The Registrar would remind the members of the College, that the Act requires that he shall cause to be printed and published on the fifteenth day of June, an alphabetical list of the members who were on the first day of June, entitled to keep open shop as Chemists and Druggists.

A large majority of the members have not yet complied with the requirements of the Act, and it is my duty to draw their attention to the notice sent them a month ago.

To ensure the name being on the list, the annual fee of Four Dollars must be sent in not later than the tenth of June.

GEORGE HODGETTS,
Registrar.