

Peppermint Cultivation in Japan.

Although Europeans have only recently applied mint to medicinal uses, it has been employed for very many years by the Japanese, especially in the form of crystals, but also as an essence, in the treatment of neuralgia and coryza. The oil dropped on a piece of sugar is recommended as a cure for catarrh, and mixed with alcohol it is given for cholera, and also applied outwardly to the bites of mosquitoes and other insects. Now that the consumption in Europe is increasing, and with it the exportation from Japan, the Japanese peppermint cultivation has undergone a large development. It is chiefly carried on in the department of Yamagata, in the province of Ouzen. More than ten varieties are grown, some of which give two or three harvests a year, but they all belong to the species *mentha arvensis*, which the Japanese call *hakka*. A plantation is kept going for seven years, as a rule. During the first year the yield is from 260 to 300 kilos. of leaves per rood, say 2400 pounds per acre. During the second and third years this yield may be doubled, but it afterwards diminishes fast, and the mint is of poorer quality. While the fourth year's crop will yield one per cent. of essence, the seventh will only yield about one-third per cent. Hence the plantation has to be abandoned after that year.—*Oils, Colors and D.*

To Distinguish Genuine Oil of Turpentine.

The Royal Prussian Minister of Finance gives the following testing method for use in the Custom Houses: If chlorhydric acid of 1.19 specific gravity (fuming hydrochloric acid) or English sulphuric acid is added to oil of turpentine, the acids collect at the bottom of the vessel and the oil of turpentine floats on the acids. The two liquids do not mix, and the one is not appreciably soluble in the other. Thus it is that only the slight quantity of the two fluids contained in the bordering surfaces come into contact and act upon one another. Hence the effects of the action are inconsiderable.

But if the fluids are mixed together the action becomes more animated. If hydrochloric acid and oil of turpentine be used, they may be shaken diligently in a test tube. The liquid becomes slightly heated. In case English sulphuric acid be used, the two fluids must not be agitated together, because too violent an

action and too great a rise of temperature would result.

Although the action of the sulphuric acid is more energetic, yet the use of hydrochloric acid is preferable, because English sulphuric acid becomes also heated with other substances, which do not heat hydrochloric acid.

If a test tube is filled with one-third hydrochloric acid of 1.19 specific gravity, adding a like volume of oil of turpentine, and the glass is closed with the thumb and diligently agitated five seconds, the temperature rises about 25° (C.), and a strong odour of camphor is perceptible.

No chlorhydric acid of 1.19 specific gravity (fuming acid) being at hand, two-thirds of the volume of English sulphuric acid may slowly be added to hydrochloric acid of 1.12 specific gravity (not *vice versa*), shaking and allowing to cool off, and this mixture may be used instead of the fuming hydrochloric acid.—*Kolonialv. Zeitung.*

Hygiene of the Eyes.

Dr. L. W. Fox, Professor of Ophthalmology, Medico Chirurgical College, Philadelphia, formulates the following rules for the care of the eyes.

- (1) Avoid sudden changes from dark to brilliant light.
- (2) Avoid the use of stimulants and drugs which affect the nervous system.
- (3) Avoid reading when lying down, or when mentally and physically exhausted.
- (4) When the eyes feel tired, rest them by looking at objects at a long distance.
- (5) Pay special attention to the hygiene of the body, for that which tends to promote the general health acts beneficially upon the eyes.
- (6) Up to forty years of age, bathe the eyes twice daily in cold water.
- (7) After fifty, bathe the eyes morning and evening with water so hot that you wonder how you stand it; follow this with cold water, that will make them glow with warmth.
- (8) Old persons should avoid reading much by artificial light, be guarded as to diet, and avoid sitting up late at night.
- (9) Do not depend on your own judgment in selecting spectacles.
- (10) Do not give up in despair when you are informed that a cataract is developing; remember that in these days of advanced surgery it can be removed with little danger to the vision.

The Obligations and Responsibilities of Business Life.

Every man who goes into business should have a sufficient capital to conduct the business comfortably and safely, be it large or small. He should do all the business possible to be done with the means at hand, but should not overreach, or spread out to such a degree as would make his business unsafe. He should so watch every detail of his business and guard his purchases and his sales so closely that he will not get beyond his depth. He should so conduct his business as to be able to meet every obligation promptly at maturity. If he could discount every bill, it would be all the better, but if he is not able to do so on account of lack of capital, he should watch his purchases so closely and his resources so carefully as to be able to meet every bill promptly on the day it is due.

The business man who does this will be found to be successful, while the one who allows his payments to lag will be found, as a rule, to be one who trusts out his goods injudiciously and whose business methods are slipshod, whose stock is ill kept, and whose failure is only a question of time.

The man who discounts and the man who pays promptly are the ones who buy most cheaply. The inducements to sell are so greatly enhanced by these considerations that no bargains escape them, and they are thereby often enabled to sell at a profit at prices that mean ruin to their slipshod neighbors. It is known by experience that a concern which does so much business that it cannot pay its bills promptly is not a safe one to extend credit to. Over-buying, over-trading, and, not the least, over-trusting, are the greatest evils to be contended with in mercantile life.—*Ex.*

Medical Etiquette in China.

Chinese doctors are said to be even more scrupulous than their white brother practitioners in regard to the nice points of professional etiquette. The following amusing tale is related in an English journal: "A Chinese gentleman was struck by an arrow, which remained fast in his body. A surgeon was sent for, and broke off the protruding bit of the arrow, leaving the point embedded. He refused to extract it, because the case was clearly one for a physician, the arrow being inside the body."—*Medical Record.*