

maker thinks he has succeeded in finding something by adding which he can cause it to absorb oxygen from the air, thereby making it a good dryer; but my experience has been that there are very few of these materials, and the few are all expensive ones, that at all benefit the oil by being mixed with it. It would be a great deal more to the advantage of the oil if makers were to pay a little more attention to its manipulation, and not care so much about trying to make it dry as quickly as possible, but to make it last on the wood as long as possible.

**RAW LINSEED OIL.**—Linseed oil has been sold for pharmaceutical use mixed very largely with cod oil, which, of course, for many purposes will be very deleterious. It is detected by mixing 40 grammes of the oil with 12 grammes of nitric acid and well agitating together. It is then put by till the acid and oil separate, and if the oil has a darker brown colour and the acid become yellow, it is a proof of adulteration with cod oil. One of the chief reasons that it is so difficult to get a pure sample of linseed oil is that where the crushers procure the seeds other seeds get mixed with the linseed. This I have often found to be the case, but this might be remedied by sifting, as the other seeds are of a different size.

**RAPE-SEED OIL.**—The English makes of rape oil I have found of late very much adulterated with hemp-seed oil. For many purposes it is always necessary to test the oil to see if all the acid that has been used in refining it is thoroughly washed out. Most of the cruciferous seeds contain a small portion of sulphur, and this acts as a good basis to go upon to distinguish this class of seed oil from others, such as nut oil and linseed oil.

**OLIVE OIL.**—Olive oil I have found adulterated with an admixture of rape and resin oil, cotton-seed oil, poppy-seed oil, linseed and rape oil. There is a great difference in the olive oil sent into this country, even from the same places, and I have always found that the oils that are sent home first, being those that are made from the first ripe fruit, are the best, and I am sure of this, that many improvements are to be made in its manufacture and in the gathering of the fruit that would greatly enhance its monetary value both to the grower and manufacturer.

**DETERMINATION OF ALCOHOL IN FUSEL OIL.**—Perhaps it would be well to state for the benefit of any pharmacists present that the London Custom House authorities test the amount of alcohol in fusel oil in the following manner—by adding equal volume of water to the liquid to be tested, and agitating the same thoroughly. They then allow it to stand for about ten hours, and find it by that time separated into two layers, the fusel oil of course being the top one. The lower layer is taken, and its specific gravity found, the difference between that and the specific gravity of the original water indicating by calculation the proportion of spirit. I fancy, from my own experience, there must be a better test than this, for I fear the