

of one of the victims, who died of acute gastritis, showed the presence of wood alcohol, which also was found in a bottle of whiskey purchased at the saloon."

#### COMMERCIAL FORMS OF METHYL ALCOHOL.

Although that nauseous and vile-smelling fluid is still purchasable as wood alcohol, wood spirit, pyroligneous spirit, wood naphtha and methylated spirit, its place in commerce has been almost altogether taken by the deodorized variety, of which "Columbian spirits" is easily the best known and most widely used. There are many other forms of this fluid on the market, such as "colonial spirits," "union spirits," "eagle spirits," etc., in the United States. "Green wood spirits" (mostly used for fuel) and "standard wood spirits" (a more thoroughly deodorized article) are largely sold in Canada, and intended for the same purposes as the American Columbian spirits. The deodorized fluids all have the same volatile, agreeable, vinous odor, and the pungent, biting taste, as pure ethyl alcohol, and it is often difficult for the average individual to distinguish them from grain alcohol. It is, therefore, quite easy to understand how the thirsty one, unaware of the danger to life and eyesight, might indulge in a drink of the methylated product. Manufacturers of all sorts of alcoholic potions have not been slow to take advantage of this fact; indeed, there is hardly a "liniment," an "essence," an "extract," or a "bitters"—hardly any nostrum or concoction, medical or domestic, in whose preparation alcohol is employed—that has not been, or is not now, adulterated with this poison. We have, within the past few months, had several proprietary remedies, suspected to have produced blindness, carefully analyzed; they all contained wood alcohol.

As stated on the highly ornate labels of the bottles intended for retail consumption, one form of methylated "spirits" is highly recommended for "bathing, burning, and cleaning." Among the uses specified are: "Bathing and sponging the sick; making liniments; rubbing for rheumatism, bedsores, etc.; veterinary uses, where alcohol is required; Turkish bath cabinets; burning under chafing dishes and in spirit lamps; removing oil and grease from brass and wood-work." In all these instances ample opportunity is afforded for absorption of the poison.

A few instances—there are hundreds of others—of the use of "deodorized" wood spirit as an adulterant of or substitute for grain alcohol may be given:

In the 1903 report of Dr. R. O. Brooks, state chemist of New Jersey, it is shown that from four to eight samples of paregoric