

Tinct. Guaiacia.—The addition of nitric ether to this preparation causes the formation of an unsightly bluish-grey mass.

Chloroform will not remain mixed with weak spirits or with glycerine. [The latter, however, by proper manipulation, and especially by the intervention of alcohol, may be made to dissolve considerable quantities of it.]

Belladonna, Hyo cyamus, and Stramonium.—It has long been known that caustic fixed alkalies decompose the alkaloids of these agents. Runge demonstrated the fact long ago. Carbonates and bicarbonates of the alkalies may be prescribed with preparations of these drugs.

Opium.—The older text-books contained a long list of substances which were supposed to be incompatible with opium; most of these are not now considered as improper combinations. Tincture of opium is not infrequently prescribed with acetate of lead; a decomposition takes place, resulting in the formation of acetate of morphia and insoluble meconate of lead.

Quiniæ Sulphas is often prescribed in combination with infusion of roses, and a turbid and unsightly mixture results.

THE PURIFICATION OF CARBON DISULPHIDE.*

Ordinary carbon disulphide (CS_2) has a very disagreeable odor, owing to the presence of some hydrogen compounds which are formed during the preparation of the product by the action of nascent hydrogen on the carbon disulphide. Beside this, the compound often contains free dihydric sulphide (H_2S). In order to set the carbon disulphide free from the impurities, it is well shaken up with mercury; but this *modus operandi* is a tiresome one, and the product is not well cleaned.

The following method was found to be the best for cleaning impure carbon disulphide. The impure product is well mixed in a high glass with some lead nitrate (Pb_2NO_3) and with a small quantity of metallic lead; when the salt turns dark, the liquid is poured into another glass with a fresh quantity of lead-salt, and so on until the salt remains nearly white while mixed with the liquor. The carbon disulphide is then placed in a retort, and distilled over into a well-cooled receiver.

During these experiments, a peculiar phenomenon was observed; when the salt was mixed in the crystalline form with carbon disulphide during 10-15 minutes, the crystals were covered with a silver-like precipitate. If these crystals, placed on filtering paper, are examined through a microscope, they have a very beautiful appearance.

* Chemical News.