

THE OLEORESIN OF PSEUDOTSUGA TAXIFOLIA.

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It is a sad comment on American pharmacy that the question as to what is the botanical source of Oregon balsam should not yet have been solved. Thanks to the kind cooperation of the Forest Products Laboratory located at Madison and of the field men in the state of Oregon, another attempt at a distance has been made. Owing to a misunderstanding, the oleoresin supplied had been obtained by boring into the trunk of the trees rather than by collecting the oleoresin secreted in the pustules of the bark. While the results of the preliminary chemical study recorded in the paper do not solve the problem of Oregon balsam, they are of some slight phytochemical value. Continued cooperation having been promised by the Bureau of Forestry, this and other problems are to be taken up in the future.

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A CRYSTALLINE ACID FROM THE OLEORESIN OF THE DIGGER'S PINE.

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The oleoresin of *Pinus sabiniana* is of interest not only because of the heptane which constitutes the bulk of the oil, but also because of the difficulties which the resin has offered in the study of the oleoresin. Thus far no crystalline resin acid had been obtained. Even fractional precipitation of the resin acids by means of the sparingly soluble lead salts and the decomposition of the lead salts by either hydrogen sulphide or sulphuric acid yielded no crystalline products. However, when hydrogen chloride was used to set free the acid from its lead salt a crystalline acid was obtained. This will be described later. For the present it may suffice to call attention to this modification in technique since it may be expected to yield results in other instances where the older methods have failed. It should be added that fractional distillation under diminished pressure yields not only a hard, clear resin such as has not been obtained previously from Digger's pine, but a crystalline resin acid as well.