

Mr. Williams said benzoate of lithium was being extensively employed. He thought it was in America where it was principally used. It seemed to be an elegant and beautiful salt, and it was largely prepared for the foreign market. Having been a maker of citrate of lithium for many years, he should like to say that he considered the reasons why crystals were given up was that it was found very difficult to produce them with uniformity and elegance. Manufacturers know better now, but ten or fifteen years ago it was a difficult task, for the manufacture of good crystals had died out. He did not think the anhydrous salt of the Pharmacopœia was practically so useful as a salt containing one atom of water would be.

The President asked whether the crystals were deliquescent.

Mr. Williams said no; not when they are properly prepared. In fact, they were rather efflorescent.

Professor Redwood said he had been happy to hear it stated by two manufacturers that they now advocated the adoption of the crystalline form of this salt. When the Pharmacopœia of 1867 was under revision the difficulty in the way of adopting the crystalline article originated with manufacturers; it was they who really stood in the way, and Mr. Williams had virtually admitted as much. There was one advocate of the crystalline form at that time, and that was Mr. Sandford, who had prepared it and showed it could be prepared. Nevertheless, the manufacturers who were consulted objected to its being ordered in that form: and that was the reason why this and some other salts were left as they are ordered in the amorphous condition. He was glad manufacturers had altered their opinion and were willing to admit that such articles should be ordered in a crystalline condition.

ON TINCTURE OF ARNICA.*

BY J. B. MOORE.

The directions given in the U. S. Pharmacopœia for the preparation of the Tincture of Arnica are as follows:

“ Mix the alcohol and water, and having moistened the arnica slightly with a portion of the mixture, bruise it thoroughly in a mortar. Then pack it firmly in a cylindrical percolator, and pour upon it the remainder of the mixture, and afterwards diluted alcohol, until two pints of tincture are obtained.”

The above plan of reducing the arnica to a proper condition for percolation I have never found satisfactory, and it is by no means calculated to afford the best results. In order to thoroughly exhaust

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