

are made from spoiled wine, and the word itself means sour wine, the flavor of genuine wine vinegar is superior to that from any other source, but the demand exceeds the supply, so that even in France, large quantities are sold that have a foreign basis.

**Liqueurs.**—Vermouth, Absinth, Curaçoa, Chartreuse, Eau Vert, Crome de Moka, &c., are names given to skilful mixtures of spirit sugar and all the popular flavors and tonics. These are much used as semi-medicinal stimulants and are exported in considerable quantities.

**Capsules.**—These are made of sheet lead coated on both sides with tin. They are very useful for preserving the contents of bottles and give a highly ornamental finish. Two considerable factories are devoted to their production in Marseilles.

**Corks.**—Of these there are 28 manufactories in Marseilles, and it is a most interesting sight to witness the quickness and dexterity displayed in their production. The raw material is thoroughly used up, even the shavings are made into life buoys. There are extensive cork forests in Algeria, but Spain still retains pre-eminence in the quality of bark and in the manufacture of the finer kinds of wine corks. Numerous attempts have been made to supercede hand labor in cork cutting, none have so far succeeded, machinery not being able to detect flaws that render the cork unfit for use. There is, however, a little machine now used that makes vial corks of exactly the same size and is a great improvement in tapers.

**Sponges.**—The principal varieties at Marseilles, are Venice, Hard Toilet and Turkey. This is a most difficult article to buy or sell satisfactorily, unless you deal with one who possesses a large share of honesty and skill, disappointment and loss are almost certain results of an investment. The sponge merchant buys all kinds round by the diver, at so much for the pile, without reference to weight, and then sorts, trims and bleaches them. The latter operation is performed by means of dilute muriatic acid, after which they are rinsed in salt water, so that they may have a tendency to remain moist.

**Castile Soap.**—This article at one time came from Spain, as the name implies; but the French government offered a bounty on its exportation, and now there are sixty-seven manufactories of it in Marseilles. When pure, it is one of the best soaps made, but latterly, some manufacturers adulterate it with from 4 to 45% of talc or other earth. As a matter of commercial policy, it will pay no dealer to save a cent of two per pound on all the castile soap he sells, in exchange for his reputation for supplying pure articles. The sophistication may be detected even in cutting across a bar, or more certainly by

attempting to dissolve a small quantity in hot water. The materials for this manufacture are very conveniently obtained in Marseilles. The black soda ash is made three or four miles out, and there are numerous oil mills in the city that supply a fresh oil of sufficiently good quality. Formerly, olive oil was used altogether, but this is not now the case. Each foreign market has its peculiar style of box and bar. The mottled variety is in greatest demand; but the white is made from finer oil, and commands a higher price.

**Olive Oil.**—Of this article the consumption has been considerably increased this year from the high price of its competitor, lard oil. The first pressing is used to a great extent at home, in cookery, and as a substitute for butter: the surplus is exported as salad oil. The second pressing is used more extensively for machinery purposes, while the third quality is used for soap. It is sophisticated with oils from various kinds of seeds, and this may be detected by gravity. The trees are very much like apple trees in growth, but the leaves have a peculiar dusty appearance, and do not realize the poetical idea of an olive grove.

**Seed Oils.**—In one factory I saw 25 pairs of hydraulic presses at work on the manufacture of oil from sesame, poppy, ground-nut, rape, and other seeds. The operatives have a style of undress while at work, well suited to display their physical proportions. These oils are very sweet and good while fresh, but lack the keeping properties of olive oil. The sesame oil is best, and commands the highest price.

**Sugar.**—There are four refineries in Marseilles, the raw material being beet root. It is much to be desired that this industry should be introduced in Canada, a small sample will show to what perfection it may be carried. The manufacture is fully described in recent publications and is perfectly practicable.

**Sulphur and Brimstone.**—The raw material comes mainly from Sicily, but the usual forms of sublimed and roll are produced farther west. In the manufacture of sulphuric acid, raw sulphur is not used in France.

**Soda.**—Common salt is cheap in Marseilles, and at a distance of about sixty miles on the Spanish coast, are found deposits of iron pyrites, containing 30 to 50 per cent. of sulphur. The salt is first made into sulphate, and then into a crude carbonate by fire. The black soda thus produced is sold to the soap manufacturers, and by them sufficiently purified for their purpose. This process is very economical, saving the cost of freight and packages, under the system by which soap is produced in this country. It is quite practicable, and might be introduced here to great advantage.

**Wax Matches and Candles.**—These are important industries, and it is astonishing to see all over Europe, and on this continent, the number of little boxes of Marseilles production that are consumed.

**Porcelain.**—In design and execution, goods of French production stand very high. The colors are, however, all English, for the best descriptions.

**Balances.**—The best counter balances, quality and price considered, are produced by the establishment of Beranger, of Lyons, and one of my most pleasant recollections is a visit to this factory.

**Bricks and Tiles.**—The floors and partitions of houses in the south of France are all made of these, and they have such manifest advantages in point of cleanliness, and non-conduction of fire or sound, that their introduction here would be a great improvement. They occupy much less space than our wooden partitions; a point to be considered in cities.

**Chemicals.**—These are manufactured to a considerable extent, but altogether for home use.

**Drug Mills.**—All the articles which require powdering, are to be had in that state, but the quality is not equal to those bought crude and powdered here. A very considerable trade is done in powdered pyrethrum roseum or black hellebore, as an insect destroyer, and it appears worthy of more general use than it has yet had in Canada.

**Vermicelli and Macaroni.**—These well known articles are produced and shipped under names signifying Italian pastes, their use is more common in Europe than with us. They are made from a wheaten flour, harder and drier than ours and therefore less liable to spoil.

**Lemons and Oranges.**—Are shipped in large quantities. The number of ship-loads and the varieties would astonish those who buy only what they require for personal use. When one gets to talk of millions of boxes there is merely a word and not an idea conveyed.

**Ochres.**—Of these we take considerable quantities of yellow powdered, but the English red is purer and better.

**Essential Oils.**—It is somewhat remarkable that England should produce better Lavander and Peppermint than can be got elsewhere while all the other minty odors, Origanum, Rosemary, Thyme, Savine, &c., are best from French soil. Italy excels in lemon and sweet orange. With a great many of the perfumery products of southern Europe we are acquainted only by name at most. The cultivation employs a great many people and sells for a large amount of money, showing