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## ON VARIOUS METHODS FOR THE PREPARATION OF BINIODIDE OF MERCURY.

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In devising or selecting a formula for the preparation of any compound there are three considerations which are essential to a correct and satisfactory conclusion. These are, that the contemplated product be obtained (*a*) of the best quality; (*b*) at the lowest cost; (*c*) with the least trouble. As a general rule, the relative importance of these conditions is indicated by the order in which they are given; quality is, or should be, the great essential, while cost and convenience are of secondary consequence. Too often, however, this order is reversed, and all considerations are made subordinate to that of cost; but, in no case, can this be justifiable; it is only when the matter of quality is satisfactorily settled that we are at liberty to decide in favor of that process which promises to be the most economical. The question of economy is, however, to the pharmacist, a most important one, and in cases of scarcity of material, or high prices, merits his best attention.

A case in point is that of the red iodide of mercury—a compound which is almost invariably prepared by the pharmacist. The