

mes of sulphate of potassium per litre is considered as debased, and on this account is set aside as unfit for alimentation. The sophistications of wine are too numerous to be considered here. Some of them, such as the addition of water, are inoffensive. Others, on the contrary, are hurtful and deserve general attention. I shall mention especially the addition of alum, and salts of copper and of lead, which are discovered by chemical process. To colour it, to conceal the addition of water, and to give it the appearance of wine from another Province, many organic substances are employed, such as logwood, fruits and red leaves, which are not dangerous nor unhealthy. It is not so with fuscine, a substance lately employed, and which seems to exert a deleterious influence on the economy of the human body. Now, as regards beer, there are good grounds for complaints and good reasons for inspection. When exposed to air, beer may undergo fermentation, and in such cases it ought to be rejected; the quantity of extract may be superior to the quantity of alcohol, while in good beer they are about evenly divided. Beer is falsified with *nux vomica salicine*, *coculus indicus*, boxwood, gentian, picric acid, and all kinds of substances, besides two of the most poisonous, strichine and *coculus indicus* especially. Here again the law may give an effective protection which is greatly required. These remarks may indicate the great alterations made in spirits. It was observed the other day that so many thousands of bushels of grain were absorbed in the manufacture of spirits without any direct benefit for alimentation, I venture to say that in a great many cases there is not enough consumed in the manufacture of spirits. In fact, spirits are made with acids, poisons, water, and the trick is played: it is alcohol. That is what is done in a great many cases, which tends to diminish the consumption of grain employed in the manufacture of spirits, to the detriment of the consumer. Now, let us say a few words about tea. Here is another product largely consumed, and whose consumption reaches a fabulous figure, especially among certain people, and which holds out grave dangers, as no doubt hon. gentlemen have long been aware of the fact. In the first place, there is the out-and-out falsification with different kinds of leaves which have never been near the tea tree, but which, by some process or other, are shaped in the required form, and are then drawn through a bath of Prussian blue. Then there is the trade of old tea leaves, which, after having been used in large hotels, are sold again to certain specialists, who dry them, and by means of furnaces roll them up in the primitive form, its native shape. Then they are drawn through a bath of sulphate of copper to give them the colour, and the trick is played. More than that; owing to its fresh colour, this tea is put on the market as Hyson of the first quality, and every one drinks with delight this subtle poison. In that respect, black tea is more free from fraud, and more natural. The same thing occurs as regards ground coffee, which contains so many mixtures of all sorts, which may all be detected with the microscope. In a great many cases ground coffee is nothing but succory mixed with saw dust; it is a great deal better to buy it in the kernel, and to grind it for domestic use. Now, Mr. Speaker, next to tea and coffee are certain substances which, though not being nutritious aliment, have, however, similar functions to perform in the economy by the local excitation they produce. They are pepper, nutmegs, aromatic condiments generally, fat condiments, such as lard, oil, and the *maigre* food condiments. These substances are more easily sophisticated than many others; unless special care is taken, they give rise to a serious danger to health, for it is particularly here that falsifications take place to a larger extent. It is a chase after new inventions, after heterogeneous mixtures of all kinds. It is mostly in that line that our Inspectors will have a fine part to play by carrying out the law in all its stringency. It is among them that we find butter manufactured

entirely with oleomargarine oils and poisonous colouring matters. I shall now say a word about a question which is none the less important, especially for the sick or convalescent. It is that which refers to the purity of medicines, patent medicines and drugs of all kinds offered for sale by every one, from the barber and grocer to the druggist. It is mostly with reference to these that the popular artlessness and credulousness are taken advantage of by means of advertisements, pamphlets and puffs of all kinds. To begin with pharmaceutical remedies: To how many adulterations of all kinds and sorts are they not subject, especially with regard to preparations which are the most valuable, both as regards the effect which they are expected to produce and the price at which they are sold? Their cost price is the main cause of the adulteration. When an inoffensive substance is used as a substitute the evil is not so great, but, unfortunately, this is not always the case. Another thing which must be taken into account is the delay which is so prejudicial in certain cases of disease whose progress is rapid, when the physician waits with anxiety the result of a medicine whose known physiological effect ought to put a stop to alarming symptoms, and when, however, none of the expected effects are manifested, in consequence of adulteration, of frauds, of substitutions, and the Lord knows what else. The valuable time which is thus lost is sometimes irretrievable. Here, again, the law can not be too strict, and I am glad to see that the penalties imposed will be in proportion to the offences. What shall I say of the patent medicines of all colours, of all shapes, always presented to the public as the universal panacea, with thousands of certificates coming from all parts of the world, and recommending themselves especially by their high price? This is another secret. We have vials coloured red, green, yellow, lilac, and even blue. We have pills containing anything you can wish for, except what might be useful to you, or even useful in any way whatever—things that nobody would buy if they knew what they were. Still, every one buys them. And why? Because a circular says that it cures all sores, ailments and diseases and, very naturally, the pain from which a person may be suffering is always mentioned in the circular. At last, when the poor, sick person is fairly worn out, after having been imposed upon by these quacks, then we are called upon to give our professional services, but very often it is too late. For my part, I have seen a great many of these dupes in my extensive practice, and whose fault is it? The fault is with the law which protects these charlatans and does not protect the public at all. If all these patent medicines, for instance, were submitted to a serious analysis, do you think they would stand for a minute before the amount of ridicule which would be heaped upon them, when their composition and their mixtures would come to be determined, and when the buyer could compare the Inspector's certificate, which would be pasted on the bottle, with the certificates in which the bottle is wrapped? Besides, how many millions would be saved from our credulity? How many painful accidents and deaths would be averted? These remarks are not a puff in favour of doctors. This protection—he has it by law; more than anyone else, he is interested in taking and accepting from all parts, all medicines, preparations made according to prescriptions, patent medicines from anybody and from anywhere, provided it is proved to him that they have an intrinsic value. And if his mission is to lay out a line of conduct for his patient, and to administer to him the medicines which are, according to the long experience acquired by his predecessors, the only real and truly useful remedies, he should also have authority to give the alarm of danger, and to ask for protection in favour of the public, when there is danger, abuse or fraud. As for me, I wish to know all about the remedy which is brought to me, and the individual who offers it for sale. And, besides, why should we not compel the inventor to give the composition of his