

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON

Wines and Spirits.—(Twelve Samples.)

In the Subjoined table water at 60° Fahr. is taken as 1,000; absolute alcohol at 60° Fahr. as 793·8.

No.	Name.	Specific gravity.	Alcohol.	Remarks.
1	Brandy	920·246	49 to 50	Sp. gr. a great deal to high (acid).
2	Rum	930·197	43 to 44	
3	Port Wine	1016·724		
4	Scotch Whiskey	930·530	44 to 45	Sp. gr. too high (acid).
5	Port Wine	1048·212		
6	Irish Whiskey	950·072	34 to 35	
7	Rum	934·9	42 to 43	This alcohol is not correct, the sweetening in Old Tom raising the sp. gr.
8	Gin	944·26	37 to 38	
9	Old Tom	952·73	33 to 34	
10	Sherry	980·624		Acid.
11	Claret	995·244		Acid.
12	Scotch Whiskey	942·430	39 to 39	

For want of proper apparatus it is impossible to determine the exact materials with which the above are adulterated.

Beer.

Samples from Bellamy's contain :—

- No. 1. Nil.
- No. 2. Nil.
- No. 3. Nil.
- No. 4. Has been adulterated with *cocculus indicus* and *nux vomica*.
- No. 5. Nothing of a deleterious nature detected.

Bread.

The six "two-pound" loaves of bread submitted by the Inspector of Police on the 11th instant, on being tried by the Government standard weights, gave the following results :—

- No. 1 ... 1oz. short weight.
- No. 2 ... 1oz. 13dwts. short weight.
- No. 3 ... 7dwts. short weight.
- No. 4 ... 1oz. 1dwt. short weight.
- No. 5 ... 2oz. over weight.
- No. 6 ... 1oz. 8 dwts. short weight.

12th July, 1870.

JAMES HECTOR.

No. 3.

MEMORANDUM in further reply to Questions by the Chairman.

THE following quantities of the various substances mentioned should be sent to the Laboratory when an analysis is desired :—

- 1. Beer in bulk, 2 quarts; beer bottled, 2 bottles as sold.
- 2. Wines and spirits in bulk, 1 pint; wines and spirits bottled, 1 bottle as sold.
- 3. Coffee, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; or, if made up, 1 packet as sold.
- 4. Tea is hardly worth sending, as it is rarely adulterated except in China.
- 5. Sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., carefully weighed and sealed up in a close glass stoppered bottle to guard against loss of moisture.
- 6. Pickles, 1 bottle. There is a strong temptation to the injurious adulteration of these articles.
- 7. Preserves of all kinds, 1 tin or package.
- 8. Pepper, spice, &c., $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

All articles should be sent officially, and sealed by the person to whom the report is to be made. Each package should be distinguished by a letter or mark, signed and dated by the sender. All samples should be sent in carefully cleaned and dried, glass stoppered bottles.

Special List of Articles required at the Laboratory for the purpose of Analysis in relation to the Adulteration of Food, &c.

	£	s.	d.
Powerful microscope (with polarizer)	15	0	0
Liebig's condenser	3	10	0
Potash bulbs	1	5	0
Chloride calcium tubes	0	10	0
Combustion tubing	1	0	0
Combustion furnace (Hoffman's)	4	10	0
Aspirators	2	0	0
Double-action air pump	11	0	0
Burettes (at least six of uniform size)	3	0	0
Sp. Gr. bottles	2	0	0
Chemical watch glasses and clips	1	0	0
Glass cylinders on feet	1	0	0
Nitrogen tubes	1	0	0