

and tests" given in the Pharmacopœia be modified thus: "100 grains dissolved in two fluid ounces of water and treated with a slight excess of ammonia give a white precipitate, which, when washed, collected on a filter and dried at 240° , weighs at least 14 grains (14.2). The filtrate if washed with chloroform (or ether) and decanted, evaporated to dryness, and dissolved in a small quantity of dilute sulphuric acid will give by ammonia a further precipitate, which, when dried, will weigh about one grain (.8 gr.)"

Benzoinated Lard.—The *Medical News* cites an instance of the use of Ung. Zinci oxid. prepared with lard benzoinated by being mixed with the tincture of benzoin, and by which an effect was produced the reverse of that contemplated, the application proving highly irritating instead of soothing. This result is attributed to the extra quantity of benzoin present in the lard, as prepared according to the New U. S. directions, in which formula the tincture is used instead of the resin. It seems probable that the supposition of our contemporay is correct, and if such is found to be the case the employment of the tincture should be abandoned, at least, for those preparations in which stimulating effect is not desirable. Since writing the above note the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for September has come to hand, and in it we notice a paper, by H. M. Wilder in which the same subject is alluded to. It was remarked by the author, that the greater portion of the resin separated on the evaporation of the alcohol, and that by remelting the ointment, the precipitate might be removed by straining; the resulting preparation being free from irritating properties. Taking advantage of this fact and applying it to the official directions, the formula might be modified so as to read "and, when the alcohol has entirely evaporated, strain, and stir occasionally while cooling."

Administration of Phosphorus.—Considerable attention is, at present, being directed to the employment of phosphorus for the relief of neuralgic affections. Various old methods for the solution of the phosphorus have been revived, and some new methods have been proposed. A late issue of this journal contained a number of these formulæ, and we have now to make an addition of a preparation recommended by Dr. J. A. Thompson, (*Practitioner*). One grain of phosphorus is dissolved in 3 drachms of absolute alcohol. This is termed the tincture of phosphorus, and the preparation may be depended on as retaining its power for, at least, six weeks. For administration, a good form is, Tincture of phosphorus, three drachms; rectified spirit, two drachms; essence of peppermint, half a drachm;