

the number of about thirty distinct oils. The bottles had previously been kept on open shelving; and before being placed in the closet each bottle was emptied, thoroughly cleansed of resinous and other deposit, washed with alcohol and dried, when the clear oils were returned. At the same time two small vials were filled with oil of peppermint and two with oil of lemon, both oils being of the best quality. One of each was kept in the oil closet, and the other set in a closet near the window of colorless glass. The writer was too much occupied with other matters to make corresponding experiments in and out of the closet with all the oils, and hence no result was arrived at of a character satisfactory in resolving the query *pro* or *con*. None of the oils in the closet exhibited deposition of resin, crystalline matter, or other deposit worthy of note. So far as could be remembered, their color was but little changed; but as, in all respects except the light, they were subjected to the previous conditions surrounding them, being frequently opened for dispensing, it will be interesting to ascertain if their modified condition as regards light really retards atmospheric oxidation. The oil of peppermint kept in the closet appeared of the same color (nearly colorless) as that kept in the light, but its odor was less marked to a perceptible degree. The oil of lemon, in both conditions, had a flocculent sediment, but was otherwise so nearly alike as to appear the same when applied to the nose, yet the oil in the vial exposed to light was evidently lighter in color by bleaching.

A vial of (expressed) oil of orange-peel, after two months' retention in the closet, was found to have undergone the usual deterioration.

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### CROTON-CHLORAL HYDRATE.\*

In a previous number we published a paper on the subject, taken from English sources. The following, contributed to the *American Practitioner* by Mr. C. Lewis Diehl, of Louisville, is a fair statement of the labors of the German chemists on the same topic:—

This interesting substance was accidentally discovered by G. Kramer and A. Pinner, in 1870, when endeavoring to utilize the so-called "forerunnings" (*Vorlauf*), obtained as a waste product in the rectification of crude spirit for alcohol. These forerunnings were found to contain, besides alcohol and small quantities of an organic alkaline salt of acetic acid and of sharp, odorous liquid, a considerable proportion of aldehyde, which they expected to utilize in the manufacture of chloral. This expectation seemed justified

\*Druggists' Circular.