

equally rapid, and probably equally active. The author ascribes the difference of strength to the variable comminution of the drug, and urges the importance of the Pharmacopœia adopting some system of indication of fineness for powers used for the manufacture of this and other preparations. The continuance of the process of digestion ordered in the B.P. was not considered essential, and it was thought that the quantity of the percolate might be restricted to three pints instead of one gallon. As a security against imperfect work it was suggested that the percolate should be evaporated to a stated density before the addition of the spirit. It was found that the root, when thoroughly exhausted, yields about 17 per cent of dry extract, or about 25 per cent. of an extract of soft pilular consistence. Either of these solid extracts might be used for the preparation of a liquid extract little liable to vary in strength, and corresponding pretty closely with the best that can be prepared by the official process. On dissolving the solid extract a brown insoluble matter is deposited, but the clear liquor possesses the same intensity of color and taste as the original sample. The discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Proctor's paper was very interesting. In most cases the opinions given were favourable to the author, though in regard to limiting the quantity of the percolate to three pints there was some disagreement. It was also suggested that there was a possibility of the experiment not having been made on genuine pareira, as there is very little of that article to be obtained at present. The samples were taken from a parcel of powdered pareira purchased of a respectable drug house. It was also stated that the yield of extract from old and young roots was not alike. The opinion of the meeting was decidedly favourable to the definition of pharmacopœial terms relating to the fineness of powders and the embodiment of these definitions in the next edition of the B. P.

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RESEARCHES ON THE ALKALOID OF IPECAC.—Our valued contributor "Monad" sends us a translation of a paper by M. A. Glenard (*Annales de Chimie et de Physique*,) which, from its extreme length, we are unable to publish entire, and can only offer a summary of the most important points. The attention of the author was specially directed to this subject some ten years ago, when occupied with researches on cinchona, and on the extraction of quinine by lime and ether. It was thought that the process might be extended to other alkaloids, and an experiment was made on ipecac. It was found that when a few grains of this substance were moistened with water, mixed with an equal weight of slaked lime, and then agitated with ether, a solution was obtained, from which, by means of any very dilute acid, and ammonia, there was deposited a large quantity of colourless emetine. This result was