PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS.
PEPPER.

BY THOMAS STEVENSON.

Read at the Meeting, June, 1887.

THE following determinations may be of interest. The peppers were ground by myself; and 50 grms. of pepper were operated upon in each case. The ground samples were exhausted with hot methylated spirit of wine, 60 O.P., an operation extending over several days.

The alcoholic liquids were evaporated, and the extracts digested with a cold solution of potash. The piperine thus separated was washed with water, dried at 100° C., and weighed. It was then re-crystallised from alcohol, and re-weighed in a high state of purity. The resin was obtained by precipitating the potash solution with hydrochloric acid, and was no doubt a mixture of resinous and oily bodies. The results are given in terms of air-dried pepper; and each of the samples lost about 14 per cent. of its weight when dried in the water-oven.

						Piperine per cent.	Resin per cent.
Black pepper	..	..	..	..	..	7.14	1.44
„ (Trang)	..	..	..	..	..	6.62	0.82
White pepper	..	..	..	..	..	6.47	0.69
Long pepper	..	..	..	..	..	4.24	1.16

Long pepper is inferior in pungency to black pepper; but it is doubtful whether the contention that where “pepper” only is asked for, and long pepper or a mixture of black and long peppers is supplied a fraud is committed, can be maintained. The term “pepper” was at one time undoubtedly applied to both round and long peppers; and it is only within recent years that long pepper has been removed by botanists from the genus *piper*. I am clear, however, that if either “black” or “white” pepper be demanded, long pepper, or a mixture, ought not to be supplied.