bolans, and the juice of which is used as marking ink. These nuts contain between the inner and outer layer of the shell or pericarpy a remarkably caustic blackish oily fluid which is apt to blister of greatly inflame the lips of those who attempt to crack the nuts. In persons of erysipelatous tendency the inflammation is often considerable, and even dangerous. This acrid oily liquid forms an excellent marking ink, which when first used writes brown, but after wards becomes black. The writing may be turned black at once by the addition of ammonia. Possibly the sap of the tree might answer the same purpose for marking ink, and could be obtained more easily and in larger quantity. Liquor plumbi is said to be the best application to allay the irritation caused by the juice of the nut, but a strong decoction of teak wood, or of Lobelia inflata is worthy of trial. The latter plant is said to allay the irritation caused by Rhus toxicodendron, a plant of the same family as the Cashew nut.

NATURE OF THE DEPOSITS FORMED IN THE FLUID EXTRACTS OF CINCHONA, ERGOT, AND HYOSCYAMUS, U.S.P.—Mr. C. S. Johnson (Am. Jour. Pharm. vol. xlvii. p. 483), examined the washed deposit from fluid extract of cinchona, and found it to be of a bitter and astringent taste, and to be composed largely of cellular material. A solution obtained by acidulated dilute alcohol gave abundant general reactions for alkaloids. Alkaloids equal to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. were found to be present; amongst others quinia and cinchonia. The deposit from fluid extract of Ergot proved to be of an oily nature. An aqueous solution gave a yellowish-white precipitate with lead acetate, but no definite results as to alkaloids were reached. The deposit from fluid extract of hyoscyamus had the appearance of soft tar, and yielded by distillation, a considerable quantity of empyreumatic oil. The ash from the deposit was rich in potassium nitrate. No alkaloid could be found.

PRESERVATION OF HYDROCYANIC ACID.—In a former number of this journal we called attention to a paper read by Mr. John Wil. liams, at the meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference of 1874. From experiments then detailed it was concluded that glycerine might with advantage be employed for the preservation of hydrocyanic acid, and that about 20 per cent. of glycerine was about the best proportion which could be used. Mr. Williams has continued his investigations, and again presented a paper on this subject: from which we learn that, after the lapse of a year, samples of acid of a strength of 2 and 4'5 per cent remain unchanged. German glycerine was not found to answer so well as that manu-