

and from four to eleven samples of ginger contained wood alcohol—a fact that would seem to indicate that drug adulteration with wood alcohol is still practised to a considerable extent.

Scoville\* reported that he found two out of six commercial liniments containing wood spirit; also the same poison in several brands of witch hazel.

Dr. Allen Greenwood, of Boston, found quite recently that two of his patients had been furnished tinctures whose menstruum was "Columbian spirits." The druggist, on being called to account, stated that many tinctures are now being made with "spirits" of this kind!

The president of the New York Board of Health ordered, in 1902, an examination of the ingredients in the Jamaica ginger and spirits of ammonia sold by druggists throughout the city. The official chemist found that 40 out of 215 drug stores were substituting wood alcohol for grain spirits. Warrants were issued for these offenders.

Dr. Warren, the pure food commissioner of the State of Pennsylvania, reports that to Feb. 5th, 1904, he had collected and examined 1,000 samples of cheap whiskey from all parts of the state. Over 95 per cent. of the samples contained varying quantities (some as high as 75 per cent.) of wood alcohol. He believes that 5,000 cases will be found in the state, and is determined to prosecute them.

In 1902, E. L. Patch, of Stoneham, Mass., reported to the American Pharmaceutical Association that he found wood spirits in 40 out of 225 samples of spirit of camphor.

Without further multiplying examples of this brazen attempt at wholesale poisoning, we finally present a recent report of the dairy and food department of the State of Minnesota, who condemned and pronounced illegal, because of their containing wood alcohol, samples of lemon "extract" from all parts of the state. These poisonous products were put up and sold by wholesale manufacturers of (?) respectable standing in Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, and Milwaukee. In addition to this list they also found four cases in which methyl alcohol was used in the manufacture of Jamaica ginger, two cases of vanilla extract, one of pineapple, and two of strawberry.

#### TOXICITY OF METHYL ALCOHOL.

While a study of the cases reported in this article must undoubtedly establish the fact that the majority of those who imbibe a moderate quantity—say two or three ounces—of wood alcohol

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\*Mass. Pharm. Assn., 1897.