

been mixed. The slight difference in price almost precludes the idea that the admixture was intentional. The valerian communicates its odor to the veratrum, so the detection of the latter is not so easy as might at first be supposed. The principal differences of the roots may be thus enumerated: (1.) Hellebore rhizomes are generally crowned with a conical bud of unexpanded leaves, or with the fibrous remains of former leaves; in valerian these are generally absent, and if present may be distinguished by the arrangement, which is opposite, while in hellebore the leaves are arranged in concentric rings. (2.) The hellebore rhizomes are much larger and darker in color than valerian. (3.) A section of the rhizome presents an entirely different appearance. (4.) The roots which arise from the hellebore rhizome are generally paler, larger, and more shrivelled than those of valerian. (5.) The taste is dissimilar. (6.) The odor is different, and, in the mixed roots, feebler in the hellebore. (7.) If to a cut section of valerian rhizome sulphuric acid be applied, the natural color of the drug is simply heightened; with hellebore, a deep orange yellowish-red color is at once developed, changing, in time, to dark blood-red.

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DETECTION OF ADULTERATION IN CACAO-BUTTER.—In answer to a query proposed by the American Pharmaceutical Association, Mr. G. Ramsperger (*Proc. Am. Pharm. Assoc.*), alluded to the various processes which have been proposed for the detection of adulteration in oil of theobroma, and states as the result of his experience that none of the tests given are infallible, but several of them, taken together, would form a tolerably sure indication of purity or adulteration. Ether was found to be the best test. It indicated all admixtures, with the exception of ox-marrow; either directly, by the turbidity of the solution of one part of the adulterated butter in two parts of ether—as in the case of admixture with tallow, paraffin, beeswax, and bayberry wax—or, if not immediately after solution, then by becoming turbid after some time, and by forming little crystals and grains by spontaneous evaporation, which crystals are not again soluble in two parts of ether, at ordinary temperatures. Mr. Ramsperger agrees with Mr. H. W. Lincoln, a former writer on the subject; that, to those having experience in the matter, the taste of the butter affords fairly reliable indications of purity. If the author's conclusions in regard to the specimens of butter to be found in the market be taken as correct, there is no great need to complain of adulteration. An example of twelve samples showed only one to be "not quite pure," but several of them were more or less rancid. The melting point ranged from 30° to 35° C, and the specific gravity from .850 to .979.