fused without any effect. Iodine was volatilized, and left no traces. The nitrate of silver fused, and left, after the expulsion of its acid, a mark of silver, which was easily rubbed off. The acetate and nitrate of lead left a little yellow oxide and metallic lead. The tartrate of antimony and potassa was partly carbonized, and the metal was reduced. Calomel volatilized, and left no stain. Sulphur and phosphorus melted, and burnt away without reacting on the mica in the slightest degree. These experiments are amply sufficient to call the attention of chemists to an auxiliary in analytic research, which recommends itself by its extreme simplicity, its moderate price, and its practical utility.—*Arch. de Brandes, vol. xxxiii. cap. 3. p. 265.*

NICOTINE THE ALKALOID PRINCIPLE OF TOBACCO.

MM. Posselt and Reimann have completely succeeded in separating the alkaloid principle which Vanquelin believed to exist in tobacco, but which that distinguished chemist failed to obtain in a separate state. The new substance nicotine, as described by the present authors, is liquid at 6° cent. (44° Fahr.) transparent, of a brown-red colour, of a disagreeable, pungent, odour, like that of dried tobacco, and which is increased by an elevation of temperature. Taste excessively acrid, and remaining long on the tongue. It communicates a greasy stain to paper, disappearing in twelve hours; specific gravity greater than water; volatile in the open air, leaving a small resinous residuum; boils at 246° cent. (460° Fahr.), burns when touched by a lighted taper, and at 100° cent. (212° Fahr.) evolves abundant white vapour. Nicotine is soluble in water in all proportions; the solution is decidedly alkaline, and, diluted with 10,000 parts of water, still preserves its acrid taste. It is equally soluble in alcohol, ether, and almond oil. The ethereal solution mixed with muriatic, tartaric, or acetic acids, parts with all its nicotine, and salts, insoluble in ether, are produced. Neutralized by phosphoric acid, the new alkaloid furnishes a colourless sirup, which, when exposed to the sun's rays, affords crystals like cholesterine. The sulphate of nicotine assumes the form of an amorphous mass slightly acid. Finally, with oxalic acid, nicotine forms a crystalline soluble compound. The nitric acid does not unite with, but nearly effects, the decomposition of, this alkaloid.

The analysis of tobacco by MM. Posselt and Reimann has been crowned by the faculty of medicine at Heidelberg.—*Abridged from Geiger's Magazin fur Pharmacie.*

ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF IODINE IN CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

By THOMAS JEFFREYS, M.D., *Liverpool.*

THE singularly good effects of iodine in glandular diseases are now generally known and admitted, but I am not aware of its having been used internally in cutaneous diseases, and as I am inclined to think that it will be found an efficacious agent in the cure of some of them when almost every other remedy has failed, I beg to communicate the following remarks on the subject.

About seven years ago the external application of the tincture of iodine was much talked of, and used by myself and others in Liverpool; and, as far as my own opportunities were concerned, with little or no benefit. Having at that time a case of a very obstinate nature, in which the disease had existed chiefly upon the back of the hands for several years under the form of psoriasis, I thought it probable that as the external use of iodine had in some instances been successful, it might be worth a trial given internally. The result was a complete removal of the impetiginous eruption, although the disease had been distressingly troublesome for six or seven years, more or less. In this instance almost every remedy in ordinary use had been tried in vain; the Harrogate waters drunk at the well, with the aid of the baths for five weeks, afforded temporary relief but nothing more. I began with ten drops twice a day, increasing them daily until thirty were taken night and morning, for one month after the full dose had been attained. It may, however, be worthy of remark, that the unpleasant and depressing sensation upon the nervous system was such as almost to deter me from its use,—an effect which continued more or less for many months, and which was almost as bad as the disease itself. This inconvenience, however, I am inclined to think, will be more felt by those who are possessed of nervous irritability, than by the robust.

Since the above trial I have prescribed it in other cases of psoriasis, and also in the different varieties of herpes, and with almost never-failing success in lepra vulgaris, more especially when, in the latter, it was aided by the local application of diluted nitrated mercurial ointment. I could furnish your journal with many cases in detail illustrative of the good effects of this remedy, but as my object in this communication is merely to draw the attention of those to it who may possess more frequent opportunities of prescribing it than I have, I think they will not be disappointed in it, although they may possess other remedies which either experience or prejudice may not allow them to consider less efficacious.—Feb. 26.