

will inevitably be the fate of a number of those who may be misled by such statements and attempt to use synthetic methanol as a beverage."

As a result of his experiments on animals, Dr. Hunt finds that small doses of either methanol or ordinary wood alcohol are not as poisonous as the same amount of ethyl, or grain, alcohol; but when the doses are repeated a few times at 24 hours intervals, the methanol has the most harmful effect. This is because the animal develops a tolerance to the ethyl alcohol. Methanol, however, works differently, as it has a cumulative action, a number of small doses having the same effect as a similar amount given at once.

Man, however, is sensitive to both, and, according to Dr. Hunt, a small dose of methyl alcohol is more harmful than a similar dose of ethyl alcohol. "The more highly developed nervous system of man is more seriously affected by methyl alcohol than is that of the lower animals and permanent blindness has often been reported from single, sometimes small, doses of methyl alcohol, whereas such results are unknown in the case of ethyl alcohol."

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

THE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY AND HOT SPRINGS OF LASSEN PEAK, by Arthur L. Day and E.T. Allen. Washington; The Carnegie Institution of Washington. Publication No. 360. 190 pages. 1925.

This is one of the most successful pieces of scholarship on volcanism and thermal waters that has been produced in this country. It should be of great interest to all geologists and students of geophysics. Outside of these special classes should appeal also to the educated national parks enthusiast, for it contains more complete information about this recently created national park than can be found elsewhere in the compass of a single volume.

THE HEAVENS; by J.H. Fabre, translated by Dr. E.E. Fournier d'Albe, 336 pp Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott Company, no date.

Jean Henri Fabre was an acknowledged master in the gentle art of putting scientific facts into popular form, and his style has been ably preserved in the translation of this book by Dr. d'Albe. However, it was first published about fifty years ago, and while it was doubtless complete up to that time, it is unfortunate that it should now be republished without adequate revision. An attempt has been made to indicate some of the later discoveries by an occasional footnote inserted by the translator. This method is at best a makeshift, and when we see such a note as that on page 310, where the author refers to alpha Centauri, the nearest star to the earth, 4.3, light years distant, and the translator states that "A smaller star, called Proxima Centauri, has recently been discovered at about half that distance", we are compelled to question the accuracy of all his notes. Actually, of course, Proxima Centauri is but a fraction of a light year nearer than alpha, the two forming a binary system. Many of the illustrations are poorly reproduced, and it is difficult to understand why a plate such as that facing page 334, showing old drawings of comets and nebulae, should be used as representing these objects when so many modern photographs, taken at the greatest observatories, are so easily available.