

a very delicate test of the presence of alcohol in chloroform:—Place some distilled water in a tube or glass, and drop on it a small quantity of chloroform. The greater part sinks immediately to the bottom of the vessel, owing to its great density, (sp. gr. 1.48.) A small quantity floats by repulsion, but may be made to fall in small globules by agitation. If the chloroform be pure, it remains transparent at the bottom of the vessel; but if it contain only a small portion of alcohol, the globules acquire a milky opacity.”—*Lancet*, Jan. 8, 1848.

9. *Carvacrol a Cure for Toothache*.—Dr. BUSHNAN in a notice in the *Med. Times*, (Jan. 8, 1848.) on the progress of German Medical Science, states that this article applied on a piece of cotton to a decayed tooth, gives immediate relief.

Carvacrol ($C^{26}H^{18}O_2 = HOC^{26}H^{17}O$), according to Prof. Schweitzer, is formed by the action of potassa, iodine, or hydrated phosphoric acid, upon oleum carui, ol. thymi; and, according to Claus, by the action of iodine upon camphor. Schweitzer has shown that the product from camphor is the same as that obtained from the oil of caraway.

Preparation.—I. Ol. carui is to be distilled with hydrated phosphoric acid. The liquid that passes over is to be poured back into the retort until it no longer retains the smell of the oil of caraway. The carvacrol separates itself in the form of an oil from the phosphoric acid.

II. In the same way a saturated solution of iodine must be distilled with oil of caraway until no more hydriodic acid is formed. The red mass which remains in the retort must be operated upon by potash. The yellow solution is to be distilled. Carvene ($C^{10}H^8$) passes over, and the carvacrol remains. It is to be purified by redistillation.

III. Equal parts of camphor and iodine are to be rubbed together and distilled until no red vapour is given off. The black mass remaining in the retort contains carbon, resin, camphine, colophyne, iodine, and carvacrol; that in the receiver, camphine, colophene, carvacrol, and a little iodine and hydriodic acid, which, on standing, separates into two layers. The upper layer is to be distilled, and at 180° camphine passes over, while colophene and carvacrol remain. This is to be acted on by potash. The carvacrol may be obtained from the alkaline solution by the action of an acid and by distillation over purified lime.—(Claus).

Carvacrol is an oily liquid, very similar to creasote, with a very unpleasant smell and strong taste.

10. *On the Purgative Effects of Scammony, and of Resin of Scammony, compared with those of Resin of Jalap*.—Dr. A. WILLEMIN has published in the *Archives G n rales* (Aug. 1848), an account of some interesting experiments on this subject, instituted in the wards of M. Rayer. From these experiments, 210 in number, M. W. deduces the following conclusions:

1st. Aleppo scammony (of good quality), in a dose of 16 grains, usually procures three or four evacuations.

2d. There is no danger in raising the dose to \mathfrak{Hj} or gr. xxiv; the purgative effect is not increased, and is often less than that produced by 16 grains.

3d. The administration of the medicine with an acid, or the use of an acid drank afterwards, has no apparent effect.

4th. The addition of an alkali does not render the action more energetic.

5th. The resin of scammony, in a dose of eight grains, produces about the same purgative effect as 16 grains of scammony. The administration of 16 grains, is followed by less active purgation, which diminishes still further on raising the dose to \mathfrak{Hj} , or gr. xxiv.

6th. The resin of scammony is more liable to excite a sensation of heat in the stomach and about the anus, than that of jalap.

7th. The resin of scammony, in a dose of eight grains, is an excellent purgative. As we cannot foretell the amount of resin in the scammony of commerce, the resin itself is much to be preferred medicinally.

8th. The resin of jalap, in a dose of eight grains, purges as effectually as a similar quantity of resin of scammony.

11. *Muriate of Opium*.—Dr. J. G. NICHOL gives the following formula for this pre-