

oil, representing the odor of the root. He had distilled many tons of the latter and found the yield to be about one part from one thousand. The oil obtained resembled cacao butter, and communicated an exceedingly powerful odor to alcohol. It was very expensive, more so, perhaps, than otto of rose. It was suggested by one of the members present that this oil might be the orris camphor described by Gmelin. Prof. Wayne thought the odorous principle depended more upon the soft resin than upon the oil, but this does not appear to have been the case with the oil described by Mr. Umney.

A DISPENSING DIFFICULTY.—A correspondent of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of London asks advice regarding the following prescription, which he had been unable to dispense satisfactorily. The pills were required small, hard, and, of course, containing the full amount of creasote :—

R. Creasote 20 minims.
 Pot. Chlor.....
 Pulv. Rhei aa..... $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
 Ft. pil. xx in fol. arg. involv.

The editor tenders the following advice :—The addition of one grain of oil of theobroma will have the desired effect, and form a hard, compact mass. In all cases where creasote is ordered in pills along with dry powders, it will be found useful, as creasote and it are miscible. The above will require careful manipulation; on trituration, the oil of theobroma will soon become plastic, but the mass should not come in contact with the warm hand, or the pills be kept in a warm place. The silvering should be done by means of a little thin mucilage, in which the pills should be rolled in a gallipot, so as to get them well moistened and partially dried before placing them upon the silver leaf.

IMPROVED METHOD OF PREPARING CLEAR SHELLAC VARNISH.
 —The *Journal of Applied Chemistry* contains a translation from Polytechnisches Notizblatt, in which is given the details of an examination made by Dr. N. Grager, as to the composition and man-