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# On pyroglycerin

M. Sobrero

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with a short four-sided prism interposed between the two pyramids, and the latter of these with various truncations of its angles and edges. The specific gravity of some picked crystals was 6.753. A careful analysis of this tinstone gave as its constituents—

Peroxide of tin . . . . .	95.26
Peroxide of iron. . . . .	2.41
Silica. . . . .	.84
	<hr/>
	98.51

The greater number of the minerals here enumerated are mentioned by Mr. Weaver in his reports to Government on the district, and which are to be found in the Transactions of the Royal Dublin Society; but some of them, the author believes, have not been noticed before, at least he has seen no published account of the occurrence in this locality of platina, titanite iron, sulphuret of molybdenum, topaz, zircon, the small manganesian garnets, or augite. Hence it seemed interesting, while noticing these, to collect into a uniform and as far as possible complete list, all the scattered notices of the mineral wealth of this particular district, which are to be found in Mr. Weaver's papers already referred to, and elsewhere.

The principal point, however, with respect to the examination of these minerals, which appears to merit further and more particular attention, is the fact of the existence of tinstone in such considerable quantity in these auriferous streams;—a fact which would seem to indicate the probable existence somewhere in the surrounding district, of masses of the ore of this valuable metal of great extent, and possibly forming the continuation, on this side of the Channel, of those vast deposits which have contributed to furnish occupation and support to the inhabitants of Cornwall for more than two thousand years.—*Transactions of the Geological Society of Dublin.*

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ON PYROGLYCERIN. BY M. SOBRERO.

M. Sobrero has given the above name to a compound which he obtained by treating glycerin with a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids, in the same proportions as for preparing gun-cotton. This product is liquid, and explodes very violently; its taste is very distinctly bitter, and is a very active poison; two or three centigrammes immediately kill a dog. It is a powerful oxidizer; mixed with nitric acid, it forms a kind of aqua regia. It has not been analysed, but is suspected to contain nitric acid.—*Journ. de Pharm.*, Avril 1850.

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PREPARATION OF SULPHUROUS ACID. BY M. BOUTIGNY.

The author having occasion to prepare a large quantity of sulphurous acid, advantageously employed a cast-iron apparatus for this purpose in decomposing sulphuric acid by charcoal. In this operation the iron was not at all acted upon. Although many manufac-