

THE OIL OF IRON.

NOTES ON THE PROCEDURE .

Note 1.

The decantation is most easily performed by using the water vacuum pump with a very slight degree of suction and by keeping the end of the rubber suction tube just below the surface of the clear supernatant solution. By watching the progress of the decantation through the wall of the Beaker, any suction of the precipitate through the tube when the solution level is approaching the top of the settled Ferric Hydroxide layer, may be avoided by raising the end of the suction tube and thus discontinuing the operation. This method is much easier and more effective than decantation by manipulation of the Beaker, or "*hand tilting*".

Note 2. ETHER.

Use Ether Squibb (E.R. Squibb & Sons, New York) for anesthesia in copper protected cans, holding 1lb. net weight of Ether. This may be bought at a very low price from any wholesale Drug Company. I am sure it cannot be made on a small scale in the laboratory as cheaply as it may be bought wholesale.

Before using, rectify the Ether in a glass vessel (well stoppered) over anhydrous Potassium Carbonate, C.P. Ten or fifteen grams of Potassium Carbonate for each pound weight of Ether being rectified is sufficient. Let stand for 48 hours, shaking occasionally. *Re-distill just before using.*

Note 3. ETHYL ALCOHOL.

Use the U.S.P. 190 Proof Alcohol Distilled from Cane Products by the Commercial Solvents Corporation, Agnew, California, if possible.

Re-distill at 79 to 80 C., to about 1/15 of original volume and rectify the distillate over Anhydrous Potassium Carbonate, C.P. using about 25 gm. per litre of alcohol. Let stand for 48 hours, shaking occasionally. Redistill at 85 C. before using.

NOTE 4. WATER.

All water used should be distilled water. It is absolutely essential that after the drying of the Ferric hydroxide precipitate, no slightest trace of water should be allowed to enter into the procedure, and every precaution must be taken to prevent it so doing. Otherwise a proportion of the gross body of the Iron commensurate with the quantity of water present and with its solubility therein, will be carried into the Ether Extract and will not be thrown down in the subsequent procedures, for the reason that Ferric Chloride in solution with Hydrochloric Acid in various degrees dilution with water, is soluble in Ether and subsequently in the alcohol added in the course of the distillations. Thus it will be present in the end product which will not be the true Oil of Iron.

Note 5. THE PORTION OF THE GROSS BODY THROWN DOWN IN THE COURSE OF THE FIRST TWO DISTILLATIONS.

This small portion of the gross body of the Iron carried into the Ether Extract is due to the presence at the end of the evaporation of the Hydrochloric Acid Solution containing the Iron as Ferric Chloride, of the slight but necessary excess of free Hydrochloric Acid, and the Ferric Chloride held in solution by this excess of acid is extracted, as such (Ferric Chloride) by the Ether; the alchemistical Sulphur and Mercury of this portion of the Iron being unable to separate from the gross body to form the coalition with Ether as the Ethereal Oil.

Upon distillation, first of the Ether extract and later upon the addition of alcohol, the Ether Solvency factor with respect to this

portion of Ferric Chloride is destroyed and coincidental separation of the gross body of this retained portion from its five parts takes place, the gross body constituent being thrown down out of solution and the alchemistical Sulphur and Mercury constituents, forming their proper coalition, are retained in solution.

May we not, with respect to this small portion of the gross body of the Iron which we are able to separate and leave behind only after this necessary further processing, perceive a parallel in the statement made by our beloved Brother, Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, late Emperor of A.M.O.R.C. to the effect that most of us like to carry with us some of our yellow flowers along the Path of Initiation only to find that we have to drop them and leave them behind at some point in our journey.