

The instructions issued to our inspectors required them to purchase turpentine in drug stores, and as used for dispensing.

These instructions appear not to have been closely followed in all cases. The inspector's reports show that in Nova Scotia one sample was accepted, although the vendor stated that he sold the article for "commercial purposes only," which may be understood to mean technical purposes only.

In Quebec all of the vendors declared that the article offered by them was dispensed only for "External use."

It may be remarked that the Pharmacopoeias do not distinguish between turpentine for external and for internal uses.

Correspondence with vendors, subsequent to examination of the article sold, brings statements from many to the effect that they sell turpentine for painters' use, or for removing stains from clothing, and not to any extent for medicinal purposes.

It is perfectly well known that the principal uses of turpentine are such technical uses as in paint or varnish, in shoe polishes, stain removers, etc. Even here it should be true turpentine as defined by Order in Council of June 6, 1912, quoted above.

The presence of petroleum (mineral oils) is equally an adulteration of turpentine whether this is sold for medicinal purposes or for uses in the arts.

This is the main adulteration of turpentine at present; and is evidently the result of a desire to find a market for cheap petroleum fractions at the price of turpentine.

It has been asserted that the intermixture of small percentages of petroleum does not injure turpentine for painters' use.

This statement is very difficult to believe when we consider the different behaviour of terpenes and petroleum to oxygen; but even were it true, the purchaser should be able to buy turpentine when he asks for turpentine, and pays the price of that article. If he desires to add petroleum to it, he can easily purchase the petroleum at its market price, and mix as he may please.

Or, if he is offered a mixture of turpentine with petroleum, the true character of such mixture should be made known to him at the time of sale, and it should not be offered him as turpentine.

Turpentine appears not to be made in Canada.: A large importing house in Montreal writes under date March 29: "Turpentine is an article that it is impossible for the jobber in Canada to control, as there is no turpentine manufacturer in this country; and if it is the intention of the government to prevent adulterated turpentine to be sold in this country, why do they not stop its importation? All the turpentine that we buy is bought for pure; and if it is not pure it is a matter that we have no control over whatever. We think, therefore, that the labour you have gone to, as far as turpentine is concerned, is wasted." This statement is echoed by several other correspondents.

If it be indeed true that Canada has no control over the quality of the article turpentine, the case is a sad one; and it should lead to renewed effort on the part of manufacturers to try still further to obtain a good wood turpentine from the extensive raw materials which are found in our country.

I have seen very good turpentine of Canadian manufacture, produced in experimental plants; and am not without hope that the production of turpentine may yet become a successful Canadian industry.