

enable it to serve as both a volatile and non-volatile key in establishing the identity of specially denatured alcohol 39B and 39C.

3. It possesses a bitter, acrid, and numbing taste which renders the spirit unfit for beverage purposes in one percent solution.

4. It leaves no sediment and is a natural constituent of many perfumes because of its presence as a solvent and adjusting agent in many of the synthetic perfume materials.

5. It is not poisonous or toxic when applied to the skin. It possesses the slight antiseptic quality of the phthalic group and takes off the drying and slightly caustic action which pure alcohol leaves on the skin.

6. Its chemical test of identity is positive and easily carried out.

7. Diethylphthalate of exceptionally high purity and standard quality is being produced commercially in this country by several reputable manufacturers, at a reasonable price.

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#### THE STATUS OF DRUG-PLANT GROWING IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1921.

BY W. W. STOCKBERGER.

In 1921 the commercial cultivation of drug plants occupied a much less favorable position than that reported for 1918. Following the renewal of imported supplies this industry promptly reacted to the general principle that the production of any article declines as the price drops. The medicinals which were successfully grown during the World War were

still produced in 1921 but in relatively unimportant quantities.

The drug gardens maintained by schools of pharmacy in various parts of this country which number 25 have continued to be centers of much popular interest, and, aside from their primary educational function, have rendered a distinct public service through the dissemination of practical information on drug-plant culture gained through experience.