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NOTE ON GUAIACOL.*

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In a recent number of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* (No. 92, third series, page 788) attention was drawn to the statement that creasote consisted mainly of a body called "Guaiacol" and which was a product of the destructive distillation of gum guaiacum. As this appeared to be a fact of some interest I determined to prepare a little of the substance and compare its properties with those of the ordinary creasote of commerce.

The process of preparing it is as follows:—Gum guaiacum reduced to powder is exposed in a shallow iron pan to a considerable heat, sufficient to cause the commencement of charring, and until every trace of water is driven off. We thus avoid the frothing, which otherwise renders the distillation of the gum a very difficult matter. When the mass has been thus heated for some time it is transferred to an iron retort, furnished with a long iron tube, to

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