"Our noted Bustamente has also found Iodine in the white lead of the mine of Catorce, situated in the department of Guanajuato. In 1834, in company with Mr. Herrera, I made myself a quantitative analysis of this last mentioned mineral. I will give you the results when my trunk arrives.

"I know not whether you have been informed, that in Mexico, Iodine has been discovered in the Sabila and the Romeritos. The Sabila is a plant of the genus *maguery* (*agaves*) which grows on the plains and on the sides of mountains. The Romeritos is a kind of varilla which vegetates on the floating gardens of the fresh water lakes in the neighbourhood of the Capital, it is much eaten during lent."

Annales de Chemie.

Analysis of Virginia Snake Root. (Polygala Senega.) By T. A. QUEVENNE.

This account occupies 30 pages of the *Journal de Pharmacie*, and appears to contain a much more thorough examination of the Virginia Seneca Snake Root than any to which it has hitherto been subjected. The substances which the author discovers in the Polygala, are Polygalic acid, Virgineaic acid, pectic acid, tannic acid, yellow colouring matter, gum, albumine, cerine, fixed oil, carbonate of lime, carbonate of potash, sulphate of potash, phosphate of potash, chloride of potassium, sulphate of lime, phosphate of lime, alumine, magnesia, silex, and iron.

From the whole scope of the examination he is led to the following conclusions:

1. That no alkaline principle exists in the Polygala of Virginia.
2. That the therapeutic action of the root is owing to a principle that had not before been obtained in a state of purity, and which he finds to possess acid properties.
3. That this acid, which he designates Polygalic acid, being sufficiently distinct in its character, ought to assume a place in that class of bodies.
4. That the Polygalic acid exists in a free state in the root.
5. That there is, also, in very small quantity, in the Polygala, a volatile fat acid, analogous to the valericinic and phocenic acids; this he denominates Virgineaic acid, and to this he ascribes the odour of the root.
6. That, in order to extract the active principle of the Polygala, the best vehicle is cold water, or water at a temperature below 40° C. (104° F.)

Jour. de Pharmacie, Sept. 1835.

Analysis of the Water of the Elton Lake, (Asiatic Russia). M. H. ROSE.

The Elton Lake is the most important of all those that surround the Caspian sea. It is situated on the eastern shore of the Wolga, 274 versts from Saratona. Its greatest diameter from west to east is 17 versts (11 miles) and its shortest from N. to S. 13 versts (9 miles.) It is so shallow that a person may wade through it without getting more than knee deep. It furnishes two-thirds of the salt which is consumed in all Russia. The analysis of a bottle of the water of this lake, brought by M. Humbold, gave me:

Magnesia	0.1022	Chloride of Magnesium	0.1975
Soda	0.0204	Chloride of Sodium	0.0383
Potash	0.0014	Chloride of Potassium	0.0023
Chlorine	0.1697	Sulphate of Magnesia	0.0532
Sulph. Acid	0.0351		0.2913