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—o:—  
**—OFFICE HOURS:—**  
 9 to 11 a.m., 2 50 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m.  
 Toronto, May, 1868. 1-

then, it appears that the Indian juice is more  
 fluid than that collected in Asia Minor. Does  
 this partly depend upon the absence of pectic  
 acid or of mucilage? This investigation  
 must be expected from chemists having at  
 their command considerable quantities of the  
 residues of genuine opiums; they may state  
 whether I am correct in saying that a pectic  
 body must have a place among the normal  
 constituents of the poppy juice.

After the treatment of the opium with am-  
 monia, water is without any action upon the  
 residue, which even does not swell; I conse-  
 quently cannot agree with those chemists who  
 admit bassorine as one of the principles of  
 opium.

Examined under the microscope, the opium  
 powder thus deprived of all soluble matters,  
 shows very distinctly that it consists now ex-  
 clusively of fragments of the capsule, which  
 by incineration yield some ash, but not the  
 whole amount of it, the inorganic salts hav-  
 ing been already partly removed by alcohol,  
 water and acetic acid. Among them a com-  
 paratively large proportion of alkaline sul-  
 phates, as well as of sulphate of lime is al-  
 ways met with. Sulphuric acid is set at  
 liberty, if the precipitate obtained by neu-  
 tral acetate of lead is decomposed by sulphu-  
 retted hydrogen in an alcoholic solution,  
 which causes the mucilage to be precipi-  
 tated.

In the manner indicated I completely ex-  
 hausted 10 grammes of good Turkish opium  
 successively with the above liquids, devoting  
 about a week to this task. The results will,  
 I hope, clearly show which direction should  
 be followed, in order to promote our knowl-  
 edge of opium. It is that part extracted by  
 alcohol which contains the constituents not  
 yet known, and upon which further researches,  
 which I hope to institute, may probably  
 throw some light.

The following numbers, calculated for 100  
 parts, were obtained. The opium yield-  
 ed—

To benzol, . . . . .	10.33 =	{ 4.50 narcotine and
“ alcohol, . . . . .	57.67	{ 6.33 caoutchouc, with
“ water, . . . . .	9.67	{ traces of fatty matter.
“ acetic acid, . . . . .	1.73	{ representing about 20 per
“ ammonia, . . . . .	7.33	{ cent. of unknown bodies.
By incineration 10.38 per cent. were burnt (cellu- lose), leaving		
2.39 ash; the whole amount of the ash in the drug un- der examination being equal to 5.32 per cent., when it was directly burnt.		

100.00

I have observed that the pectic acid is not  
 obtained immediately in a pure state; it ap-  
 pears to be always accompanied by some of  
 the so-called humic bodies. Yet by dissolv-  
 ing it again in ammonia and precipitating by  
 alcohol, it at last becomes nearly colourless  
 and devoid of inorganic matter. It is always  
 very difficult to powder; when heated, it  
 evolves acid vapors, but in a less pure state  
 it retains some albuminous matter yielding  
 then ammoniacal vapors.

The purified pectic acid, when thoroughly  
 boiled with water, partly forms a jelly, which  
 at first is almost imperceptible, being per-  
 fectly colorless and transparent. Neutral  
 acetate of lead somewhat thickens it, without

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 cholas Street, Montreal.

C. W. WALKEM,  
 Secretary. 1-y

May 1868.

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