

responding percentage of absolute alcohol. This he states is due to their acid properties.

Malt beverages, as ales and beers, he states, also have a retarding influence on salivary and pancreatic digestion due to their acidity but it is less marked than it is in the wines. Both of the above tables show that some of the ales and beers are decidedly less toxic than the wines. Some of them, however, were as poisonous as the wines in the experiments where young were produced, but in the 10-30 minutes experiment on acute toxicity only Bass's ale equaled the toxicity of any of the wines. Its toxicity was the highest of all the malt beverages but it did not exceed the lowest toxicity of the wines.

The distilled beverages, whiskey, gin and brandy, were conspicuously less poisonous in both sets of experiments than either the wines or malt beverages. This is probably due to the fact that in the distilling process of their manufacture the volatile substances are separated from the non-volatile and perhaps toxic materials and are subsequently used in the making of the liquors. These distilled liquors approached the point of toxicity of absolute alcohol which was the least poisonous of all the alcoholic solutions used. Because of its purity it served as a control with which all the other beverages can be compared.

In a comparison it is readily seen that the wines are the most toxic, the malt liquors stand second in point of toxicity, and lastly the distilled liquors are the least toxic of all the beverages and approach nearest to the toxicity of absolute alcohol.

The value of these experiments is to show again that in the three main kinds of alcoholic beverages there are other important toxic ingredients than ethyl alcohol and also to demonstrate that the various alcoholic liquors when reduced to the same percentage of alcohol differ widely in their point of toxicity.

The results perhaps explain why different alcoholic beverages have such different effects upon the drunkard even though an equal intoxication is produced. It is generally recognized that brandy produces a certain type of drunkenness and that cider produces another

type differing widely from the brandy type. Many of the other liquors also produce a particular type of drunkenness the characteristics of which are typical for each liquor. These types of drunkenness are doubtless partly caused, at least, by the non-alcoholic ingredients in the liquors.

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MIDDLETOWN, CONN.,
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BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC COAST

THE first meeting of a new society for Pacific coast biologists was held on April 1 at Berkeley, California. An afternoon meeting, at which papers were presented by President Jordan and Professor Zinsser, of Stanford University, and Professors Kofoed and Maxwell, of the University of California, was followed by a dinner at the Hotel Shattuck, and by participation, in the evening, in a joint general public meeting of the newly organized Pacific Coast Association of Scientific Societies. At this meeting addresses were made by Presidents Wheeler and Jordan, of California and Stanford universities, Professor Kellogg, of Stanford University, and Mr. George Dickie, marine engineer, of San Francisco.

The Biological Society of the Pacific Coast begins with an active membership of seventy, representing California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona and Utah. Three meetings will be held each college year, of which one will be known as the annual meeting and will be held in conjunction with the meetings of the various other societies composing the Pacific Coast Association of Scientific Societies. The officers of the society for 1911-12 are: Professor Vernon L. Kellogg, president; Professor H. B. Torrey, secretary-treasurer, and Professor H. J. Maxwell, third member of the executive committee.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE HELMINTHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE fourth regular meeting of the society was held at Dr. Stiles's residence on February 9, 1911, Dr. Stiles acting as host and Dr. Pfender as chairman.

Mr. Foster presented a note on a nematode from the stomach of the pig. This form had been provisionally identified as *Spiroptera strongylina*,