XVII. Acidulation of sulphate of potash

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XVII. *Acidulation of Sulphate of Potash.* By
M. OERSTED*.

DURING my stay at Berlin, I had begun in the laboratory of M. Hermbstadt a series of experiments on the inert or insipid sulphurous acid of Winterl. The sulphurous acid with which I conducted my operations was made after the manner prescribed by Fourcroy and Vauquelin; but in place of obtaining a neutral sulphate I obtained an acidulous sulphate, of which the solution turned blue vegetable colours into red, and made an effervescence with acids. The neutral combination was scarcely crystallizable.

The sulphate of potash could no longer change itself into a sulphite, as Fourcroy and Vauquelin suppose; but a triple salt was formed, composed of sulphuric acid, sulphurous acid, and potash. This salt crystallizes itself in hexangular prisms: it is less soluble in water than the sulphate of potash, but more so than the sulphate of the same alkali; and if treated with an acid more powerful, such as sulphuric acid, it spreads an odour of sulphurous acid gas.

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ROYAL INSTITUTION.

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- Mr. Landseer, on engraving.
- Rev. Sydney Smith, on moral philosophy.
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- Mr. Opie, on painting.
- Dr. Shaw, on zoology.
- Rev. John Hewlett, on belles lettres.
- Dr. Crotch, on music.
- Rev. Edward Forster, on commerce.
- Mr. Craig, on drawing.
- Dr. Smith, on botany.

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