

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PUBLISHED IN OTHER JOURNALS.

FOODS AND DRUGS ANALYSIS.

The Composition of Coffee from the Grand Comoro Island. G. Bertrand. (*Bull. Soc. Chim.*, 1901, xxv., 379-381.)—The coffee plant discovered by Humblot is indigenous to this island. It was at first regarded as a distinct species, and named provisionally by Baillon *C. Humblotiana*. Froehner, however, does not admit this, and regards it as merely a variety of *C. Arabica*.

It is distinguished by the remarkable fact that it contains no caffeine, the author obtaining no trace of that alkaloid on extracting 1 kilogramme of the powdered berries. He is therefore inclined to agree with Baillon in regarding this coffee-plant as a separate species. As evidence that the climate and soil of Grand Comoro have

not influenced the composition of the plant, he gives the following analyses of the berries of *C. Humblotiana* and of *C. Arabica* which had been grown in the island :

				<i>Coffea</i> <i>Humblotiana.</i> Per Cent.	<i>Coffea</i> <i>Arabica.</i> Per Cent.
Water	...	...	...	11.64	9.74
Ethereal extract	...	...	...	10.68	5.76
Alcoholic extract	...	...	...	8.42	12.10
Reducing sugars	...	...	...	0.80	0.29
Non-reducing sugars	...	...	...	4.20	4.86
Total nitrogen	...	...	...	1.50	1.95
Ash	...	...	...	2.80	3.66
Caffeine	...	...	...	0.00	1.81

C. A. M.

Determination of Scammony for Commercial Purposes. P. L. Aslanoglou. (*Chem. News*, vol. lxxxiii., p. 146.)—A weighed quantity of scammony is extracted by warming with ether, several times in succession, each extract being filtered through cotton-wool. After washing the filter with warm ether the filtrate is treated with turpentine and left to stand for some hours, whereupon scammony, being insoluble in turpentine, comes down as an oily precipitate, leaving any accompanying gum-resins behind in solution. The precipitate is washed with turpentine, evaporated gently on the water-bath, and weighed. The insoluble earthy matter is estimated by drying the filter and contents, followed by incineration and weighing, the filter ash being deducted. The foreign gum-resins are found by evaporating the ether-turpentine solution.

C. S.

[This method seems to present some difficulties.—W. C.]