

Cheap Alcohol.

The number of deaths and of cases of blindness due to the use of wood alcohol again directs attention to the importance of a cheap alcohol in the arts. Germany has solved this problem by employing free of tax a denaturized spirit—that is, an alcohol that has its taste so far altered that it cannot be used as a beverage. This has been proposed in this country, and so far has met with some objections, and it is claimed that the spirit would be redistilled. Germany has a tax on spirits used for drinking purposes, and if they can simply employ a method of this kind it surely ought to be possible to safeguard the revenue derived from alcohol in this country. The importance of Germany in the production of chemicals has largely been influenced by the fact that they are able to obtain at practically cost price ordinary ethyl alcohol. At our doors is an unlimited supply of cheap alcohol, the price never exceeding 12 cents a gallon and often falling as low as 8 cents. This alcohol is made in Cuba from molasses, and is now largely a waste product, as it does not pay to distil the alcohol, there being little or no market for it. The high price of alcohol has admitted of the exploitation of the dangerous wood alcohol with all its attendant evils. This would be largely overcome by the use of a denaturized ethyl alcohol, which is quite as cheap as if not cheaper than the ordinary wood alcohol.

My Changes of View in Appendicitis Work.

R. T. Morris says that although formerly he used to forbid morphine altogether, his views on the subject have changed and he now gives it cautiously in cases in which there is great restlessness. The drug is still regarded as a double-edged sword, however. Both gauze packing and iodoform gauze have been abandoned altogether, as well as the use of buried sutures of silkworm gut. A standard length of one and one-half inches for the incision has been adopted for nearly all instances, including cases of abscess and peritonitis, and it has been found safer to deal with adhesions by touch than by sight. The time limit has also been greatly reduced, and now it is common to have the time from the first incision to the last suture occupy not more than seven to eight minutes. All patients are operated, even if moribund, a preliminary infusion of salt solution being given; adhesions are freely separated if necessary but not otherwise, and the idea of flushing out the abdomen has been dropped. After eliminating the features which seemed