

Adulteration of Table Spices.

'Give me a quarter of a pound of black pepper,' said a customer to an up-town New York grocer recently. 'I want it pure.'

The grocer took down a little package done up in foil and adorned with a yellow label bearing the legend: 'Pure black pepper.'

'This is what sells for black pepper, but seeing I know you pretty well I don't mind telling you there's not a grain of black pepper in it. I worked for five years in the milling room of a spice-mill, and I'm on to the business from end to end. Now, this particular spice is made this way: Take eighty-six pounds of finely-ground bran mixed with pulverized charcoal—the last to represent the black hull of the pepper grain; then add fifteen pounds of ground cayenne pepper, and there you are with 100 pounds of pure black pepper.'

'It's the same way with mustard,' the grocer continued. 'Fifteen or twenty pounds of cayenne pepper, the balance of cheap wheat flour colored yellow, makes 100 pounds of genuine mustard. The highest grades, which aren't often retailed, contain as much as one-half of real mustard. But cream of tarter is the biggest swindle. A fifteen-pound can of the low grade contains one pound of tartaric acid and fourteen pounds of terra alba. The terra alba is a mild alkali and neutralizes the effect of the acid. Higher grades of the mixture contain a trifle more tartaric acid.'

'You probably think you've eaten some cinnamon in your time,' the grocer went on. 'Well, you haven't. I don't suppose there's ten pounds of cinnamon bark in the United States. What passes for cinnamon is the bark of the cassia tree. This is adulterated with a still coarser bark, known as cassia vera. The article is also mixed with peats and roost bran. I need not tell you about roast coffee; everybody knows about that. It's just the same way through the whole list of spices. If you could smuggle yourself into the basement of some spice mill you would find bins of bran, peats, terra alba, etc. —Mailand Express.'

His Education.

'What is your name?' asked the young lady school teacher, addressing a boy she had called up.

'Dave Black.'

'Well, Davey, have you ever been to school very much?'

'None.'

'Do you know your letters? Reckon so.'

'Can you spell?'

'Kaint spell cow, but I ken spell hoss.'

'You must say horse, not hoss.'

'That's what pap says.'

'Well, he's wrong.'

'Blame of he is.'

'You must not say that.' What must I say, cuss it?'

'Gracious, no.'

'Pap says it.'

'Well, but you must not. Are you the only child at home?'

'None, I ain't at home.'

'I mean are you the only one when you are there?'

'Not if any of the rest uv 'em air that?'

'You have brothers and sisters, then, I suppose?'

'Yes, got a brother an' a sister, but a sister married a Fool.'

'Married whom?'

'Foot.'

'Is that his name?'

'I reckon so, for I heard pap say that Sal had run away with that fool.'

'That will do. Go over there now and sit down.'

'Tired a-setten'; wanter go out an' slos round er little. Well, er good-by.'

Davey's education was complete.—Arkansaw Traveler.

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