

which the slimy matter is mixed, contains arsenic.—*Liebig's Annalen*.

CYANATE OF AMMONIA (UREA).

Mix together twenty-eight parts of perfectly dry ferro-cyanate of potassa with fourteen of black oxide of manganese (pure) both in fine powder. Place the mixture on a smooth iron plate, and expose it to a dull red heat over a charcoal fire. After a short time it will begin to burn off itself, when it must be frequently stirred. After it cools, it is to be lixiviated with cold water. The solution is to be treated with twenty parts and a half of dry sulphate of ammonia, whereupon a copious deposit of sulphate of potassa will ensue. It has then to be allowed to stand in a warm place (under 212° Fah.) so as to concentrate the supernatant liquor, which is afterwards to be decanted off, and treated with alcohol of from eighty to ninety per cent. By this process, four ounces of perfectly colorless and beautifully crystallised cyanate of ammonia (urea) may be procured from one pound of ferro-cyanate of potassa.—*Ibid*.

SPIRITUS ETHERIS NITRICI.

Dr. Geiseler recommends the following process for the preparation of the spirit of nitric æther. Let twenty-four ounces of rectified spirits of wine, specific gravity 0.840, be mixed with four ounces of concentrated sulphuric acid, specific gravity 1.845; allow the mixture to stand for eight days, and then pour it on four ounces and a half of perfectly dry nitrate of potash, previously introduced into a distilling vessel; adapt the head and receiver thereto, and draw over, with a moderate fire, twenty ounces of the liquid, which may be rectified with magnesia. Prepared in this manner, a copper still, with a tin head and refrigerator, may be employed. Another advantage is, that the ethereal product thus obtained is not very subject to decomposition. A mixture of pure nitric æther and spirits of wine will not furnish an official spiritus ætheris nitrici, since this latter contains, in addition to the components of the former, aldehyd. It cannot be preserved over magnesia or bicarbonate of potassa, since these additions induce decomposition, and formation of nitrate of the alkali.—*Annals of Chemistry*, Nov., 1842.

PROTESTANT SISTERS OF CHARITY.

A society was founded about two years ago for the purpose of providing respectable nurses (for the sick of all classes), who will devote themselves to their duties from charity in the highest sense of the word, rather than from the hope of gain. The society is still in operation, and we trust will receive due support.

HYDROPATHY.

It is stated that an ex-M.P., and proprietor of a lunatic asylum, is about to open a hydropathic establishment in the neighbourhood of Harrow.

ACCIDENT TO BARON BERZELIUS.

By an account which we have received from Stockholm, we learn that the above very talented and eminent chemist has narrowly escaped with his life from an explosion which occurred to him during the pursuit of some investigation in which he has been engaged. The details are not given. We are happy to be enabled to state that the injuries sustained by the first chemist of the age have been but slight, although, from the mischief occasioned by the accident, it was a matter of surprise that he should have escaped with his life.—*Ann. of Chym.*, No. 17.

OBITUARY.

On Thursday, at his residence in John-street, Bishopwearmouth (Sunderland), Dr. Miller, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. The death of this respectable and much regretted practitioner is attributed to typhus fever, which he caught during a visit to a poor patient laboring under the disease.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

NAVAL.

Assistant-surgeons—Thomas Bell, to the *Perseus*; J. H. Hoare, to the *St. Vincent*; Dr. H. T. S. Beveridge, to the *Lightning*; Dr. Robert Hastings, to the *Thunderer*.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted Friday, January 13, 1843.

H. H. Corbould, F. D. Howell, J. J. Atkinson, R. E. Davies, F. O. Barker, H. W. Reynolds, F. J. Burge, T. F. McGauran, R. E. Lutley, R. Rudall, A. Featherstonhaugh, B. W. Hutchinson.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The letter from *Bath* on Medical Reform has been received.

A correspondent asks who *Dr. Fanchou* is. He had better inquire of the Coroner for Middlesex, who, since he has taken to science in his "leaders," makes the most incredible metamorphoses of names. *F.G.*—The annual subscription commences in January. A post-office order may be sent to Dr. Hastings, of Worcester.

Medical Reform.—Nothing certain is known about the intentions of government. It may be that no bill will be introduced during the approaching session.

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