

Concerning Neatsfoot Oil and Its Adulteration*

By DR. MARTIN AUERBACH

Under the above title I published in No. 31 of *Seifensieder-Zeitung* some experiences which I had in my laboratory concerning the adulteration and examination of neatsfoot oils. Some weeks ago there came under my observation an oil on which a test for adulteration was made which certainly is to be designated as original.

The sample was labeled: "Neatsfoot Oil," (purely animal oil).

The appearance of the sample was rather striking. It showed an unusual fluorescence. By analysis it was established to contain:

Water (volatile at 100°)	traces
Mineral substance	traces
Organic substances (insoluble in ether)	.0%
Unsaponifiable matter	52.5%
Saponifiable matter (by difference)	47.5%
Free fatty acid, as oleic acid	1.6%

The unsaponifiable parts were on account of their fluorescence pronounced to be mineral oil without further investigation. To this decision objection was made and there was submitted to me an analysis which contained the following data:

Specific gravity at 15°	.890
Freezing point	-6°
Point of turbidity	-1°
Iodine number	40-42
Free fatty acids	2-3%
Unsaponifiable matter	43%

Although every specialist recognizes from these data with certainty that pure neatsfoot oil is not involved in this case, the attempt at deception was contained by the claim in writing that the oil in question was absolutely pure animal oil, and that most chemists pronounce the unsaponifiable ingredients falsely to be mineral oils. It was stated that in America the chemists involved had become convinced of the fact that the oil involved was in reality 100% pure animal oil.

The further proceedings as well as the further investigations excluding the oil resulted in a perfectly clear picture concerning the attempt at deception. The unsaponifiable matter was in reality not mineral oil, but proved to be wool fat olein by reason of its iodine number and its optical property.

Although I hardly believe that American chemists are willing to designate an oil of this kind, originating it is true from an animal product, as a purely animal oil, I myself had difficulties, in view of these American assertions, to make clear to my agent that the oil was neither

a pure neatsfoot oil—which he was willing to acknowledge in any event—nor in general a pure animal oil.

I believe that this attempt at misleading the consumers of the expensive neatsfoot oil deserves general interest.

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Gold Dust Plan Effective

The Gold Dust Corporation has announced that more than 51 per cent. of the capital stock of the Standard Milling Company have been deposited with the Equitable Trust Company as assenting to the offer of last Jan. 8, under which Gold Dust offered its securities in exchange for those of Standard Milling.

New Books

Glycerol and the Glycols by James W. Lawrie, Ph.D. Published by Chemical Catalog Co., Inc., New York, 425 pages. Binding cloth. Size, 6¼ by 9¼. The first five chapters of the book are devoted to a review of the various methods of production of glycerol. Its physical and chemical properties are then analyzed, and quantitative and qualitative tests are given. International standard specifications are listed, and statistics concerning past production and price trends are presented. Two chapters are devoted to the production and properties of nitroglycerol and the glycols. The commercial uses of these products are enumerated, and the book closes with an attempt to forecast the future use and importance of glycerol.

The Virginia State Conservation and Development Commission of Richmond has recently issued a most attractive brochure entitled "Industrial Virginia," which the Commission describes as "A brief industrial sketch and fact sheet. This booklet gives the pertinent facts concerning the developed industries and the industrial opportunities in the "Old Dominion." It contains a wealth of interesting material attractively and concisely presented, and should have a place in the file of every industrialist. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from E. O. Fippin, Secretary, State Conservation and Development Commission, Richmond, Virginia.