

I have often received complaints of adulteration; but the informers have always been adverse to taking the necessary action in the matter, as required by the Act. This is also borne out by the fact that not a single sample has been received through the Inspectors during the past year; and I am very strongly of opinion that the Act would be much more beneficial if it gave power to the police to enforce the sale of articles, as, from their superior knowledge of the reputation of the publichouses, &c., they are in a much better position to detect offenders than the Inspectors could ever possibly be.

A knowledge of the fact that the police possess power to purchase articles for analysis would of itself, I believe, have a very beneficial effect. This opinion is confirmed with regard to the adulteration of bread. Formerly this appears to have been a very common practice here; whereas at the last raid made by the police, out of twenty samples not one was found to be adulterated.

Clause 13 of the Act requires amendment, so as to provide that the article received should be divided into two portions, one of which should be retained by the collector, as it often occurs that none of the sample is left after analysis, in cases where a small quantity only is received. In the event of the present Act remaining in force, it might be made much more efficient if orders were issued to the police to act as informers to the Inspectors, who would then be able to take action on such information. The amendment of the Act, however, would be much more satisfactory.

Canterbury College Laboratory,
3rd July, 1879.

A. W. BICKERTON,
Colonial Analyst.

REPORT ON the ANALYSIS of TWELVE SAMPLES of BREAD received from Constable STEPHENSON,
14th October, 1878.

Laboratory numbers	...	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335
Numbers on samples	...	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
Water, per cent.	...	43.14	41.84	44.34	40.43	36.33	41.09	43.86	40.96	41.42	40.49	39.33	40.61
Ash, per cent.	...	1.05	1.01	.71	1.11	1.09	.57	.97	.72	1.18	1.07	.58	.58
Sulphuric acid	...	Trace	Trace	Trace	Small amount	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace
Alum, by Horship test	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Very strong indications	Nil	Indications	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Alumina, by fusion with sodium	...	...	...	Nil	Considerable quantity	...	Small quantity	...	...	...	...	...	...
Copper and iron	...	...	...	...	...	Absent in all cases.							
Reaction of aqueous infusion	...	...	...	...	...	All acid.							
Reaction of ash	...	...	...	...	...	All alkaline.							
Weight of loaves, as determined by police	...	1lb. 15½oz.	No scales	2lb. 1oz.	1lb. 13oz.	1lb. 13oz.	1lb. 15oz.	2lb.	2lb.	2lb.	1lb. 14oz.	2lb.	2lb.

The general character and make of these samples of bread, taken as a whole, are very satisfactory; and the above analyses point to the fact that, with the exception of Nos. 327 and 329, they are unadulterated. There is strong evidence that potatoes have been used in all cases, but in none of them in quantities sufficient to be considered as an adulteration. The samples Nos. 327 and 329 have been adulterated with alum, the former to a considerable extent.

Canterbury College Laboratory, 17th October, 1878.

A. W. BICKERTON,
Analyst.