

tract of lemon, etc., and the various liniments, patent medicines, and domestic remedies, so appealing to a large fraction of the population. Dr. Wood says that already one hundred and fifty-eight authentic cases of blindness and one hundred and fifty-six deaths, due to wood alcohol, have been reported, and that there is every reason to believe that if the whole truth were known, the total number of cases would be largely increased, and the full number would exceed four hundred.

Steps are being taken to reduce the risk from this source. One suggestion is to have all wood alcohol preparations placed on the list of poisons. Another, made by Dr. Frank Miller, is that every package of wood alcohol should bear the warning that this fluid, taken internally, is likely to produce blindness. Such a label might be even more effective than the legend "poison," because to most people the fear of blindness is more impressive than that of possible death. Dr. Wood says that no doubt this precaution would limit the dangers of serious poisoning from methylated preparations, but it is very doubtful whether it will be entirely effective. Either the manufacture and sale of "deodorized" or "purified" wood alcohol, he holds, should be absolutely prohibited, or, as in Germany and Great Britain, an untaxed ethyl alcohol should be allowed for use in the arts, or the methyl alcohol should be rendered undrinkable by the addition of some nauseous compound.

#### GLUCOSE ENEMAS IN DIABETES.

#### THE WOOD ALCOHOL QUESTION.

PROGRESS is not always advantageous, and the refinements of modern life are often doubtful blessings. A conspicuous illustration of the untoward possibilities that may attend apparent victories of science, is found in the steadily increasing list of casualties reported since it has been found commercially feasible to deodorize and rectify methyl alcohol. As long as the wood alcohol of commerce was the vile-smelling nauseous, greenish liquid variously known as wood spirit, wood naphtha, pyroligneous spirit, etc., its many offensive qualities caused its use to be restricted to various legitimate manufacturing and other purposes, but in recent years it has appeared under new names, and in a more attractive guise. Deodorized and deprived of its disagreeable taste, it has been put on the market in new forms, highly recommended by its exploiters for many household purposes. Dr. Casey A. Wood, in an interesting discussion of the subject, in the *New York Medical Journal*, of January 7, 1905, points out the dangers attending the dissemination of this disguised poison, which now can be, and is, widely used to adulterate whiskey and other alcoholic beverages, witch hazel, bay rum, eau de cologne, Florida water, essences of all kinds, Jamaica ginger, ex-

normal mortality of Chicago. Six men have died in the last two weeks, and 35 are so ill that they are being paid benefits by the union.

**Wood Alcohol Legislation.**—A bill is being prepared for introduction into the New York State Legislature which, if it becomes a law, will, it is believed, prevent the adulteration of whiskey with wood alcohol. The bill provides that all manufacturers who make wood alcohol shall submit annual reports of sales to the State Department of Health. Proper inspection and sale restrictions are also to be provided for in the bill.

**Care of Consumptives.**—The Board of Health of Paterson

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**Recognition of Christian Scientists.**—The Christian Scientists are again attempting to obtain recognition under the medical laws of the State. Two bills have been introduced before the legislature, providing that when the Regents of the State University prepare examination papers for applicants to medical practice they shall prepare questions on "mental science as a means of promoting and preserving health," and that in the preparation of rules for examination of nurses, these rules shall provide, "among other things, for an examination in mental science as a means of promoting and preserving health."

**More Cases of Wood Alcohol Poisoning.**—The whiskey provided for the mourners at an East Side funeral last week appears to have been quite as vile a concoction as any sold in the infamous Striker's Farm district, a short time ago. One man is dead, another is totally blind, and several others are or have been sick, as the result of drinking the mixture, the low price of which was accounted for by the supposition that it was moonshine whiskey.