

Other ophthalmologists tell the same story about these "strictly preserved" localities. One observer, who has reported several cases of methyl alcohol amaurosis, says regarding them: "Almost the first question I ask an amblyopic patient from a reservation is, What have you been drinking? The answer almost invariably is, Columbian spirits, Jamaica ginger, or something of that sort. It is no trouble to find the deleterious effects of methyl alcohol among these people. As for Indians, they will drink anything they think has alcohol in it, even red ink."

Nor is the consumption of methylated compounds as a substitute for ethylic alcohol confined to Indian reservations. Wherever men in any walk of life are deprived of a chance of indulging in the usual forms of ethylated beverages, they are very likely to drink some tempting form of methylated mixture. Assistant Surgeon X. writes me: "The temptation of the men of this post is particularly great, as we are over ten miles from the nearest saloon. At the time the deaths occurred the men, having consumed all their grain alcohol, had to have something to 'sober up' on, so they got hold of Columbian spirits and drank it, hardly knowing or caring what they were taking." Perhaps if the United States Army had been supplied with a properly regulated canteen, where light wines and good beer were sold, these soldiers would have "sobered up" on non-poisonous drinks and not on wood alcohol!

The list of previously unrecorded cases of blindness, so far as Dr. Wood has been able to collect them, includes 89 well-authenticated cases from the drinking of methylated liquids. Absorption of the fumes is responsible for ten instances of amblyopia, while the deaths (without history of previous blindness) number 82. Altogether, then, we have 153 instances of blindness and at least 122 cases of death from methyl alcohol poisoning during the past few years—275 in all.

Our reasons for believing that these figures by no means complete the roll of serious intoxication from this poison we have already pointed out. How many cases of death and blindness (or both combined) have resulted from methylated preparations since the comparatively recent introduction of Columbian spirits is a matter of conjecture; probably 400 instances.

Since this article went to press, the newspapers report the deaths of twenty-five persons in a certain district in New York city from drinking whiskey which contained wood alcohol and which was purchased in a saloon. The newspaper account continues: "The police to-night arrested Rudolph Fritsche, the proprietor, and closed the place. A chemical analysis of the stomach