

phate of magnesia, 15 per cent. of sulphate of iron, and 5 per cent. of sulphate of quinine, 1 scruple containing 16, 3, and 1 grains of the respective salts. These proportions have been found the best for general use, and also for the purposes of manufacture. The proportion of quinine may be increased by prescribing an additional quantity which is readily soluble in the solution of the salt.

One peculiarity is especially deserving of notice; that in this combination the assisting or adjuvant property of both iron and quinine are remarkably developed, the effect of both, particularly of quinine, being heightened in a very marked manner. At the same time, both of the remedies are less apt to disagree with peculiar constitutions which ordinarily refuse to tolerate either iron or quinine. If the heightened power be borne in mind in prescribing this combination, there will be very few cases found in which it will not be suitable whenever either iron or quinine are indicated.—*London Pharm. Journal.*

#### PREPARATION OF SMELLING-SALTS.

I have for some years been in the habit of making smelling-salts by a process which, I believe, possesses so many advantages, that I venture to bring it before the notice of the Pharmaceutical Society, thinking that it will probably interest some of the members. I will first describe exactly the process I adopt, and afterwards give the chemical explanation of the process. Take of good commercial sesquicarbonate of ammonia 40 avoirdupois ounces, break it into small pieces, the largest of which should not exceed in size that of a filbert, and put it into a chemical air-tight jar having a capacity of half a gallon. Then pour over it 20 fluid ounces of strong solution of ammonia (sp. gr. 880), previously perfumed according to taste, and immediately fix on the lid of the jar, taking care that it is properly secured, and keep it in a cool place, stirring the salt with a stiff spatula every other day for a week. Afterwards allow it to remain for two or three weeks, at the expiration of which time it will have become hard—so hard, indeed, that if the precaution of stirring the salt were neglected, it would be almost impossible to remove it without breaking the jar. The period during which the salt should be left in the closed jar sometimes varies a little, but if at the expiration of three weeks from the time at which the mixture was made it has not become sufficiently hard, it should be allowed to remain for a few days longer, and then put into a mortar and reduced to coarse powder, so as to admit of its being readily introduced into any ordinary smelling-bottle. When thus prepared, I generally keep it in well stoppered bottles, each containing one or two pounds weight, and in this state it improves by keeping. In using it for filling smelling-bottles, after putting the dry salt into the bottle a further quantity of the *volatile essence* should be added, in the proportion of about one drachm to an ounce of the salt. After making this addition the mixture will assume a crystalline appearance, somewhat resembling salt of tartar, and it is in this state that I consider it to be in the best condition for use. It is strongly, but pleasantly, pungent, and continues to be so almost as long as any of the salt remains in the bottle.—*Mr. Allchin, Proceedings of Pharmaceutical Society, in Pharmaceutical Journal.*