

The fortified wines (i.e. those to which alcohol is added during manufacture) develop no proper qualities till they have been some years in bottle. Sherry is, however, greatly superior to the other wines of this class, in the rapidity with which it develops the volatile ethers, upon which much of the value of wines depends. Sherry is the appropriate stimulus of the enfeebled nervous system of old age, as well as of certain kinds of infantile and youthful debility. Children who are especially benighted by the habitual use of wine are—1. those in whom a tendency to wasting is very marked, i.e. those who, without positively seeming ill, are very apt to run down suddenly in flesh, with or without loss of appetite; 2. those who readily contract catarrhal affections, which are very slowly shaken off. The best way of administration is in combination with a simple bitter at a fixed time of day. Thus, a child three or four years old may take a teaspoonful of sherry, made up to a tablespoonful with infusion of gentian, three times a day.—*Medical Times*.

New Researches on *Calisaya* Bark from Java

J. B. C. Moens.—The author communicates the results of his researches of ten species of *Calisaya dubia*, and two of *Calisaya vera*. The freshly-cut bark contains 64 per cent. of water, and when air-dried about 13 per cent. The quantity per cent. of all alkaloids together in the ten first-named species varies from 2.465 to 6.010. The quinine varies in quantity from 0.589 to 2.831 per cent. The cinchonidine (not met with in all the barks) is present in quantities from 0.539 to 2.41; the quantity of cinchonine varies from 1.405 to 3.909 per cent. The barks of *Calisaya vera* contained, respectively, 7.442 and 7.482 per cent. of alkaloids, the quinine amounted to 3.670 per cent., and the cinchonine to 2.812 per cent. The barks alluded to contain on an average, after having been dried at 125°, 2.332 per cent. of ash, of which 0.728 per cent. is lime.—*American Chemist*.

Science and Labor.

Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P.; the new president of the Midland Institute, Birmingham, in succession to the late Mr. Chas. Dickens, —to whose merits as a man of noble sympathies and beliefs, and an effective social reformer, he paid a feeling tribute—opened the session by an eloquent and thoughtful address on the union of science and labor. Ridiculing the idea that advances in science had been the result of accident, he pointed out that man's wants had led to the industrial arts, and the practice of these and long continued experiences gave birth to science. It was not promoted by a leisured aristocracy but, as a rule, by men rising from the industrial classes. Stephenson was a collier, Davy and Dalton druggists, Faraday a bookbinder, Harrison a carpenter, Watt a philosophical instrument maker, and Arkwright a barber. Eren statesmen, such as Cobden, Bright and Gladstone, were being drawn from the same ranks. In a graphic sketch of the development of arts, Dr. Playfair showed how much science had contributed to their progress, and concluded by urging the vital necessity of education, that knowledge and labor might be joined. In a well-educated community, he observed, deaths by violence should be impossible, and yet in the last five

years 82,853 persons perished by violence in England and Wales, and through disobedience to sanitary laws 110,000 were sacrificed every year.

Glycerine.

Dr. Hager is convinced that glycerine often determines, particularly in regions where the skin is thin and delicate, erythematous and other eruptions. Hagar found in glycerine which produced irritation, oxalic and formic acids, and in some specimens, ammonia. Besides these impurities, M. Schepky has verified, in glycerine reputed to be pure, the presence of nitric acid, fatty volatile acids, and alkalis; traces of chlorine, lime, and sulphuric acid sometimes exist in glycerine, which has not been distilled.—(*Rev. de Thér. Méd. Chir.*, No. 2, 1970.) M. Pérutz states that butyric acid can easily be detected by gently heating the glycerine with a little alcohol and strong sulphuric acid. If butyric acid be present, the pine-apple odor of butyric ether will be developed. According to Mr. J. Watts, the foreign or Vienna glycerine is apt to contain chloride of calcium, as much as one gr. in 3 oz. An old specimen of yellow glycerine in my possession, labelled "pure glycerine," gave a distinct precipitate with nitrate of silver, soluble in ammonia, and a slight cloudiness with oxalate of ammonium.—*Med. and Surg. Journal*.

Wax contained in Opium.

O. Fesse.—The author describes, at great length, the process by which, from the so-called *faeces opii*, may be obtained a waxy matter, which, on closer investigation, proved to consist of two different substances—viz., cerotate of ceryl and palmitate of ceryl—the latter forming the chief portion of the mass. The first-named substance fuses at 82.5°; the last-named substance, $C_{13}H_{26}O_2$, fuses at 79°, is soluble in alcohol, chloroform, ether, and acetone, and crystallizes in prismatic-shaped crystals.—*Chemical News*.

Pharmaceutical Fun.

Fun gives the following interesting anecdote of Dr. B.—A P-istic apothecary (the late Dr. B.) re-O in secret at being den-oz-ed by a certain 5-atist as "an un-3-ously poisonous old slop-seller". Ever methodical in his habits, notwithstanding there were patients at least cwt-ing in his shop, the worthy apothecary went out into the street where, meeting his 5-atic reviler, he so congenitally ex-lb-ed the rudiments of P-ism on the occupant and sinciput of his opponent as to compel him to R-rocate these hostile M-ations on his own be-ss. The 5-atist, however, getting q-s. of the worst of it, Co-ed the matter by re-oz-ing his injurious opinion, and from that time they became fast friends.

We need only to explain that P stands for pugil (a pinch,) and M for maniple (a handful).—*Chemist and Druggist*.

Trade Report.

Our remarks regarding the prosperous state of trade last month, are equally applicable to the present time. Business is still quite brisk, and all our wholesale dealers appear to be doing a lively trade.

The state of the market, as regards prices,

is, however, by no means settled; fluctuations are both frequent and numerous. China goods are held much firmer, as an early advance is expected.

Amongst goods which have advanced in price we may note Cantharides, Mercury and its preparations, Iodide of Potassium, Canary Seed, Hemp Seed and Nutmegs.

Those articles which favor the purchasers are Alcohol—which is held at 10 cents lower than last quotations; Cochineal, Oil Cassia, Ipecac, Jalap, Indigo and Cassia; Sperm Oil is also considerably lower.

NAVAL STORES.—Rosin, Pitch and Tar are a little easier in price, but winter freights will probably keep them at the same figure for some time; Spirits Turpentine still continues to advance.

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