

presence of red-lead may be detected by pouring a little water saturated with sulphuretted hydrogen gas on the article. If it contain lead, the liquid will become of a blackish colour.—Copper may be discovered by pouring on it liquid ammonia, which soon acquires a blue colour if this metal be present.—Clay may be detected in articles composed of sugar, such as comfits, by dissolving them in a large quantity of boiling water, and letting the mixture stand for twenty-four hours. If clay be present it will fall to the bottom; and when the clay liquid is poured off, it may be had in a separate state. It should then be exposed to a strong heat, and if it contracts and becomes hard, the adulteration with clay is proved.

5. Purity of common Salt.

DISSOLVE a little of the salt in water, then add a few drops of carbonate of soda to a glass of the solution, which will precipitate any earthy substance which may be combined with the salt. Lime and magnesia are the substances which are most likely to be found in common salt.

6. Purity of Citric or Lemon Acid.

TO a saturated solution of citric acid, in water, add a few drops of a concentrated solution of muriate of potash. If a precipitate ensue, the citric acid is not perfectly pure; for muriate of potash does not occasion a precipitate in citric acid, but it has this effect in tartaric acid, which is often substituted by fraudulent dealers for citric acid.