

CANTERBURY.

SIR,—

6 Brittan Street, Linwood, Christchurch, 6th April, 1908.

I have the honour to forward you, under separate cover, the returns of the 109 analyses made by me during the year ending 31st March, 1908.

In reference to the amount of proof-spirit in drinks, I would like to draw your attention to the need of bringing the various Acts into line in regard to the percentage to be allowed. "The Licensing Act, 1881," especially requires to have the amount stated, as many experts hold, in interpreting the word "beer" under section 4, that, unless the drink in question has sufficient proof-spirit present to actually make a person intoxicated, it is not a beer under the Act. They hold that it would require at least about 7 per cent. of proof-spirit to make it intoxicating. On the other hand, the Customs collect duty under the new Beer Duty Act on any beer containing over 3 per cent. of proof-spirit, though some solicitors hold that the fact of its being excisable does not prove it to be a beer under the Licensing Act. "The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1907," section 22, states that a person commits an offence if he sells any food which, not having paid Customs or Excise duty, contains more than 2 per cent. of proof-spirit.

I would again respectfully urge the need for an analytical laboratory in Christchurch, especially as the new regulations gazetted under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act will necessitate a lot of standard appliances being obtained to make the prescribed analyses.

I have, &c.,

A. A. BICKERTON,
Government Analyst.

Dr. Mason, Chief Health Officer, Wellington.

RETURN OF ANALYSES for the Year ended 31st March, 1908. (Analytical Laboratory, Christchurch.)

Department or Person from whom Sample received.	Nature of Sample.	Date received.	Adulteration suspected, or for what analysed.	Result.
		1907.		
Customs ..	Acetic acid ..	Mar. 27 ..	Tariff ..	58 per cent. acetic acid.
Health ..	Water, Geraldine supply—river	" 28 ..	Purity ..	Total solids, 3.92 gr. per gal.; loss on ignition, 1.68; chlorides, 0.98; lime, 0.42; silicates, 0.84; free ammonia, 0.008; album. ammonia, 0.005 (parts per million).
" ..	Water, Geraldine supply—service	" 28 ..	" ..	Total solids, 3.35 gr.; loss on ignition, 1.68; chlorides, 0.98; lime, 0.13; silicates, 0.56; free ammonia, 0.008; album. ammonia, 0.005. A good water.
Police ..	Contents of stomach of late Miss Hodges	April 3 ..	Poison ..	Found no poison present.
" ..	Towel containing vomit of late Miss Hodges	" 5 ..	" ..	"
Health ..	Water from Heathcote River for the consumptive sanatorium	" 3 ..	Purity ..	Loss on ignition, 2.24 gr. per gal.; chlorides, 2.18; lime, 1.18; silicates, 0.56; sulphates, iron and nitrates, trace; free ammonia, 0.01; album. ammonia, 0.02. Contained suspended matter which will no doubt settle in time and then the water will be good.
Customs ..	Acetic acid ..	" 21 ..	Tariff ..	68.1 acetic acid.
Police ..	Powders (nine) ..	" 22 ..	Poison ..	Analysed each of the nine separately. Found to be sugar, and free from poison.
" ..	Human stomach ..	" 23 ..	" ..	Contained oxalic acid.
" ..	Washings from human stomach	" 22 ..	" ..	Morphia was found.
" ..	Amber oval bottle ..	" 23 ..	" ..	"
" ..	Sweepings from floor of "lock-up"	" 23 ..	" ..	Found tobacco.
" ..	White fragments ..	" 23 ..	" ..	Was lime, free from poison.
" ..	Bottle containing tea ..	" 23 ..	" ..	Free from poison.
Customs ..	Glacial acetic acid ..	" 29 ..	Tariff ..	Acetic acid, 97 per cent.; melting-point, 54° Fahr. Not glacial.
Police ..	Strawberry-jam ..	" 30 ..	Purity ..	Pure genuine strawberry-jam.
" ..	Peach-jam ..	" 30 ..	" ..	" peach-jam.
" ..	Apricot-jam ..	" 30 ..	" ..	" apricot-jam.
" ..	Blackberry-jam ..	" 30 ..	" ..	" blackberry-jam.
" ..	Cape-gooseberry jam ..	" 30 ..	" ..	" Cape gooseberry jam.
" ..	Raspberry-jam ..	" 30 ..	" ..	" raspberry-jam.
Customs ..	Acetic acid ..	May 15 ..	Tariff ..	58.7 per cent. acetic acid.
" ..	Glacial acetic acid ..	" 23 ..	" ..	99 per cent. acetic acid; 59° Fahr. melting-point. Not glacial.
Health ..	Water, Mackenzie Township	June 3 ..	Purity ..	Volatile matter, 7.39 gr. per gal.; sodium-chloride, 10.9; sodium-sulphate, 1.16; calcium-sulphate, 2.51; calcium-carb., 8.5; iron and silicates, 1.8; magnesia, trace; free ammonia, 0.12; album. ammonia, 0.06; oxygen absorbed in four hours, 0.05 (parts per 100,000). A bad water, and unfit for drinking.
" ..	Water, Mackenzie Public School well	" 3 ..	" ..	Volatile matter, 11.8; sodium-chloride, 26.2; sodium-sulphate, 11.6; calcium-sulphate, 6.5; calcium-carb., 16; magnesium-sulphate, 7.2; iron and silicates, 0.6; free ammonia, 0.02; album. ammonia, 0.04 (parts per million); oxygen absorbed in four hours, trace (parts per 100,000).