

THE COMPONENT PARTS OF WINE.

From the commercial standpoint, the object of vinification should be to obtain wines which contain a sufficient quantity of preserving elements to fit it for good keeping and proper aging. The chief preservative elements of the wine are alcohol and tannin.

Alcohol.—The general properties of alcohol are well known—it imparts to the wine strength, heating, and intoxicating qualities. The maximum of alcohol which a wine can attain by the fermentation of rich musts is between 15 and 16 per cent. If the percentage is a higher one it is due to the artificial addition of alcohol. In proportion as the wine ages a portion of the alcohol evaporates, or it may become oxidized, and form acetic acid if too much exposed to the air. But when the wine is too old, when it degenerates, the alcohol undergoes a total decomposition without coming in contact with the air. This alteration has been particularly noticed in bottled wines.

Tannin.—Tannin or tannic acid is, after the alcohol, the most useful element in the preservation of wines, in the union of their component parts, in the maintenance of the coloring matters found in solution. It eliminates the ferments by forming with them insoluble compounds; it promotes the clearing of wines by combining with the finings and particularly with pure gelatine. Tannin is a substance of a stringent, hard taste, which is met with in several plants and which occurs in various forms—according to its origin. It is found in large quantities in the stones, skins and stems of the grape, in the bark of the oak, in the gall-nut, quinine, caoutchouc, and in many other substances.

This substance is frequently used in medicine and the arts. As medicine, the tannin from gall-nuts is most frequently used. In trade, two varieties of tannin are met with, whose difference is produced by the method of extraction employed. Gall-nut tannin extracted by ether is purer, but often retains an ethereal odor and taste. Tannin extracted by alcohol has no odor and should be preferred for the treatment of wines.

As it is sometimes difficult to obtain this substance in places distant from large cities, it is possible to introduce a large quantity of tannin into ordinary white wines by using the tannin which is contained in the grapes. This tannin can be obtained by extraction with boiling water. For this purpose, we use seeds which have not yet undergone fermentation. For this purpose, they are roughly crushed and boiled in a kettle for several hours. Afterwards the water should be decanted, and if not immediately required for use, should be fortified with alcohol up to 17 degrees. The liquid should be filtered and will then keep very well. If it is desired to increase the tannin in ordinary white wines, about forty pounds of crushed raisin seeds are introduced into a barrel of clear wine, which should be at least one year old; after two months, draw off the wine.

In case it be found impossible to obtain grape seeds, oak bark can be used; either digest it in the cold with white wine or infuse with hot water. Oak bark has a rather strong woody taste. When possi-

ble, it is more advisable to use grape seed, which imparts to the wine a natural astringency. It is possible by studying varieties to increase in a natural way the quantity of tannin without using artificial means, and that is, in all respects, the best plan.

NOVELTY IN WINDOW DISPLAYS.

An exchange says that there can be no question but that the good effects obtained by a novel window display is worth the trouble it takes to get them. The same old ideas, no matter how elaborately carried out, soon cease to draw attention and the wits of the window dresser are taxed to the uttermost to find something that will accomplish that height of his bliss—a crowd in front of the store.

A short trip around the city revealed the fact that the largest crowds were drawn not by elaborate designs nor by large displays of elegant goods, but by those windows in which there was something being done, some process of manufacture illustrated.

In a number of windows there can be seen one or two cigar-makers rolling cigars. There is nothing especially interesting in such work, but it is seldom that there is not anywhere from one to a dozen people standing in front of these cigar-makers watching their deft movements as they put the wrappers on cigars.

Another taking window, though now somewhat *passé*, is that in which one or more shoemakers at work. Inside the shop, how many would stop to watch the cobbler at his last; yet through the plate-glass of a down-town shoe store they are a sufficiently novel sight to seriously impede traffic. A popular clothier has learned to cater to this seeming public taste, and on the occasion of his Spring and Fall openings stands in his window men and boys arrayed in what are presumably samples of the goods carried in stock. This display, so far, has been sufficiently powerful to attract a crowd which necessitates the services of the city police to keep a pathway open.

In a druggists' window, can be seen a girl pasting labels on perfume bottles. There is certainly no great inducement to stop and look at such a display, but still the girl pastes away before a crowd who may be simply stopping to see what is all about; but nevertheless the storekeeper's object of attracting attention to his window and store has been accomplished.

A passing crowd is easily amused, but it does seem strange that such simple, if not silly, displays as the above will catch the attention of hundreds of passers who deign to give really artistic displays of goods but a passing glance. The only reason can be that it is the novelty that attracts, for the only merit in these displays is that they are new and out of the ordinary run of show-windows.

ENGLISH TRADE IN 1891.

In England the same dullness has been experienced as here. Home trade has not been up to expectations, and the foreign trade has shown a tendency to drop off. An exchange in commenting upon the relation says:

"If the past year has not been so satis-

factory as everyone would have liked, it is, at any rate, satisfactory to know that the future is full of hope, and that the opinion of well informed persons is that 1892 will show an improvement upon its predecessor. There is no reason why this hope should not be justified by the event, and there are several reasons why it is likely to be so realized. In the first place, there is no serious accumulation of stock anywhere, so far as we can learn. During the quiet months that are behind us, manufacturers of leather and boots and shoes have all adopted a conservative policy and have been careful to produce no more than they could sell. Wholesale and retail buyers have acted upon similarly cautious lines, while it goes without saying that the public is not shod a single week in advance of its normal requirements. The slowing down of the means of production will probably have a most salutary effect upon next year's trade. Probably of much leather and as many boots and shoes have gone into consumption this year as ever before, but the means of production have been duly increased in anticipation of much better things. If we continue to go slowly there is every reason to expect that the demand will shortly overtake the capacity for supply. Our population is increasing. Our foreign trade is, on the whole, satisfactory. The demand for footwear must be a growing one in the nature of things. But the mischief has been that the ability to meet that demand has latterly expanded much too rapidly."

FIRM MARKETS.

The New York *Commercial Bulletin* says: A great deal has been said and written of late regarding the inherent strength of the market for canned corn, and the fact that a number of jobbers have already placed advance orders for 1892 season pack of New York state goods at 90¢-95¢ per dozen would in connection with the firmness of spot goods, indicate that there is something substantial behind the talk, despite the fact that there is nothing in the nature of a "boom" in the market up to the present time. Tomatoes, there is some reason to believe, are gradually getting into as good a position as corn, and, while the conservative policy of jobbers doubtless acts as a barrier to any pronounced advance in prices there is abundant evidence of stronger tone to the market. Standard Maryland brands that were sold a short time ago at 75¢ f. o. b. Hartford county are now difficult to obtain at 75¢ net cash there, and 80¢ here for Delaware stock has given place to 81¢ next on actual sale, while Jersey goods are faring quite as well. In the face of the large pack during the past season this decided undercurrent of strength is suggestive and would indicate not only a cleaning out of the surplus from the pack of previous seasons, but a consumption that is above the average of late years. That an advance of a few cents per dozen will check the outlet is hardly probable, since prices at present are on a low level and it would apparently need only the average consumption of the past three or four months to pretty well clean the wholesale market of tomatoes, as well as corn, before the season of 1892 comes around.