

posed, and nitrous acid fumes evolved, which pass off by the bent tube, and are made to pass through a sample of the oil to be examined, placed in a glass with a little water. In performing the experiment the end of the tube must be just in contact with the water upon which the oil is made to float. In a short time the whole of the non-drying oils will solidify into a semi-crystalline mass, while any poppy or other drying oil, if present, will float on the surface. In a similar way the adulteration of drying oils with non-drying ones can of course be detected.—*Month. Jour. of Indust. Progress.*

---

*Preparation of a Double Salt containing Protoxide of Iron.*—The Austrian Pharmaceutical Journal contains an anonymous paper on this subject, in which it is stated that the white carbonate of iron, precipitated from a solution of protochloride of iron re-dissolved by the addition of dilute nitric acid, gives a colorless liquid, which may be kept without oxidation, even in an open flask, and when evaporated, yields a nearly colourless double salt, which deliquesces in a moist atmosphere, but is not oxidized. On account of the hygroscopic character of this salt, the author recommends that the solution should be used for medicinal purposes, and prepared as follows:—Clean iron wire is dissolved in an ounce of hydrochloric acid of 1.110 sp. gr., the green solution being treated with enough carbonate of soda to precipitate all the iron, and dilute nitric acid added, until the precipitate is re-dissolved. This liquid is diluted with distilled water, until the total weight is six ounces; one ounce, therefore, contains 12.5 grains of iron. A solution of proto-sulphate of iron precipitated by carbonate of soda, and the precipitate re-dissolved in dilute of sulphuric acid, likewise gives an almost colorless liquid, which yields, on evaporation, crystals that are not oxidized by exposure to air. He considers that this salt might be advantageously submitted for sulphate of iron in medicine. It is probable that the first mentioned compound contains proto-nitrate of iron, which has been observed by Berzelius to possess a certain degree of stability.—*Pharm. Journ.*

---

## The Medical Chronicle.

---

LICET OMNIBUS, LICET NOBIS DIGNITATEM ARTIS MEDICÆ TUERI.

---

A lunatic asylum, quite within our own memory, and we have not as yet attained to a very advanced age, was associated in the public mind with all that was gloomy and repulsive in character. An extensive range of buildings of a heavy exterior, with windows protected by strong iron bars, and surrounded by high stone walls; massive gates,