

water is, of course, the result of competition in price ; manufacturers really make no more profit on the diluted form than that consisting of alcohol, but customers demand a cheaper article and the demand must be supplied. Specific gravity is the test by which this admixture may be detected. Four samples examined gave '890, '910, '930, '940 ; that of the official spirit is '837.

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APOTHECARIES' OATH.—At the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Chemists' Association, the president, Mr. Barclay, delivered an address, in which he traced the progress of pharmacy, more particularly in its relations to the medical profession and legislation. When the company of apothecaries was formed, during the reign of James I., considerable jealousy existed between doctor and druggist, and in France a similar state of things existed, until, finally, the physicians succeeded in making the apothecaries take the following oath, which, though unfitted for our days, is still very commendable in many of its features :—" I swear and promise before God the Author and Creator of all things, one in spirit and divided into three persons eternally blessed, that I will observe strictly the following articles,—First, I swear and promise to live and die in the Christian Faith. Secondly, to love and honour my parents to the utmost ; also to honour, respect and render service, not only to those medical doctors who have instructed me in the precepts of pharmacy, but also to my teachers and masters from whom I have learnt my trade. Thirdly, not to slander any of my ancient teachers or masters, whoever they may be ; also, to do all I can for the honour, glory and majesty of physic. Fourthly, never to teach to ungrateful persons or fools the secrets and rarities of the trade ; never to do anything rashly, without the advice of a physician, or from the sole desire of gain ; never to give any medicine or purge to invalids afflicted with acute disease, without first consulting one of the faculty. Fifthly, never to examine women privately unless by great necessity, or to apply to them some necessary remedy ; never to divulge the secrets confided to me. Sixthly, never to administer poisons, or recommend their administration, even to our greatest enemies ; or to give drinks to produce abortion, without the advice of a physician ; also to execute accurately their prescriptions, without adding or diminishing anything contained in them, that they may, in every respect, be prepared *secundum artum*. Seventhly, never to use any succedaneum or substitute without the advice of others wiser than myself ; to disown and shun as a pestilence the scandalous and pernicious practices of quacks, empirics and alchemists, which exist to the great shame of the magistrates who tolerate them. Lastly, to give aid and assistance indiscriminately to all who employ me ; and to keep no stale or bad drug in my shop. May God continue to bless me so long as I observe these things !"