

studied by Zordenkofer, who divides them into two groups. The first group, which gives rise to a putrefaction which results in the production of sulphureted hydrogen, is the most common alteration. Ten species of this group have been described under the name of *Bacillus oogenes hydrosulfurens*.

The second group gives rise to a slightly different putrefaction, the odor of which recalls that of human excrement. This putrefaction, which is much more rare, is produced by a bacterium called *Bacillus oogenes fluorescens*. All these organisms need air for their development. It is, therefore, necessary to keep eggs from contact therewith by varnishing the shell or coating it with vaseline or milk of lime.

The use of decayed eggs is extremely dangerous. Dr. Cameron has called attention to a case of poisoning that happened in a convent at Limerick, Ireland, in 1895, after a meal at which had been served a cream in which a bad egg had been used. Seventy-four women who partook of the meal were poisoned, and four of them died.

An endeavor has been made in this article to recapitulate the causes of the poisoning of eggs and the damages to the system that may be caused by eating them. But it must be said that poisoning by eggs is of relatively rare occurrence, and that that produced by spoiled ones is exceptional.—*Scientific American*.

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When we remark that in the manufacture of cocaine it is the percentage value of the alkaloid which determines the value of the raw material, we can see the necessity for the planter of finding a method of drying by which he will lose the least amount. In two series of experiments made by M. de Jong, of France, upon two products having different origins, he obtained the percentages of 1.49 to 2.77, or, in mean, 1.52 to 2.75 and 2.05 to 2.91. The fresh leaf furnishes the greatest amount of alkaloid, or from 2.72 to 2.91 per cent. When dried over lime, the leaf loses cocaine, and the value falls to 2.55 per cent. Drying in the sun is found to give values from 2.38 to 2.50 per cent., while drying at a heat of 40 deg. C. gives 2.28 per cent. A heat of 60 to 75 deg. affords 2.16 per cent. of cocaine. By drying in the shade for four days and then for over an hour in the sun, we find from 2.05 to 2.18 per cent. The method of drying in the sun after immersion in boiling water gives 1.50 per cent. From this we find that it is not an advantage to dry the