

ADULTERATION OF LYCOPODIUM.—It is said that lycopodium, which, it will be remembered, is composed of the sporules of the club moss—is largely adulterated with various pollens. The French and Italian lycopodiums are stated to be specially liable to this adulteration or substitution. By examination with the microscope the fraud may be at once detected.

OLEIC ACID is suggested as a test for distinguishing genuine amber from any imitation consisting of, or containing copal. Oleic acid dissolves copal readily.

Varieties.

ADULTERATION OF OIL OF CLOVES.—This oil has for several years, especially in Germany, been found adulterated with carbolic acid. This may be recognized by shaking the suspected oil with 50 parts of hot water, slowly evaporating the aqueous portion to a small bulk and testing with a drop of ammonia and a pinch of chloride of lime. In presence of phenol a green colour, changing to a permanent blue, is developed (*Flückiger's test*.)

THE REMOVAL OF GREASE SPOTS FROM MARBLE.—The German *Building News (Bauzeitung)* says:—To remove grease spots from marble is no very easy task—for the most part the grease penetrates deeply, and is very obstinately retained by the crystalline substance. A satisfactory result is obtained most quickly by smearing a semi-fluid paste of benzole and chalk mud, in a layer about 20 millimetres thick, over the spots, and covering with a wet cloth. The operation must be repeated until the spots disappear.—*Chemist & Druggist*.

HOPS AS A FERMENT.—L. Pasteur has also made experiments with the view of throwing light upon the assertion of Sacc that hops contain a peculiar ferment (see this journal, pp. 320 and 467), and arrives at the conclusion that the presence of hops has no influence upon the fermentation of dough, and that its principal office appears to be, to impart to the bread a peculiar bitterish taste which may be relished by some persons.—*Chem. Centralbl.*, from *Comp. rend.*, vol. 83, p. 107., *Am. Jour. Pharm.*

REAGENT FOR GLUCOSE.—A. Soldaini, recommends to dissolve 15 grams of precipitated carbonate of copper in a warm solution of 416 grams potassium bicarbonate in 1400 c.c. of water. The reagent is reduced by grape and milk-sugar, but not by cane-sugar, dextrin or starch-paste, unless they contain glucose. Normal urine, tartaric and uric acids are without action, but tannin and formic acid produce, when heated, a separation of cuprous oxide.—*Phar. Cen. Halle*, No. 42., in *Am. Jour. Pharm.*

ANTIDOTE TO STRYCHNIA.—The East Indian physicians recommend nicotia as the surest antidote, which is given in exceedingly small quantities in sherry several times a day. In default of nicotia, a decoction of tobacco leaves ($\frac{1}{2}$ ounce to a pint) is given.