

of mercury ; with nitrate of silver, a precipitate of bromide ; with chlorine water, followed by chloroform, a solution of bromine in the latter liquid.

ADULTERATION OF ABSOLUTE ALCOHOL WITH ETHER.

It would not, at first, appear that this adulteration could be carried on profitably, but a case recently came under the observation of the writer, in which the specific gravity of a large quantity of alcohol, procured from Germany by a firm dealing in photographic chemicals, was lowered by this means. The odor of ether was not so apparent as to be noticed by those who used the alcohol, but in the manipulation of collodion, the want of tenacity, or *rotteness*, of the film gave evidence of the presence of water, and led to an examination of the materials, when the adulteration alluded to was detected. The quantity of ether was not determined.

I find that this adulteration may be readily detected by pouring upon a plate, or saucer, a small quantity of the suspected alcohol, and applying a light. Alcohol burns with a blue flame, almost destitute of luminosity, but if ether is present the flame becomes more or less white, or luminous, according to the proportion of ether present. A very slight trace may thus be detected.

REMOVAL OF GLASS STOPPERS.

It may not have occurred to every one—at all events it is not noticed in any of our treatises on practical pharmacy—that the easiest way to take out a stopper which has become fixed in the neck of a bottle is to reverse the motion given to it when putting it in, that is, to knock the stopper from *right to left*. In most instances when a stopper is fixed, without the intervention of an adhesive substance, it is by turning it as one would drive a screw. The direction is almost invariably from left to right, and thus a thread is formed, which it is easier to follow backwards than to break. The trouble with which the removal of stoppers is, usually, attended must form my apology for introducing a suggestion of so little apparent importance.