FURTHER NOTE ON POIVRETTE.

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IN addition to the microscope examination with a $\frac{1}{8}$ objective in good daylight, a lower power, such as a $\frac{2}{5}$ objective, with the polariser and analyser placed parallel, and with Klein's quartz plate or selenite plate, in daylight or strong lamplight, brings the ligneous cells into marked prominence, and enables the counting to be done on a tolerably large field. This does not distinguish between the cortical cells of pepper and poivrette cells. If, however, the quartz or selenite plate be removed, and the polarising and analysing Nicol prisms crossed, any power from a $\frac{1}{5}$ to a $\frac{1}{4}$ object glass in good lamp-light will show the poivrette cells glittering with a bluish white light, while the cortical cells of pepper, even if bleached, show a yellowish-white glitter. The final examination should be made with a $\frac{1}{6}$, or better $\frac{1}{8}$, in good daylight without polariser.

* By kindness of Editor of "*English Mechanic*."

Following up a hint received from a friend, I have found the following an easy method of demonstrating the presence of poivrette to an unskilled person. Boil a portion of the sample in water to which a little caustic alkali has been added, dilute the thin mud with much water, allow to stand, and pour off the liquid from the remaining solid particles, and wash two or three times by decantation. The yellow particles are poivrette, the dark particles are husk. If any particles of bleached husk cells slightly resemble the poivrette, they may be distinguished by their softness and by the microscope.

Liverpool, 4th February, 1887.

Conclusion of the Society's Proceedings.