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AMMONIO-CITRATE OF IRON.*

BY CHARLES UMNEY.

The variation in appearance of ammonio-citrate of iron, as met with in trade, must have been noticed by every observant pharmacist. Since the time of its introduction into medicine by Beral, now about thirty years since, most manufacturers have adopted, notwithstanding the various officinal formulæ that have been published, one or other of the following methods for its production :

- (a) By dissolving metallic iron (nails) in a solution of citric acid by the aid of heat to the complete saturation of the acid.
- (b) By adding hydrated ferric oxide to citric acid dissolved in about twice its weight of water, assisting its solution by the heat of a water-bath until the oxide is no longer dissolved, and is visibly in excess.

Solution of ammonia in both cases being added after filtration, to produce the double salt. By either method the result is very similar, the amount of anhydrous ferric oxide resulting from a calcination of the salt with free exposure to air from 30 to 31 per cent., and the appearance of the scaled product nearly or quite identical.

* Pharm. Journ. & Trans., Dec., 1873.