Cod-liver Oil.—J. C. DRUMMOND and S. S. ZILVA have made a study of the Norwegian cod-liver oil industry under the auspices of University College and the Lister Institute, London (*Jour. Soc. Chem. Ind.*, 1922, xli, Transactions, 280–284). Extraction of the oil from the livers by the old rotting process is rarely practiced. However, the inactivation of the fat-soluble vitamine during the rotting is not as serious as might be expected. The oil is usually extracted by treatment of the livers with direct steam or in a steam-jacketed pan. From the viewpoint of preservation of the vitamine, the steam-jacketed pan is possibly slightly superior to direct steam. One of the chief aims of the more progressive manufacturers is to avoid oxidation of the oil. Posetran is a second fraction obtained in the extraction of the oil; it passes drop by drop through filter bags, yet does not suffer any appreciable loss of the vitamine. In the process of refining, the oil is cooled to a temperature of 0° to -10° C. in order to remove the stearine. At times, the oil may also be treated with an adsorbent, then passed through a filter press. This treatment removes pigments. The process of removing the stearine has an almost negligible result on the vitamine content of the oil. The stearine is the equal of butter, if not superior to that food, as a source of the fat-soluble vitamine. Therefore the stearine should be used as a food, although it is now applied for technical purposes. The modern white cod-liver oils are as valuable as the dark oils from the viewpoints of nutrition and medicinal value. J. S. H.

A New Form of Precision Hydrometer. C. W. FOULK.—This hydrometer consists of a glass float moving freely in a glass tube carrying a suitable scale. Between the float and the lower end of the tube a light chain hangs in a catenary curve. The float is ballasted so as to be in approximately submerged floating equilibrium in the liquid to be tested. The final adjustment to exact equilibrium is automatically made by the action of the chain, and this position of the float is then read on the scale. With a properly calibrated instrument density determinations accurate to one unit in the fourth decimal place can be made in a couple minutes. (A. C. S. Abstract Service.)