The Atlantic Report: Science & Industry

Alcohol Without Hangovers

Dr. Robert Carroll, a chemical consultant, and Dr. Lawrence C. O'Brien, of Perkin-Elmer Corporation, report they have found a way to distinguish between those ingredients of an alcoholic beverage that cause hangovers and those that make it taste and smell good. Now they are working on ways to distill alcoholic liquors relatively free of the fusel oil and acetaldehyde that make trouble, yet preserving characteristic flavor and aroma. If successful. such a process would cut short or even eliminate the expensive aging now necessary to make many liquors palatable.

Partisan drinkers may be glad to hear that vodka and gin contain less of the undesirable chemicals than other forms. Of the various types of whiskies, Scotch has the lowest hangover potential from the chemical point of view.

Source: The Atlantic, July 1959, p. 18