

who therefore claimed to be able to guarantee its absolute purity, which proved to contain just two-thirds of its volume of alcohol. It is somewhat remarkable that even this large proportion of alcohol could scarcely be recognized by the senses, and that, as far as could be judged by the taste and smell, this was an unusually fine specimen of oil of wintergreen. Several other lots have been met with containing various proportions of oil of sassafras.

OIL OF WORMSEED.—Joseph L. Lemberger has favoured us with a specimen of this oil, smelling very strongly of rancid turpentine.

OIL OF WORMWOOD has been met with extensively mixed with turpentine.

OLIVE OIL is largely substituted by some of the cheaper fixed oils found in this market. Very little of that which is sold by grocers is even imported from Europe. A new York merchant, who is extensively engaged in bottling this article in imitation of the imported style, informed us that for the cheapest grade he is in the habit of putting up refined cotton-seed oil, and for a somewhat better brand the oil of benne. The expressed oil of mustard, a by-product in the manufacture of table mustard, is also applied to the same purpose. Our French friend, whom we have before alluded to, also kindly informed us that in his country the ground-nut oil (*Arachis hypogæa*) is used to an enormous extent for admixture with olive oil, so that but very little of the latter is exported strictly pure.

FENUGREEK.*

BY J. R. JACKSON, A.L.S.

Trigonella, the genus to which the fenugreek belongs, is a group of herbaceous plants belonging to the Papilionaceæ, natural order Leguminosæ, rather widely distributed in Southern Europe, Northern, Central, and Southern Africa, Western and Central Asia, and one species (*T. suavissima*) in Australia. All the plants possess a strong, clinging, aromatic odour, which is particularly the case with *T. Fœnumgræcum*, the most important plant in the genus. It is a native of the region of the Mediterranean, where it has been cultivated for a very long time, and is an erect annual from one to two feet high, with obovate cuneate leaflets and yellow papilionaceous flowers borne in the axils of the leaves. The pods are from two to four inches long, pointed or beaked, and contain from ten to twenty small, rough, brown seeds.

The fenugreek claims a history of great antiquity; the plant

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