BEER AWARDS AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Prof. Wiley Explains to the Cosmos Club
How Worthless They Were.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Cosmos Club of this city, had an opportunity last night to learn how the awards for beer were made at the Chicago Exposition, and how they were rendered practically worthless by the arbitrary decisions of the experts.

Prof. Wiley, who lectured on the subject, made the analysis of the competing beers at the World's Fair. He stated that there had been a good deal of confusion throughout the country as to the results of beer awards at the fair, and that this was tolerably well founded, producing in evidence at two bottles of beer from well-known breweries, each bearing a label claiming the highest award from the World's Fair.

Prof. Wiley said that his part of the examination had been merely as to the chemical composition of beers. The chemical examination was to be for a pure malt beer, which means the presence of malt extract and water. With a view to determining this, Prof. Worley had made in the laboratory a set of nine home-brewed beers, some of pure malt, some with the addition of glucose, some with rice and some with hominy grits, in known proportions. An analysis of these known samples was then made for albuminoids, alcohol, nitrogen, ash, and these analyses were compared with the analyses of the competing beers which were submitted.

Prof. Wiley refused, however, to take any beers for analysis except those without labels, and they were known to himself and to his assistants only by numbers. In spite of all precautions, the jury of experts, when they came to make up the decisions, arbitrarily changed the ratings of some beers. The lecturer had the results of the analyses of the nine varieties of laboratory beers tabulated on the blackboard for the benefit of the audience and went at some length into the chemical discrimination formed by the addition of rice, grits, and other grains as substitutes for the pure malt.

The use of rice cut down the percentage of albuminoids just half, and the speaker said he thought would also be liable to produce a dangerous amount of fusel alcohol, though there was no test made for this substance in the analyses, the object of the investigation being not to determine what was the most healthful beer, but simply to determine which of the samples came the nearest to being the pure malt article.

There was quite a discussion on the subject at the lecture, and a number of the members stating that, in view of the action of the jury of experts, the examination was worse than no examination, and that the system of awarding premiums was, as a whole, a disgrace to the supposed intelligence of the country. At the close of the discussion Dr. Worley offered for sale a bottle of some of the pure laboratory brew of the Agricultural Department, in contrast to some of the other beers, which contained a particular kind of grits, and other substitutes for the malt.

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