

Varieties.

IODISED COFFEE.—Dr. Calvo, the elder, recommends an iodised syrup of coffee containing the following:—

Syrup of coffee..... 500 grammes.
Potassium iodide..... 16 "

Dose.—Two or three spoonfuls each day.

Syrup of coffee is excellent for disguising the taste of iodide of potassium, and makes the use of this valuable remedy agreeable to the sick.—*Chemist & Druggist*.

THE ADULTERATION OF GUM ARABIC WITH DEXTRINE.—To detect this sophistication M. Mussat recommends the use of the microscope. A drop of glycerine placed on a glass slide is sprinkled with the suspected gum. If iodine water is now added, and the examination made with a low power, it will be seen that the particles of dextrine assume a dirty red colour, whilst those of gum become yellowish. Dextrine generally betrays its presence by the peculiar odour which it gives out. This method is more practicable than that which depends on the use of ferric chloride, as indicated by M. Hager, whose process consists in moistening the suspected gum with a solution of this salt in such a way that the gum neither dissolves nor floats on the surface any more than dextrine does. The fragments of gum attach themselves to the bottom of the vessel, unlike the particles of dextrine.—*Chemist & Druggist*.

AN AMUSING CHEMICAL EXPERIMENT.—Place five glasses in a row; pour into the first a solution of caustic potassa, into the second a solution of corrosive sublimate, into the third a small quantity of iodide of potassium and some oxalate of ammonium, into the fourth a solution of chloride of calcium, and into the fifth some sulphide of ammonium. Now pour the contents of the first glass into the second, and a scarlet color will be obtained; next pour the second into the third, and the mixture will be colorless; again pour the third into the fourth, and the contents will be white; finally pour the fourth into the fifth, and the mass will be a dense black. Then you will have had two glasses colorless, one scarlet, one white, and one black.

ANTIDOTE TO CARBOLIC ACID.—A writer in the *Dublin Medical Journal* states that a true antidote to carbolic acid remains yet to be discovered, and some recent experiments of M. Galippe go to discredit the value of saccharate of lime, which has been specially recommended by Kunde, and, from experiments on dogs, he is inclined to place more reliance on olive oil.

WEIGHING THE MOTES IN THE AIR.—To catch and weigh "the gay motes that people the sunbeams," as Milton calls them, would seem at first a wild undertaking for a sober philosopher, but M. Tissandier has attempted and accomplished it. In doing it he has taken advantage of the solubility of gun-cotton in ether, though what that has to do with it the reader might be puzzled to guess until the *modus operandi* is explained. A cubic metre of air is sent through a tube containing gun-cotton. This retains the dust,