

the liability of each of the more important to variation. This is especially the case in regard to an arsenical water.

SENN'S TABLE DELICACIES: POTTED FOIE GRAS; DEVILLED TONGUE; SARDINE PASTE; HYGIENIC CAVIARE.

(C. H. SENN, VAUXHALL-BRIDGE-ROAD.)

The circular sent with Mr. Senn's delicacies admits that "all the analyst can say of these preparations is that they are well made and free from any adulteration." We fully admit this, and willingly add "that they are excellent in flavour the public will soon discover." The articles which we have examined are, indeed, good of their kind, and to one of them, the caviare, we assigned well-merited praise more than two years ago.

DISTIL COFFEE EXTRACT.

(BEARE, GOSNELL, & CO., 81, SOUTHWARK-STREET.)

Described as a highly concentrated essence of coffee with chicory. It is a brown syrupy liquid. When suitably diluted (one teaspoonful in a cup of boiling water) it yields a beverage which in flavour, aroma, and body approaches to well-made coffee. We regard it as a good and useful preparation.

MICASENE TOILET SOAP.

(MICASENE SOAP WORKS, GRAVESEND; OFFICES, 5, THE SANCTUARY, WESTMINSTER.)

There is a peculiarity in this soap which distinguishes it from any other that has come before us. It contains a large quantity—no less than 18·07 per cent. in the sample we analysed—of mineral matter. This at first sight appears like a mere adulteration, and accordingly we have examined the article with some care. As to the soap proper, there can be no doubt of its excellent quality, as the following analysis will show. We found in 100 parts, water 7·79; mineral matter, 18·07; combined fatty acids, 57·40; combined soda, 8·56; resin, 3·70. There was a very slight excess of free fatty acid, and a trace of carbonic acid. These figures make it evident that the soap is quite free from alkalinity, and unexceptionable in composition. But it is in the mineral matter that the whole novelty lies, and after a careful study we have convinced ourselves that this matter, utterly foreign though it be to what is known as soap, is yet a valuable ingredient by no means to be described as an adulteration. It is a finely divided micaceous substance, which appears to possess distinct detergent value analogous to that of fuller's earth. As far as we can judge, the washing power of the soap is about equal to that of ordinary soaps of good quality, but it is singularly soft and pleasant in use, and seems well adapted for delicate skins. More extended experience will, we trust, confirm our impression as to its value.

ALASCO WINES.

(THE ALASCO WINE COMPANY, 33, LITTLE QUEEN-STREET, HOLBORN.)

Four samples of these wines have been submitted to us, two white and two red. They are very moderate in price, varying only from 18s. to 26s. a dozen, and appear to be the genuine produce of the Spanish grape. Certainly they are superior to a great deal of the wine sold as Spanish in England; but that, unfortunately, is not in itself a compliment. The alcoholic strength varied in the samples we tested from 8·10 to 13·15 per cent. by weight of alcohol, the residue, dried at 100° C., from 1·99 to 5·43 per cent., and the ash from ·34 to ·46 per cent. The white Alasco (labelled "rich") is a full-bodied wine, of good flavour.

DANVITA BITTERS.

(WINDER, WINDER, & CO., 39, FENCHURCH-STREET, E.C.)

Alcohol by weight 16·65 per cent., equal to 36 per cent. of proof spirit; residue dried at 100° C. (including sugar), 7·45 per cent.; ash, ·09 per cent. A well-prepared and palatable bitter, in which the orange flavour is paramount. We have found no noxious ingredients in it.

FINEST OLD SCOTCH WHISKY.

(MARGRAVE BROTHERS, LLANELLY.)

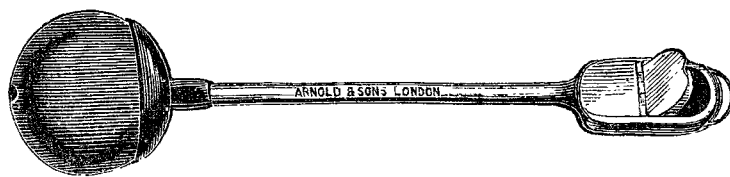
A Scotch whisky from Wales seems at first an anomaly, but everyone knows that in Scotch whiskies as they are con-

sumed all depends on the blending. In this case it has been skilfully accomplished, and the whisky is good enough to pass muster, even north of the Clyde, where people are very particular. Alcoholic strength 40·6 per cent. by weight, equal to 84 per cent. proof spirit.

New Inventions.

VAGINAL INSUFFLATOR.

HAVING always had a decided objection to the usual routine treatment of erosion of the os and cervix (accompanied or not by vaginal leucorrhœa) by glycerine tampons, I was pleased to read, about a year ago, of that adopted by Dr. Schwartz of Halle—viz., the application of powdered boric acid. The credit given to the dry treatment of sores and wounds in general surgery induced me also to give this a trial. I found that the insufflators usually sold held very little, and as it requires *at least half an ounce* of powder for each application in these cases, I had a vaginal insufflator made to contain it, and which the illustration will help to explain. It is similar in form to a covered spoon, and on the lid being raised it can be easily filled by being dipped into an receptacle containing the powder. When filled the lid is closed, and on being introduced into the vagina the rubber ball is compressed a few times, and the powder deposited on the os and vaginal walls. I have



had excellent results in cases of slight erosion of the os, and also in cases of leucorrhœa, whether of long or short duration, in conjunction of course with general treatment. The convenience of this form of insufflator should recommend it, as it can be used with or without the speculum. The vagina should be washed out in all cases, to remove the secretions thoroughly, previously to the application of the powders, and thus obtain their full value. I have found a powder composed of equal parts of alum, oxide of zinc, and boric acid very useful as a general rule, but the practitioner can choose the powder best suited to the case at his own option. The comfort of the patient is another consideration, and those who have experienced the discomfort of the glycerine tampon and other moist applications have invariably expressed a wish for the dry treatment in preference.

The makers of the vaginal insufflator are Messrs. Arnold and Sons, West Smithfield, London, who have carried out the idea to my complete satisfaction.

ALEXANDER DUKE, F.R.C.S.P.,
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to Stevens' Hospital.

Dublin.

THE VIADUCT AMBULANCE LITTER.

THIS apparatus, designed by A. Carter, of the Holborn Viaduct, seems a useful invention for the transport of sick or injured persons through the streets, or into the country by rail. It is a strong, light, ash framed stretcher, properly fitted up, and placed on an under frame having easy steel springs and indiarubber tyred wheels. The stretcher can be easily lifted from and replaced on the frame, and the litter can be wheeled into any ordinary railway van with the patient on it. It is so light that it could be pushed on level ground by one attendant; when the stretcher is to be taken off the frame, of course the services of two persons are required. The only drawback we see to it is that the third wheel has no spring between it and the frame, so that on a rough road there might be an uncomfortable jar. We understand that the litter has met with the approval of the Police and the Fire Brigade.