ARTIFICIALLY AGING WHISKEY.

A Method for Doing the Work of Five Years in Four Hours.

Some time ago, assisted by Dr. Drinkwater, of the Edinburg School of Medicine, I made an investigation into one process for maturing whiskey. This process is in vogue in Liverpool, where it is carried out by a limited company. Briefly detailed, it consists in pumping air through a filter. The air is cooled and its moisture is deposited by the freezing as snow. The spirit is likewise cooled to below the freezing point. A mixture is then made of the dry, cold air and the spirits under a pressure of about 20 pounds. For four hours this process is continued and then the air, which has absorbed the impurities of the spirits, is allowed to escape.

That which constitutes the chief impurity of whiskey is fusel oil. This substance, in place of being a simple substance, is of compound nature, and is composed of what are known to chemists as "higher alcohols." Among them is one called 'amylic alcohol." This substance can be taken without injury apparently, as evinced by the practical experiment of chemists. One chemist accounts for this by saying that amylic alcohol does not itself injure the drinker, but in combination with other alcohols it does produce untoward effects.

When whiskey is kept in casks some of the fusel oil passes into the wood, while some undergoes oxidation, which produces in time the bouquet or special character of the spirit. Five years is stated as an average period for maturing certain whiskies in casks, but the artificial process accomplishes this in four hours.

That which was investigated was the point whether this artificial maturing in any way altered the character of the spirit so as to render it inferior, while ridding it of the fusel oil. We had the whiskey analyzed before and after the process. Dr. Drinkwater saw fifty nine gallons of patent still whiskey treated for four hours. He analyzed the spirit before and after the process. The result was that the higher alcohols were reduced by 28 grains a proof gallon, while the others which gave the bouquet were not materially altered, so that the the flavor of the spirit remained unchanged. Pot still whiskey, being a more impure spirit, gave even better results.—*London Chronicle.*

INDIAN MEDICINE MEN.

Thompson-Seton Gives an Illustration of their Shrewdness.

Ernest Thompson-Seton was talking about the Indian medicine man the other day, say the Philadelphia Ledger.

"Did you ever notice," said he, "that the Indian doctor's two prime remedies are today the prime remedies of the most advanced medical science also? They are massage and the vapor bath. The early explorers all ridiculed these two features of the medicine man's treatment as much as they did any of the rest; but enlightened physicians have adopted them now. Of course, the medicine men practiced all sorts of fraud and deception, but they were shrewd judges of character and that was the reason of their holding the position they did. Here is an example of it:

"Running Deer and Lame Dog had a quarrel. It was smoothed over and forgotten. A year afterwards Running Deer was found dead one morning in his tepee. The medicine man retired and remained invisible for two days. Then he called a council.

"When all were seated in order, he said: 'I have fasted and have had visions, and knowledge has been granted to me. You see this knife. There are three spots of blood on this side of the blade, three on the other side. I wipe off the blood; this side is clean. I put the knife behind me, so, in the council fire. Each man shall stand in turn. When the blood spots come back on the blade, that man will be the guilty one.

"'Storm Cloud, stand up. No blood comes on the blade. Storm Cloud, sit down. You are not guilty.

"'Blue Buffalo, stand up. No blood comes on the blade. Blue Buffalo, sit down. You are not guilty.'

"'Lame Dog, stand up. See, the blood comes back on the blade. Lame Dog is guilty.'

"Confronted by this supernatural proof of his guilt, Lame Dog broke down and confessed, and was thus brought to justice through shrewd judgement and a simple trick of sleight-of hand.

A HIGH PRICED CORN.

It Bothered a Banker and was Removed by a Surgeon.

Nelaton, the well know surgeon was one day hastily summoned to the house of a wealthy banker and on his arrival was received by the master of the house, who said that he wished him to perform an operation on him. As he seemed to be in perfect health Nelaton was surprised at these words, but the banker speedily convinced him that he was in earnest.

Seating himself in an armchair, he took off one shoe and stocking and then, holding out the foot, said, "There is a corn which is causing me much pain, and as you are the only one in whom I have any confidence I want you to cut it off."

Nelaton's first impulse was to take his hat and leave the room, for he thought it monstrous that a man of his reputation should be asked to perform such an operation. He quickly, however, regained his usual composure, and without a word he placed a napkin over his knee, took hold of the foot and removed the corn. In a few minutes he was back in his office, and his first act was to send the following bill to the banker: "For performing a surgical operation, $1,200."

It was now the banker's turn to be surprised, and he lost no time in informing the surgeon that he considered his bill exhorbitant.

Nelaton, however, replied that he was a surgeon and not a pedicure, and that, furthermore, he desired to teach on this occasion a lesson which might not be remembered if his bill for removing the corn was anything less than $1,200. The banker protested vigorously, but in vain, and finally he was obliged to pay the bill.

WHETER or not a man succeeds in life sometimes depends on whether he spurs himself or spares himself.—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

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