With the sulphuric, nitric, phosphoric, hydrochloric, acetic, citric, and tartaric acids, glycerine unites in all proportions; and the same with the caustic alkalies and some salts, as the hypochlorites of soda and potass. Most of the metallic salts soluble in water are to about the same degree soluble in glycerine; some, however, are decomposed, as the bichromate and permanganate of potass.

B. Organic substances, alkaloids, &c.

100 parts of glycerine dissolve—

Morphia	0.45	Quinine... ..	0.5
Muriate of morphia ...	20.0	Sulphate of quinine ...	2.75
Atropine	3.0	Cinchonine	1.5
Sulphate of atropine ...	33.0	Veratrine	1.0
Strychnine	0.25	Brucine... ..	2.25
Sulphate of strychnine.	22.5	Codeine... ..(all proportions)	
Nitrate of strychnine ...	4.0		

Watery extracts of vegetables are very soluble in glycerine; whilst gums, resins, essential oils, ethereal extracts, camphor, balsams, fatty acids, are either wholly insoluble or sparingly soluble.

The internal uses of glycerine, either alone or in combination, or as a vehicle for active substances, await further investigation.

Notwithstanding that we are told the quantity of glycerine used in the hospitals of Paris increased from 300 pounds in 1851 to 3000 in 1861, we fear the demand for glycerine for therapeutic purposes will fall very far short of the amount produced as a residue in candle making, when this is reckoned at hundreds of tons per annum. That the demand for it will greatly increase as its value becomes recognised there is no doubt. If the price could be considerably reduced, the consumption would be much larger.

GRANULATED EFFERVESCING AMMONIO-CITRATE OF IRON.

We noticed in a former number Messrs. Savory's preparations of mineral-water salts. The same principle is applied to various salts of iron. They are mixed with a small proportion of tartaric acid and soda, and granulated. This condition certainly renders them very convenient to handle and administer, and very pleasant to take. What influence is the tartrate of soda likely to have on the tonic, or rather nutritive, action of the iron? Will it at all counteract it?

CINCHONINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—During the last three years I have had the medical care of about a thousand of the navvies and others employed on the Great Northern Outfall Works; and, from the low, marshy district in which a great part of the works have been carried on, I have had to treat a very large per-centage of fevers of the intermittent type. I have tried quassia, arsenic, &c., with a view to economize quinine; but in the majority of cases I have had at last to have recourse to that very effectual but costly drug. Some time back, whilst lamenting this to a professional friend, he suggested the use of the "muriate of cinchonine," as a less expensive article, and one well worthy of a trial. Upon this recommendation, I obtained a supply from the Messrs. Howard, of Stratford; and, being anxious to avoid falling into error, kept a careful register of the cases so treated. The results have been so satisfactory to me that I have enclosed you a condensed account of a few of the cases, which I trust you will deem worthy of publication, as I should be very glad to have my experience of the muriate endorsed by others.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

C. G. TAYLOR, F.R.C.S., &c.

Great Northern Outfall Works, Nov. 1863.

*Report of Cases treated by Messrs. HOWARD & SONS'
Muriate of Cinchonine.*

1. W. M'Q—; ague. One grain of muriate of cinchonine increased to three grains for dose. Well in six days.

2. Robert L—; ague. Two grains of muriate of cinchonine for dose. Well in four days, after being treated unsuccessfully with various other medicines.

3. Mrs. H—, aged twenty-four (July 15th); quotidian ague. Five grains of muriate of cinchonine three times a day. Cured in four days.

4. Mrs. B—, aged twenty-nine (July 15th); ague and severe headache. One scruple of calomel and jalap, and three grains of muriate of cinchonine, every six hours. On the 18th much better; less headache. Repeat four grains every six hours.—24th, quite cured.

5. Geo. B— (June 24th); typhoid fever. Three grains of muriate of cinchonine for dose, continued to July 5th, by which date the patient was rapidly convalescent.

6. R. B—; variola. After febrile symptoms had subsided, gave two grains of muriate of cinchonine every four hours from July 2nd to the 14th, on which day he went to work.

7. R. S—; variola. Gave two grains of muriate of cinchonine three times a day from July 7th to the 20th, when he left convalescent. This remedy seems likely to be beneficial in improving the condition of the blood in variola, after the eruption has been established.

8. Geo. J—; abscess. Wound did not heal nicely under treatment, so tried two grains of muriate of cinchonine three times a day from the 26th of June to the 13th of July, when he went to work. Ulcer not quite healed, but much better; granulation healthy, and not too profuse.

9. Wm. D—; low fever. This case was treated entirely with muriate of cinchonine. The man went to work in six days.

10. A. S—; intermittent fever. Had been under treatment eight days. Tried four-grain doses of muriate of cinchonine every four hours. In five days he went to work.

Correspondence.

"Andi alteram partem."

THE ANALYTICAL SANITARY COMMISSION.

MEDICINES, THEIR IMPURITIES AND ADULTERATIONS.

SPIRITUS ÆTHERIS NITRICI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the report of your Analytical Sanitary Commission in last week's LANCET some questions are raised the discussion of which, if admitted into your journal, would, I feel assured, be acceptable to many of your readers. The composition, preparation, and preservation of sweet spirit of nitre are subjects which have frequently occupied the attention of chemists and pharmacutists; and the condition in which this medicine is often met with in commerce has even more frequently formed matter of complaint with medical men and others. This preparation as supplied for use in medicine is either found to be little more than pure spirit with merely a slight flavour of nitrous ether, or if it contain a larger proportion of the ethereal constituent it is liable to have an undue quantity of free acid and aldehyde in addition. Since the introduction of methylated spirit, this has been largely used in the manufacture of sweet spirit of nitre; and the products thus obtained are often so contaminated with the empyreumatic impurities of the spirit that they are quite unfit for use in medicine. Your report clearly indicates the extent to which this contamination occurs, and one of the questions I shall hope to see discussed in your pages is that of the use of methylated spirit in the preparation of medicines intended for internal administration. The best means of preventing the production of aldehyde in the preparation of sweet spirit of nitre; the proportion of nitrous ether that ought to be present; and the means best suited for preventing or retarding the decomposition of the ether and the production of free acid,—are questions very important in a practical point of view, and with reference to which some differences of opinion exist. Those who are satisfied with the process of the London Pharmacopœia, and with a product the specific gravity of which is .834, must not expect to have anything more than a very mild preparation, with an extremely small proportion of ether in it. I know from experience that the London process, without altering the ingredients or their proportions, may, by merely varying the method of conducting the distillation, be made to yield a product much richer in nitrous ether, and therefore having a higher specific gravity, than the Pharmacopœia indicates. Your report shows that most commercial specimens have a specific gravity above .834, and I think it would be unfair to conclude that this is due in all cases to the presence of water. Pure nitrous ether has a specific gravity, according to Liebig, of .947; and the presence of an increased quantity of this ether