Oil and Water

ELIMINATION of undesirable tastes and odors in oil and water has long puzzled chemists and officials in those industries. The old saying is that oil and water do not mix, but singularly Nuchar has the properties of eliminating odor and taste from these widely separated materials. Colonel J. Wrench, authority on carbon purification with Industrial Chemical Sales Company, is quoted from a recent press despatch as follows: "There are more than two thousand algae which live in water and color it green, yellow, or red and in many cases gives to water a disagreeable taste or odor." Colonel Wrench is further quoted:

"These scents of the aquatic plants are varied: some are aromatic, some are musty. Others make the water taste fishy, peaty, and one gives off an indescribable stench similar to that arising from a pig pen. A few drops of any of these plant excretions will disflavor the contents of a whole reservoir. In addition to odors, these water plants may give a colored tinge to the water.

"The average person, finding the water of a city with unusual taste, odor or color, is immediately afraid of it. Human nature is that way. When the water of a city is off flavor, and it is that way in hundreds of cities every year, a statement by the water works superintendent that the water is safe, but just bad-tasting, does not wholly reassure the citizens. The grandmothers in their unfounded fears start boiling the water exactly as they did years ago.

"But again science has triumphed. For many years the water supply of American cities has been safe to drink; now it is possible to remove the tastes and odors arising from the plant life in the reservoir. A new form of activated carbon, known as Nuchar, has been perfected by research chemists for the Industrial Chemical Company, of New York City. A pound of this substance, costing only five cents, will remove the undesirable odor, taste and color from one hundred thousand gallons of water. Low in cost and easy to use, there is no longer any excuse for a community to suffer with foul-tasting water. Although perfected but three years ago, Nuchar activated carbon is now being used by nearly 500 cities in the United States," continues Col Wrench.

"This new substance is truly one of the most remarkable achievements of modern science. Made from vegetable fibers, one cubic inch of this activated carbon possesses the almost unbelievable total of 20,000 square yards of external and internal surface. An ounce of it consists of more than 2,000,000,000,000 particles. The remarkable property of Nuchar activated carbon in absorbing the odors arising from plant growths common in all reservoirs, is due to the extremely minute division of the substance."

The Colonel, who is a member of our Society, indulges in games as widely separated as oil and water. He is an excellent golfer and will give anyone a run for his money. Look out for him at the Golf Tournament. Also if you indulge in bridge, it is suggested that you select him as a partner rather than as an opponent. Likewise he is a jolly good fellow.

Soap and Kernel Oil Industry of Greece

The soap and kernel oil industry in Greece is a branch of an old and important chemical industry. Its contribution to the national economy of the country is of considerable value, for it absorbs large quantities of Greek agricultural products and brings in foreign exchange from its sales abroad.

Up to the end of 1920 there were about 110 plants, of which 33 were kernel oil presses. At present there are about 175 plants, of which only 33 are for kernel oil extraction, with an annual production of about 275,000,000 pounds of oil a year. Of these 33 plants, some 13 also manufacture soap.

There are 155 soap factories operating in Greece at present, with an annual production of 55,000,000 pounds of soap.

The total value of the kernel oil plants is estimated at about $1,950,000 and of the soap factories at about $325,000.

Raw Materials

The principal raw material used by these industries is the kernel of the olive. Consequently, its sufficiency in raw material depends exclusively on the abundance of the olive crop. The annual olive-kernel production is about double the olive oil production, half of this amount being used locally for fuel and the other half is used for the kernel oil industry.

The soap industry uses the products of the kernel oil industry for the manufacture of green soap (ordinary soap for household use) as well as commercial olive oil and sulphur oil for the manufacture of white household soap. The amounts used annually for this purpose are about 22,000,000 pounds of kernel oil and sulphur oil valued at about $1,690,000, and about 17,600,000 pounds of olive oil valued at $1,872,000. For the conversion of these raw materials into soap, caustic soda and carbonate of soda are used, the greatest part of which is imported from France, Belgium and Germany.

Production

The total production of kernel oil during the four year period 1928-1931 was as follows: 1928, 22,000,000 pounds; 1929, 29,700,000; 1930, 27,500,000; and 1931, 22,440,000.

The production of laundry soap during the four year period averaged about 55,000,000 pounds each year, while that of toilet soap averaged only about 990,000 pounds yearly.

Products Manufactured

A great portion of laundry soap manufactured in Greece is consumed locally. The quality of the soap is considered good, with the exception that it dissolves too quickly. Greece manufactures besides the two types of laundry soap mentioned, a wide variety of toilet soap.

Competition

Foreign comptition is unimportant and does not impede the development of the local sales. Very few foreign soaps are imported, with the exception of high priced toilet soaps. There is keen competition, however, among local manufacturers, which very often forces prices down to low levels.

Imports of Soap

Imports of soap, mainly toilet soap, amounted in 1930 to 182,302 pounds valued at $33,491, and in 1931 imports totaled 151,252 pounds with a value of $26,882.

A list of soap factories and kernel oil plants is available for 50 cents to any interested parties by addressing the Commercial Intelligence Division of this Bureau.