ON THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPCEIA.

Vanilla.

Collection. Hires (A. J. Ph. 93, 571).

Crystals. Distinction between benzoic acid (needle-shaped) and vanillin (tabular). Schimmel & Co. (Proc. 93, 679).

Botany. Beringer (A. J. Ph. 95, 611).

Veratrina.

The names of the authors should be Chamisso & Schlechtendahl, since Asagræa is described in the same vol. of "Linnæa" as Smilax medica, and by the same authors (see under Sarsaparilla in the U. S. P.). Suttie (Bull. Ph. 93, 496).

Identity. Mix 3 to 4 drops of a 1 p. c. solution of furfurol with 1 Cc. of sulphuric acid. Place 3 to 5 drops on a porcelain capsule, and apply the suspected substance to the edge of the solution. A dark-blue color will be observed, changing to green and violet. Laves (Ph. Ztg 92, 338. Proc. 93, 867, & 94, 1094), and Wender (Ch. Ztg. 93, 950. Proc. 94, 1135).

Veratrum Viride.

Microscopical structure. Bastin (A. J. Ph. 95, 196. Proc. 95, 868).

Viburnum Opulus and Viburnum Prunifolium.

Microscopical structure. Sayre (A. J. Ph. 95, 387, & 96, 225).

(Vina.)

Nomenclature. Vitis vinifera should have "Linné" attached. Suttie (Bull. Ph. 93, 496).

Adulterations. Marouby proposes to use test-papers, prepared by soaking filtering paper in the necessary reagents and drying; the wines to be tested by applying them by drops. The appearances of the center and other zones indicate the adulterations. (Bull. Soc. Chim. 93, 13. Proc. 94, 640.)

Salicylic Acid. Claassen strongly recommends to acidulate the wine with dilute sulphuric acid, and to shake it with a mixture of equal volumes of ether and benzin. The ethereal layer is then to be separated, and distilled off or evaporated. The addition of a few drops of dilute ferric chloride solution will produce a violet color. (Ph. Rdsch. N. Y. 95, 38. Proc. 95, 634.)

Strength. Sayre prefers the distillation method. Shake 50 Gm. with 100 Gm. of water, and distil 95 Gm. Add sufficient distilled water to make the weight 100 Gm. and take the sp. gr. Since the distillate contains the alcohol in double the weight of liquid, the sp. gr. has to be doubled. (W. Dr. 94, 86.)

181

DIGEST OF CRITICISMS

Vinum Colchici Seminis.

The seeds should be deprived of the oil before extraction. A. P. A. Comm. (A. J. Ph. 95, 485).

It is a question whether it is necessary to grind, or powder, the seeds, in view of the fact that the active principle resides in the tests. See under Tinctura Colchici Seminis.

Vinum Ipecacuanhæ.

The direction should read to "wash the filter with sufficient wine to make 1000 Cc." Beringer (A. J. Ph. 94, 95).

Paul & Cownley propose a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of emetine hydrochlorate in 4 fl. oz. of white wine. (Ph. J. & Tr. 95, Febr. 692. A. J. Ph. 95, 261.)

Zinci Acetas.

Solubility. Since protracted boiling of the aqueous solution renders the salt less soluble by the formation of basic acetate, it is advisable not to use the granular salt, as at the temperature of the steam pans acetic acid is lost, and basic salt formed. Curtman (Circ. No. 112, p. 704).

Zinci Carbonas.

Formula. The formula has been omitted, because there are quite a number of basic salts containing zinc carbonate and zinc hydrate in various proportions, and it is very difficult to obtain any of them in a state of purity. A very small difference in concentration or temperature will produce different preparations, and these again change readily with change in temperature, dryness of air, &c. If a formula should be given, it would be necessary to give a definite process, including all cautions to insure a uniform product. In addition to the above-mentioned salts, there exist a variety of double salts with sodium, which may form in the precipitate. Protracted washing with cold water will remove most of the sodium carbonate, even from the worst samples. Boiling water extracts it more promptly, but is apt to change the zinc carbonate into the hydrate. Curtman (Circ. No. 112, p. 707).

The basic character should be indicated in the name: A. P. A. Comm. (A. J. Ph. 95, 485).

Zinci Chloridum.

Sulphate. It was deemed best to incorporate a test for sulphate, because in some processes of manufacture zinc sulphate is decomposed by sodium chloride, and the sodium sulphate removed by freezing. Curtman (Circ. No. 112, p. 709).

182