

acidulated water. A more or less acid aqueous liquid is thus obtained, which, upon the addition of ammonia, yields the emetina almost colorless, and much more pure than that produced by the processes ordinarily employed. When water, acidulated with hydrochloric acid, is employed to remove the emetina from the ether, an acid solution is obtained, which, when sufficiently concentrated by evaporation, forms a nearly colorless, solid, crystalline mass of hydrochlorate of emetina. This mass is formed of extremely delicate needles, formed in bundles that radiate around a central point, and form small spheres with an embossed surface, resembling mulberries in appearance. Upon pressing these crystals in a cloth, the more or less colored mother liquor runs off, and the crystals redissolved in water give a colorless solution, from which a fresh crystallization of perfectly pure hydrochlorate of emetina can readily be obtained. It appears that ammonia will not precipitate all the emetina from this salt, as a portion is lost through a decomposing action not fully explained. The formula of emetina is given as $C_{30}H_{22}NO_4$; that of the hydrochlorate as $C_{30}H_{22}NO_4.HCl$. The centesimal composition of each is stated as follows:

	Emetina.	Hydrochlorate.
Carbon	72.25	63.00
Hydrogen	8.61	8.15
Nitrogen	5.36	4.75
Oxygen	13.78	11.64
Chlorine	0.00	12.46
	100.00	100.00

GRINDELIA ROBUSTA—AN ANTIDOTE TO RHUS TOXICODENDRON.—The December number of the *Pharmacist* contains a paper which was read by Mr. J. G. Steele, at the last meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and in which an important place in the national Materia Medica is claimed for the plant under consideration. As an antidote to poison oak it has been found infallible, and its happy effects in reducing the frequency and violence of the spasmodic constrictions of the throat and contiguous organs, in asthma and kindred diseases, have often been realized. The *Grindelia* attracted the attention of the Jesuit Fathers at an early period in the settlement of California, but the *G. Robusta* appears to possess, in the most marked form, the medicinal properties of the family. The plant is a stout perennial, belonging to the *Compositæ*, and resembling a small sunflower. Before flowering, the unexpanded heads secrete a quantity of resinous matter, which is finally distributed, like varnish, over the petals of the flower. In May and June the plant abounds most in this resinous juice, and it is to it that its