produces no dark line in the spectrum, he regards the reduction of chlorophyll, when CO_2 is dissociated through the agency of light, as sufficient reason why the transformation may not be attended by a visible change of its color and other optical properties.—*Nature*, xxxii. 217, 342. (D. P. P.)

The Eucalyptus in Italy.—According to a writer in the "Gartenzeitung" of Berlin, the plantations of the Eucalyptus in Italy have been far from realising the results that were anticipated from them, as a means of preventing malarious fever, and neither the soil nor the climate of that country appears to be favorable for the growth of this tree, and he recommends the *Quercus rex*, the *Laurus glandulosa*, and certain varieties of the maple as being far better suited for the purpose. Another authority, Dr. Dieck, recommends the *Acer californiense*, a tree of nearly as rapid a growth as the Eucalyptus, the *Acer macrophyllum* of California, the *Acer insigne* of the Himalayas, all of which are well suited forcultivation in malarious districts in Italy; the *Salix babylonica*, *Populus angulata*, *heterophylla*, etc., are all said to be preferable to the Eucalyptus, and more suitable to the climate, and contain similar properties to those of the Eucalyptus, to which it owes its efficiency as a preventive against the malaria. Dr. Dieck, however, considers that the root of the evil lies in the indiscriminate cutting down of the trees on the mountains, and that their re-wooding would do far more towards checking malaria than any measures taken in the marshes, which districts have been reduced to their present state by forestal mismanagement and neglect. (A.H.M.)

CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL.—*Apomorphine as an Anæsthetic.*—Professor Ludwig, aided by M. Bergmeister, has instituted a series of experiments upon a great number of organic substances in search for a body possessing powers similar to cocaine. Their investigations were fruitless until they tried apomorphine, which drug they found to be almost, if not quite, equal to cocaine in point of local anæsthetic properties. Their experiments were made on cats with a 2 per cent solution of apomorphine hydrochloride. (A.H.M.)

A New Reagent for Distinguishing Alcohols.—As a reagent for distinguishing alcohol obtained from potato spirit from the pure alcohol obtained from corn, etc., Dr. Hager (*Pharm Central*, xxvi. 26) proposes a 10 per cent. solution of mercurous nitrate. One-part crystallized nitrate is dissolved in 10 parts distilled water and rendered clear by the addition of a trace of nitric acid and allowed to settle over some metallic mercury. When 3 drops of the solution are added to 3 cc. (about 50m.) of absolute or 94 per cent. alcohol, a milky mixture with a yellowish white tinge results upon agitation. Upon several hours'