THE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF FOODS

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by
H. E. COX, Ph.D., D.Sc.
and
DAVID PEARSON, M.Sc.



1962

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The Chemical Analysis of Foods

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST AMERICAN EDITION

The sudden death of the eminent Public Analyst, Dr. H. E. Cox, in 1951 came as a shock to all who were connected with food analysis. Long before this, "Cox" meant to members of the profession a standard work to which to refer for advice on analytical methods and interpretation. Also his tables of analytical data based on long experience have been widely used and quoted throughout the English speaking countries ever since the first edition was published. Although it was considered advisable to make various changes to bring this new edition up-to-date, an attempt has been made to retain Dr. Cox's style, which has been described as "readable and to the point."

The first American edition corresponds to the fifth British edition with the modification that instead of a summary of food legislation in England and Wales, the Requirements for food of the United States Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act are given in Chapter 1. As the body of the text was retained in its original form the reference to British food legislation could not be eliminated from special sections. The users of this book should refer to Chapter 1 for American requirements whenever necessary. Three new basic chapters have been inserted at the beginning of this edition.

Many of the general methods such as those which are available for the determination of moisture, protein, fat, etc., have been brought together in Chapter 2. Similarly, the methods which may be employed for the detection and determination of trace elements, preservatives, colouring matters, etc., have been incorporated in Chapter 3, instead of being included in various parts of the book with specific foods. The titles of Chapters 4–14 are very similar to Chapters 1–11 in the previous edition, but much of the material has been re-written and many foods have been added to those previously covered, e.g., mincemeat, numerous herbs and spices, ice-cream, table jellies. Also entirely new sections on butter confectionery, iodised salt, saccharin tablets and soups have been included in the "Miscellaneous" Chapter 15.

With the tremendous advances being made in the subject, it is now more difficult than ever to decide what is not to be included in a fairly small volume of this type. Also, it is well known that food analysts differ considerably in their choice of methods and any book on the subject therefore is liable to reflect to a greater or lesser extent the personal choice of the author. In this volume the aim has been to bring the material more in line with current practice in the average food laboratory, which is equipped for dealing with routine work. At the same time, a large number of references are quoted, which should enable the reader to seek out further information as to alternative methods which are available. In this connection, it may be noted that most of the recently introduced methods are included in the reviews which appear periodically in the U.S. journal "Analytical Chemistry."

As previously, the matter contained in most sections is largely based on the work carried out by Public Analysts. With many materials, a suggestion is made as to the type of tests which are called for in routine work, and an indication is also given of other methods which may be performed when a more searching examination is necessary. One difference from the previous edition, however, is that in many instances mention is made of other methods which are likely to be used in the food industry for control purposes. Similarly, although the standardised methods of the Analytical Methods Committee of the Society for Analytical Chemistry (formerly the Society of Public Analysts) are given major prominence, those published by the British Standards Institution (which appear to be increasingly used in industry) are also included where appropriate. Such additions should, it is hoped, make the book more useful to a wider section of readers.

It is obviously impossible to thank all of one's past and present colleagues, and others one has met, who have helped in different ways with the preparation of a book of this type. The author feels, however, that this opportunity should not be allowed to pass without according special thanks to Mr. R. G. Minor, F.R.I.C., F.P.S. (Deputy Public Analyst and Lecturer-in-Charge of the Food and Drugs Section at Chelsea College of Science and Technology), whose experience, encouragement and good humour at all times have been invaluable. Special thanks are also due to another "Chelsea" colleague, Mr. E. C. Apling, B.Sc., A.R.I.C. (Chief Chemist, D. W. Kent-Jones and A. J. Amos), for first-rate assistance, particularly during proof reading, and to Mr. E. C. Tubb, B.A., B.Sc. (Chief Chemist, Tate and Lyle Ltd.), for supplying much useful information relating to the composition and properties of cane and beet sugar. Also the author would like to thank the numerous official Associations, Societies and other organisations who readily gave permission to use published information, among whom are the following:

American Association of Cereal Chemists, Minnesota, U.S.A.
Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, Washington, U.S.A.
Association of Public Analysts, London.
British Pharmacopoeia Commission (General Medical Council),
London.
Canada Department of Agriculture, Summerland, B.C.
C.S.I.R.O. (Division of Food Preservation), Homebush, N.S.W.
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.
National Bureau of Standards, U.S.A.
Society for Analytical Chemistry, London.
Society of Chemical Industry, London.

Finally, the new author would like to repeat a statement made by Dr. Cox in the preface to the first edition, that he "will be grateful to anyone directing his attention to errors, which are sure to have crept in, so that they may be eliminated."

D. PEARSON.

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CONTENTS

CHAPT	ER	PAGE
1	REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD OF THE UNITED STATES FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT	1
2	GENERAL METHODS Moisture—Ash—Nitrogen and Crude Protein—Fat—Crude Fibre—Calcium, Phosphate—"Filth" Test	30
3	GENERAL METHODS Trace Elements—Preservatives—Antioxidants—Colouring Matters	49
4	SUGAR AND PRESERVES Sugars—Syrup—Liquid Glucose—Honey—Jams—Marma- lade—Fruit Curd—Mincemeat	105
5	CEREALS AND STARCH PRODUCTS Starches—Cereals—Flour—Bread—Cake—Custard and Blancmange Powders	147
6	BAKING POWDERS: EGGS: SALAD CREAM	184
7	FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTS Fruits—Vegetables—Tomato Purée—Tomato Ketchup— Fruit Juices—Soft Drinks—Syrup of Blackcurrant	198
8	BEVERAGES Tea—Coffee—Coffee Essences—Chicory—Cocoa—Chocolate —Cocoa Butter	220
9	HERBS AND SPICES	241
10	FERMENTATION PRODUCTS Wines—Spirits—Beer—Cider—Vinegar	271
11	FLESH FOODS: TABLE JELLIES Meat—Meat Products (including Sausages)—Meat Extract —Fish—Fish Products—Gelatine—Table Jellies—Agar— —Isinglass	304
12	DAIRY PRODUCTS (I) Milk—Cream—Condensed Milk—Dried Milk—Infant Foods —Casein—Malted Milk	333

viii	CONTENTS
A111	

			PAGE
13	DAIRY Butter—	PRODUCTS (II) Margarine—Cheese—Ice-Cream	385
14	Lard—St	ND FATS net—Olive Oil Group—Determination of the Fat- litamins—Mineral Oil in Food	416
15	Salt-Io	LANEOUS dised Salt—Canned Soups—Dried Soups—Butter onery—Saccharin Tablets	444
Appen	dix I	The Preservatives Regulations	450
Appen	II XICI	Emulsifying and Stabilising Agents	457
Appen	III xidi	Claims regarding Vitamin and Mineral Contents	459
APPEN	DIX IV	Filters for Absorptiometry	461
APPEN	DIX V	Factors for Volumetric Analysis	462
Appen	DIX VI	Weights and Measures	46 3
INDE	X		465

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A.M.C. — Analytical Methods Committee (of the Society of Public Analysts, or the Society for Analytical Chemistry).

A.O.A.C. — Official Methods of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, U.S.A.

J.A.O.A.C. — Journal of the A.O.A.C. (see above).

A.P.A. — Association of Public Analysts, London.

B.P. — British Pharmacopoeia.

B.P.C. — British Pharmaceutical Codex.

B.S. — British Standard (of the British Standards Institution).

B.S.I. — British Standards Institution, London.

F.C. — Full Cream.

f.f. — Fat-free material.

F.M.F. — Food Manufacturers' Federation, London

F.S.C. — Food Standards Committee.

G.M.S. — Glyceryl monostearate.

max. — maximum. min. — minimum.

M.O.F. — Ministry of Food.M.O.H. — Ministry of Health.

M.R.C. — Medical Research Council.

M.S.N.F. — Milk-solids-not-fat. N.F.M.S. — Non-fatty milk solids.

N.F.S. — Non-fatty solids.
p.p.m. — parts per million.
P.S. — Proof Spirit.

S.A.C. — Society for Analytical Chemistry, London.

S.I. — Statutory Instrument.

S.N.F. — Solids-not-fat.

R.I.

S.P.A. — Society of Public Analysts, London.

S.R. & O. — Statutory Rule and Order.

Refractive index.

T.M.S. — Total milk solids.

U.S.F.D.A. Food and Drug Administration of the United States.

Chapter 1

REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD OF THE UNITED STATES FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT

Section 201 (f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act defines food as follows:

The term "food" means (1) articles used for food or drink for man or other animals, (2) chewing gum, and (3) articles used for components of any such article.

PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS OF FOOD LAW

Below is a synopsis of the principal requirements of the act relating to foods, in nonlegal language. The symbols in parentheses are the pertinent sections of the statute itself.

Health Safeguards

A food is illegal if it contains a natural or added deleterious substance which may render it injurious to health or unsafe (402 (a) (1) and (2)).

The act authorizes placing a limit on the amount in a food of an added deleterious substance that cannot be avoided in the manufacture of the food (406; 402 (a) (2)).

Raw agricultural products containing residues of pesticides not authorized by, or in excess of, a tolerance established by regulation are illegal (408).

A food is illegal if it is prepared, packed, or held under insanitary conditions whereby it may be rendered injurious to health (402 (a) (4)).

Food containers must be free from any poisonous or deleterious substance which may cause the contents to be injurious to health (402 (a) (6)).

Coal-tar colors contained in food must come from batches certified by the Food and Drug Administration as being harmless (402 (c); 406).

Confectionery, including candy, must not contain any alcohol except alcohol not in excess of 0.5 percent derived solely from the use of flavoring extracts, and must not contain a nonnutritive substance (talc, for example) except harmless color, flavor, or not over 0.4 percent resinous glaze (402 (d)).

Sanitary Safeguards

A food is illegal if it is filthy, putrid, or decomposed (402 (a) (3)).

A food is illegal if it is prepared, packed, or held under insanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated with filth (402 (a) (4)).

A food is illegal if it is the product of a diseased animal or one that has died otherwise than by slaughter (402 (a) (5)).

Prohibited Deceptions

Food labels or labeling (circulars, etc.) must not be false or misleading in any particular (403 (a)). In determining whether labeling is misleading, consideration is given not only to the representations made or suggested, but also to the extent to which there is a failure of the labeling to reveal material facts. Half truths are not enough (201 (n)).

Damage or inferiority in a food must not be concealed in any manner (402 (b) (3)). Example: A diluted fruit juice artificially colored to resemble the undiluted juice.

No substance may be added to a food to increase its bulk or weight or make it appear of greater value than it is (402 (b) (4)). Example: In the artificially colored diluted fruit juice, the added water increases its bulk or weight and the added color makes it appear to be fruit juice which is better and of greater value.

A food must not be sold under the name of another food (403 (b)). Example: Canned bonito fish represented by label or otherwise as tuna fish.

A substance which is recognized as being a valuable constituent of a food must not be omitted or abstracted in whole or in part, nor may any substance be substituted for the food in whole or in part (402 (b) (1) and (2)). Example: An article labeled or represented as "milk" or "whole milk" from which part of the valuable constituent butterfat has been skimmed, since skimmed milk is substituted for milk or whole milk.

Food containers must not be so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading (403 (d)). Example: A closed package filled to less than its capacity.

Required Label Statements

Required label information must not only be conspicuously displayed, but it must be in terms that the ordinary consumer is likely to read and understand under ordinary conditions of purchase and use (403 (f)). To insure this, the required statements should appear in prominent positions on the principal display panels of labels.

If the label of a food bears representations in a foreign language, the label must bear all of the required statements in the foreign language, as well as in English. (Note—The Tariff Act of 1930 requires

all imported articles to be marked with the English name of the country of origin.)

The following statements must appear on the label in the English language:

- 1. If the food is packaged, the name and address of either the manufacturer, or the packer, or the distributor, and an accurate statement of the amount of food in the package (403 (e)).
 - a. If the food is not manufactured by the person or company whose name appears on the label, the name must be qualified by "Manufactured for," "Distributed by," or similar expression.
 - b. The statement of quantity of the contents must express the quantity of food in the package, exclusive of wrappers. The statement shall be expressed in the terms of weight, measure, numerical count, or a combination of numerical count and weight or measure, which are generally used by consumers to express quantity of such food and which give accurate information as to the quantity thereof. But if no such general consumer usage exists, the statement shall be in terms of liquid measure if the food is liquid; or in terms of weight if the food is solid, semisolid, viscous, or a mixture of solid and liquid; or it may be in terms of dry measure if the food is a fresh fruit, fresh vegetable, or other dry commodity. A statement of weight must be in terms of the avoirdupois pound and ounce. A statement of liquid measure must be in terms of the United States gallon of 231 cubic inches and subdivisions thereof (quarts, pints, and fluid ounces). The statement must be in terms of the largest unit of measure, such as "1 pound" not "16 ounces," and "1 pint" not "16 fluid ounces."
- 2. The common or usual name of the food and the common or usual name of each ingredient, except foods for which identity standards have been promulgated, which must make label declarations of ingredients in accordance with the prescriptions of the standards (403 (h) and (i); 401). The word "ingredients" does not refer to the chemical composition, but means the individual food components of a mixed food. The ingredients should be listed in the order of their predominance in the food.
- 3. The labeling of foods intended for special dietary uses must bear certain prescribed additional information concerning their vitamin, mineral, and other dietary properties which is necessary to inform purchasers fully as to their value for such uses. Regulations that have been issued under this section prescribe the specific additional mandatory label information (403(j)).
- 4. Foods must bear labeling stating the presence of any artificial flavoring, artificial coloring (except butter, cheese, or ice cream), or chemical preservative (403 (k)).
- 5. Imitations must be labeled as such (403 (c)).

Standards for Foods

The act authorizes promulgation of definitions and standards of identity, standards of quality, and standards of fill of container for foods (401). A food which is represented as or purports to be a food for which a standard of identity has been promulgated must comply with the specifications of the standard in every respect (403 (g)). If a food for which a standard of quality or fill of container has been promulgated falls below such standard, it must bear label statements specified in the standard showing it to be substandard in quality or in fill of container (403 (h)). Standards for foods are discussed more fully elsewhere in this publication.

SANITATION AND FILTH

The Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is often referred to by the public as the "Pure Food and Drug Act," thus emphasizing one of its basic purposes—the protection of the consuming public from articles that may be deleterious, that are unclean or decomposed, or have been exposed to insanitary conditions that may contaminate the article with filth or may render it injurious to health.

In determining whether or not conditions surrounding preparation, packing, and storage of foods are insanitary, it is necessary to evaluate the possibilities of contamination both with foreign matter that may be harmless but disgusting and with elements which involve danger to health. In its sanitary provisions, the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act goes further than to prohibit commerce in products that are carriers of causative agents of disease. It prohibits the distribution and sale of foods which may contain repulsive or offensive matter classed as filth regardless of whether such objectionable substances can be detected by laboratory procedures or are very likely to be present because of the conditions under which the goods were prepared and handled.

However, there is nothing highly technical in the concept of sanitation applied in the enforcement of the act. Ability to conform to standards of production that will result in a clean product does require a careful study of sources and routes of contamination. It is expected, of course, that establishments in which foods are prepared will be properly constructed, lighted, and ventilated, and that employees will be properly attired. Conditions which give rise to denial of entry to importations into this country because a product is filthy or has been produced under insanitary conditions go far deeper than that. Such contaminating elements as rat and mouse hairs and excreta, whole insects, insect parts and excreta, maggots, larvae, and parasitic worms, pollution from the excrement of man and animals, as well as other extraneous material which, because of their repulsiveness would not

knowingly be eaten or used, constitute filth. The presence of such filth renders foods adulterated, whether or not harm to health can be shown. Insanitary conditions which permit the contamination by rodents, such as rats and mice, infestation by insects, and pollution from human and animal wastes, are those with which the act is primarily concerned.

The maintenance of sanitary conditions requires extermination and exclusion of rodents, inspection and sorting of raw materials to eliminate the insect-infested and decomposed portions, fumigation, quick handling and proper storage to prevent insect development or contamination, the use of clean equipment, control of possible sources of sewage pollution, and supervision of the conduct of those who prepare foods so that acts of misconduct may not defile the products they handle. Fumigation of commodities already infested with insects will not result in a legal product since dead insects or evidence of past insect activity are objectionable. Fumigation should be employed where necessary, to prevent infestation.

Many food materials imported into this country are intended for further manufacture into finished foods. This fact in no way relieves such imported raw materials from these requirements of cleanliness and freedom from deleterious impurities. It must be remembered also that articles of foods that are free from contamination at the time they leave foreign shores sometimes become contaminated en route and must be detained. This emphasizes the importance of insisting upon proper storage conditions in vessels, railroad cars, or other conveyances. Many detentions have been made of shipments of foods that may have become contaminated, insect-infested, moldy, or otherwise illegal during the journey from the country of origin. While the foreign exporter may be wholly blameless, the law requires action against illegal merchandise no matter where it may have become illegal. Foreign exporters should pack their products for shipment so as to protect them against contamination en route, and should urge transportation agencies to protect the merchandise by maintaining sanitary conditions and segregating food from other cargo which might contaminate it. For example, vessels transporting green coffee in burlap bags have also carried ore concentrates and poisonous insecticides. Improper cargo handling or disasters at sea have resulted in large lots of coffee becoming seriously contaminated, with detentions required.

TOLERANCES FOR FILTH

Innumerable inquiries are received by the Food and Drug Administration as to permitted variations from complete cleanliness or soundness in foods. The act does not authorize "tolerances" for filth or decomposition in foods. It states that a food is adulterated if it con-

sists in whole or in part of a filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance. It is obvious that tolerances cannot be recognized, from the additional fact that the mere production of a food under insanitary conditions which may contaminate it with unclean foreign matter renders such food adulterated under the law.

This does not mean that a food is necessarily condemned because of the presence of foreign matter in amounts below the irreducible minimum after all precautions humanly possible have been taken to prevent contamination. In some instances the Food and Drug Administration has informally advised importers of the basis upon which actions are taken against foods which may have been subjected to attack by insect pests or subjected to deterioration due to climatic conditions. As commercial practices improve or an insect infestation is brought under control, the basis of action may be lowered. This should not be a hardship on those who prepare the foods in foreign countries, because whatever may be the basis upon which actions are taken at the United States ports on filth and decomposition, it represents only what the careful producer or manufacturer can meet.

FOOD STANDARDS

Section 401 of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act provides:

Whenever in the judgment of the Secretary such action will promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers, he shall promulgate regulations fixing and establishing for any food, under its common or usual name so far as practicable, a reasonable definition and standard of identity, a reasonable standard of quality, and/or reasonable standards of fill of container: Provided, That no definition and standard of identity and no standard of quality shall be established for fresh or dried fruits, fresh or dried vegetables, or butter, except that definitions and standards of identity may be established for avocadoes, cantaloupes, citrus fruits, and melons.

It should be borne in mind that these are standards of identity (what the particular food is), of quality (whether above or below standard), and fill of container (how full the package must be). These standards contemplate in every case that the food is properly prepared from clean, sound materials. They do not relate to factors such as deleterious impurities, filth, and decomposition.

The standards of quality established under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act must not be confused with "standards for grades" that are established from time to time by the United States Department of Agriculture. Under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act one minimum standard of quality is established for each food standardized. A food that falls below the minimum standard established must bear a special substandard label reading, for example, "Below Standard in Quality. Good Food—Not High Grade" in a prescribed size and style of type.

The United States Department of Agriculture grades which have been established are usually designated "Grade A" or "Fancy," "Grade B" or "Choice," or "Grade C" or "Standard." These grade designations are not required by the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to be stated on the labels, but if they are stated, the product must comply with the specifications for the declared grade.

The various foods for which standards of identity, quality, or fill of container have been promulgated under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act are listed in the Appendix.

The standards govern labeling and composition and should be consulted for detailed specifications. All standards are published in the Federal Register of the United States. The promulgation of food standards is a continuous task and standards for additional foods will be prescribed in the future. Except in emergencies, 90 days must elapse between the date of promulgation and the date on which standards go into effect.

In addition to the standards authorized to be promulgated under the act, the Act of Congress of March 4, 1923, provides a definition for butter which is quoted under Dairy Products.

SPICES, SPICE SEEDS, AND HERBS

This group represents food materials that are subject to the depredations of various animal and insect pests from which they must be protected. They may also become moldy or otherwise decomposed unless properly prepared and stored. In any discussion of methods of preparing and storing foods intended for human consumption, emphasis must be placed on the principle of "clean" food, not "cleaned" food. This is particularly true with spices. One of the most serious consequences of failure to protect spices is contamination with excreta from rats, mice, birds, chickens, or other animals. Imported spices have been found to contain excreta not only of these animals, but of bats, goats, and camels. Insects, larvae, weevils, moths, mites, beetles, flies, etc., and their excreta constitute another problem.

Emphasis should be placed on harvesting, storing, handling, packing, and shipping under conditions which will prevent contamination; that means keeping rats, mice, goats, and other animals away from the food product. Besides shortening the time of exposure in the fields, or in drying or curing spaces which are often in the open, all the necessary preventive measures should be taken to keep animals from walking over or having access to the food material. Separate enclosures may be necessary; places under trees or other perches where birds might roost should be avoided. Barns, sheds, cribs, warehouses, and other storage spaces should be made rodentproof. Experience in the United States has indicated that only by such meas-

ures as metal flashing around baseboards, use of concrete floors and foundations, screening of openings and windows, elimination of false ceilings or spaces between inner and outer walls, and of rat and mice harborages of all sorts inside and outside of buildings, can rats and mice be effectively kept away from these products. Where it is not feasible to rodentproof the entire building, for example, a barn on the farm, it might be possible to rodentproof a section or room where the foodstuff is being held.

The same basic principle of prevention of contamination applies in the case of insects. Gauze netting spread over foods drying in the open may be necessary to keep insects away. Screening of windows and doors will help to keep insects out of storage or packing places. Careful cleaning and fumigation of premises and equipment before a new crop is put into a storage space may save it from contamination by insects that are left over and have been multiplying unmolested since the old crop was removed. The use of infested second-hand bags is another common source of trouble.

While insecticides and fumigants have their function (for example, in preparing a storage space for the reception of spices or other foods, and in preventing the development of infestation in a lot), a product which is already infested is not made acceptable for food by fumigation because the insects are no less objectionable just because they may have been killed by the fumigation.

Many insecticides and fumigants are poisonous or deleterious substances, and if they contaminate food, the food becomes adulterated and subject to action under the requirements of the act. While most of the fumigants are volatile, they may, nevertheless, result in contamination of the food with deleterious residues.

In some cases spices may be used for drug purposes and they then become subject to the drug provisions of the act discussed in Part II. Those spices or spice oils which are listed in the United States Pharmacopeia or the National Formulary are subject to the standards set forth in these compendia when used for drug purposes. Spice products should be sold under their correct names; for example, in the United States the spice known to consumers as sage is Salvia officinalis L. Other related sages should be labeled to show they are not this variety. Spice products, when offered for importation, should be reasonably free from foreign matter, such as pebbles, dirt, stems, wood chaff, or other extraneous substance peculiar to each type of product.

No standards of identity for food spice products have been promulgated under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Solely as an advisory guide as to IDENTITY of food spice products, the Food and Drug Administration uses the following definitions:

spices. Aromatic vegetable substances used for the seasoning of food. They are true to name, and from them no portion of any volatile oil or other flavoring principle has been removed.

ALLSPICE, PIMENTO. The dried, nearly ripe fruit of Pimenta officinalis Lindl.

ANISE, ANISEED. The dried fruit of Pimpinella anisum L.

BAY LEAVES. The dried leaves of Laurus nobilis L.

CAPERS. The flower buds of Capparis spinosa L.

CARAWAY, CARAWAY SEED. The dried fruit of Carum carvi L.

CARDAMON. The dried, nearly ripe fruit of Elettaria cardamonum Maton.

CARDAMON SEED. The dried seed of cardamom.

CINNAMON. The dried bark of cultivated varieties of Cinnamomum zeylanicum Nees or of C. cassia (L.) Blume, from which the outer layers may or may not have been removed.

CEYLON CINNAMON. The dried inner bark of cultivated varieties of Cinnamomum zeylanicum Nees.

SAIGON CINNAMON, CASSIA. The dried bark of cultivated varieties of Cinnamomum cassia (L.) Blume.

CLOVES. The dried flower buds of Caryophyllus aromaticus L.

CORIANDER SEED. The dried fruit of Coriandrum sativum L.

CUMIN SEED. The dried fruit of Cuminum cyminum L.

GINGER. The washed and dried, or decoriated and dried, rhizome of Zingiber officinale Roscoe.

MACE. The dried arillus of Myristica fragrans Houtt.

MACASSAB MACE, PAPUA MACE. The dried arillus of Myristica argentea Warb.

MARJORAM, LEAF MARJORAM. The dried leaves, with or without a small proportion of the flowering tops, of *Marjorana hortensis* Moench.

NUTMEG. The dried seed of Myristica fragrans Houtt, deprived of its testa, with or without a thin coating of lime (CaO).

MACASSAB NUTMEG, PAPUA NUTMEG, MALE NUTMEG, LONG NUTMEG. The dried seed of Myristica argentea Warb, deprived of its testa.

PAPRIKA. The dried, ripe fruit of Capsicum annuum L.

BLACK PEPPER. The dried, immature berry of Piper nigrum L.

WHITE PEPPER. The dried mature berry of *Piper nigrum L*. from which the outer coating or the outer and inner coatings have been removed.

SAFFRON. The dried stigma of Crocus sativus L.

SAGE. The dried leaf of Salvia officinalis L.

TARRAGON. The dried leaves and flowering tops of Artemisia dracunculus L. THYME. The dried leaves and flowering tops of Thymus vulgaris L.

CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Canned Fruits

Standards of identity, quality, and fill of container have been promulgated under section 401 of the act for a number of canned fruits. The specific standards should be consulted by anyone intending to ship canned fruits to the United States. (Definitions and Standards for Foods, part 27).

The standards of quality are minimum standards. If a canned fruit falls below the minimum standard of quality prescribed for it, the label must bear a substandard statement in the manner and form prescribed in the standard. Labels on canned fruits which meet the minimum

quality standards, and on canned fruits for which no standards of quality have been promulgated, need not make reference to quality, but if they do, the product must correspond to the usual understanding of the labeled grade. Particular care must be taken not to use the terms "Fancy" or "Grade A" on products that do not meet the established understanding of these terms in the United States.

Fill-of-container standards have been promulgated for only a few specified canned fruits, but in packing any other canned fruit the container must be well filled with fruit with only enough packing medium added to fill the interstices, otherwise the container may be deceptive and the product prohibited by the act. In judging the finished product, due allowance is made for natural shrinkage in processing.

Canned fruits for which identity and quality standards have not yet been promulgated are sometimes imported. Fruit used for canning should be mature and should be sound, that is, free from insect infestation, moldiness, or other form of decomposition. In some growing areas blueberries are infested with larvae; such fruit must be discarded when selecting fruit for canning or other food use.

Pitted and stuffed olives found to contain pits and parts of pits were the basis of a notice issued to dealers, importers, and shippers of pitted and stuffed olives. The notice read in part:

While a complete elimination of pit fragments may not be possible in all cases, certainly consumers do not expect to encounter them in so-called pitted olives, to the extent to which they now occur. Shipments of stuffed or so-called pitted olives showing an appreciable percentage of olives containing pits or fragments of pits must be regarded as in violation of the Food and Drugs Act.

Packers and dealers in these commodities are hereby requested to give immediate attention to the correction of this condition in order to obviate that action which otherwise must be taken by the Administration under both the import and domestic provisions of the Act. Opinions have been expressed by dealers to the effect that pitted olives should not contain at the most in excess of 1 percent of olives showing pits or fragments of pits. While this is not announced as a tentative tolerance, immediate attention should be given to eliminating pits and fragments of pits to the extent that it is reasonably feasible. Importers should take up this matter promptly with their contacts abroad, with a view to ensuring that shipments actually are "pitted" rather than "partially pitted." This condition has been found to be more prevalent in the so-called Queen olives than in the smaller, or Manzanilla olives, possibly due to the fact that the pit of the larger olive appears to adhere more closely to the flesh of the olive. In not a few of the lots of the larger olives examined, the percentage of olives containing fragments has been found to be surprisingly high.

Canned Vegetables

Canned vegetable products must be prepared from sound, wholesome raw materials free from decomposition. It has been necessary on occasions to deny entry of canned pimientos and other vegetable products because they had been prepared from sour, fermented raw materials. The definitions and standards of identity which have been promulgated under the act for a wide variety of canned vegetables provide that "the food is sealed in a container and so processed by heat as to prevent spoilage." The importance of adequate heat processing of canned vegetables, particularly the nonacid types, is emphasized by the danger that spoilage may be caused by Clostridium botulinum, the organism responsible for a highly fatal type of food poisoning. It has sometimes been necessary to detain or deny entry to shipments of canned vegetables, canned mushrooms, canned pimientos, and other canned food products because of spoilage resulting from underprocessing or occasionally from the use of defective containers.

Cans of food which have become swells or otherwise abnormal should be destroyed.

Standards of quality have been promulgated for several vegetables. The detailed requirements of the standards, should be consulted before making import shipments. For each canned vegetable there is one minimum standard of quality established. If the product falls below this minimum quality standard when judged by the criteria laid down in the standard, its label must show the required substandard statement in the manner and form prescribed.

If a fill-of-container standard has not been promulgated for a canned vegetable, the container must nevertheless be well filled with the vegetable, with only enough packing medium to fill the interstices. In the case of canned tomatoes, no excess water is needed or permitted by the fill-of-container standard.

Canned Tomato Paste, Puree, Juice, and Catsup

Shippers of tomato products (Tomato juice, catsup, puree, and paste) should note the standards of identity for these items in Definitions and Standards for Foods, part 53. Particular attention is called to the salt-free tomato solids requirements for puree and paste, and to the fact that neither artificial color nor preservatives are permitted in any of these products. Tomato juice is unconcentrated; tomato puree must contain not less than 8.37 and tomato paste not less than 25 percent salt-free tomato solids.

These tomato products are occasionally contaminated with rot because of failure to remove decayed tomatoes from the raw material entering the cannery. Flies and worms are also filth contaminants of tomato products. The preparation of a clean tomato product requires proper washing, sorting, and trimming of the tomatoes and frequent cleaning of the cannery equipment, such as tables, utensils, vats, and pipelines.

In judging whether tomato products have been properly prepared to eliminate rot and decay, the Food and Drug Administration uses the Howard mold-count test, and refuses admission to import shipments and takes action against domestic shipments if mold filaments are present in more than 40 percent of the microscopic fields in the case of puree, paste, catsup, or sauce or more than 20 percent in the case of tomato juice. Methods of testing tomato products are given in the Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists.

DRIED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Much, if not all, that has been said about prevention of contamination of spices is applicable to other perishable foods such as dried fruits and vegetables which are subject to attack by insects, other animals, or to deterioration resulting in moldiness or other forms of decomposition.

Dried Figs

Dried figs, both domestic and foreign, are subject to insect infestation during their growth and during storage where improper storage conditions exist. They are also at times subject to conditions which may result in development of mold which must be guarded against. The domestic industry and to a large extent foreign producers have made great progress in recent years in elimination of conditions responsible for contamination or deterioration of figs. Some importations, however, are encountered which bear evidence of failure of producers to eliminate objectionable conditions and these must necessarily be refused admission. Figs are classed as objectionable if upon examination they show internal or external insect excreta or internal or external evidence of larvae, dead or alive. Figs are classed as objectionable also if they show internal or external evidence of mold or of a webby condition or of sourness or fermentation.

In order to insure a suitable product for importation, the attacks of the fig moth or similar pests should be guarded against as much as possible, as well as those conditions tending to produce mold growth or fermentation. If the figs are found to be so affected to some extent upon harvesting, they should be thoroughly sorted to remove objectionable figs before packing or shipping is undertaken. To insure against infestation or deterioration between the time of harvest and exportation to this country, the movement from the farms or orchards to the packing houses and thence to vessels should be prompt. Storage of figs before shipment should be for as short a time as possible and should be under sanitary conditions so as to prevent infestation.

Dried Dates

Dried dates constitute another important article of import commerce as well as domestic commerce, and again both domestic and foreign producers are confronted with problems involving infestation and deterioration. As in the case of figs, importations of dates are examined for evidence of insect infestation or moldiness and decomposition, or other objectionable conditions.

Dried Orange Peel

Importations of dried orange peel are occasionally encountered which must be denied entry because of extensive insect infestation and moldiness. Any orange peels which are to be dried or otherwise prepared for subsequent use in any food product must be scrupulously guarded against contamination.

Dried Mushrooms

Inclusion in wild mushrooms of poisonous species is a matter of concern and steps should be taken to insure that only edible species are offered for entry into the United States. The most common bar to entry of mushrooms, especially the wild dried product, is infestation with flies and maggots, since mushrooms sometimes are attacked by maggots during the course of their growth. If infestation is heavy in certain areas and removal of the insects is difficult, the elimination of mushrooms from these areas for importation into this country may be necessary. Infestation may possibly occur in some seasons and not in others. Experience in the examination of importations of dried mushrooms has shown a wide divergence in the condition of different importations from the standpoint of infestation, and it appears that infestation either may not be universal throughout mushroom-growing areas, or it may be sporadic.

It has been necessary also to deny entry to mushrooms for such other causes as evidence of storage under insanitary conditions resulting in contamination by rats or mice or storage insects, and even in some cases by mites in large numbers. After having satisfied himself that he has eliminated field-infested mushrooms from his stock ready for drying, the mushroom producer should then concern himself with the problem of carrying out his drying and storage under conditions which will keep his product clean and free from infestation or from contamination by mice, rats, or other animals.

FRESH FRUITS

Apples and other fruits bearing excessive residues from insecticide sprays or dusts are classed as adulterated under the Federal law. See paragraph entitled "Pesticidal Residues on Raw Agricultural Products."

Pineapples showing or likely to show the internal condition known as "brown heart" or "black heart," should not be offered for entry into the United States. All of the factors causing this condition have not been established but it can be stated that time, and storage and shipping temperatures are important factors.

Blueberries and huckleberries sometimes contain small larvae which render them unfit for food. Fruit from infested areas should be avoided. Fresh blueberries should be held and transported under conditions which will prevent deterioration and decomposition evidenced by mold or other indications of unfitness.

PESTICIDAL RESIDUES ON RAW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Raw agricultural products include unprocessed fruits and vegetables, grains, meat, and poultry. Products of this kind containing residues of poisonous or deleterious pesticides are in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act unless a tolerance has been established for the particular pesticide on the specific food, and the residue does not exceed the established tolerance. In some instances, a zero tolerance may be established for a pesticide, which means that no residue is permitted on the food as it is marketed.

Tolerances for pesticidal residues on many raw agricultural commodities have been established under the law. Additional tolerances will be established as the facts warrant such action. Firms considering offering for entry into the United States raw agricultural commodities which may contain pesticidal residues should write to the Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C., for current information concerning the status of tolerances for residues on raw agricultural products.

FRUIT JAMS (PRESERVES), JELLIES, FRUIT BUTTERS, MARMALADES

Standards of identity have been promulgated for jams, jellies, and fruit butters, copies of which will be sent by the Food and Drug Administration upon request. These standards should be consulted before manufacturing these foods for importation. The standards for jams and jellies require that there be in the batch not less than 45 parts by weight of fruit (or fruit juice in the case of jelly) to each 55 parts by weight of sugar or other optional sweetening ingredient. Only sufficient pectin may be added to jams and jellies to compensate for deficiency, if any, of the natural pectin content of the particular fruit. The standards also require a certain degree of concentration. In the case of jellies the finished product must be concentrated to not less than 65 percent soluble solids. In the case of jams (preserves) the finished jam should have not less than 65 percent soluble solids if made from certain specified fruits. With other designated fruits the batch must be concentrated to 68 percent soluble solids. Importations of a product complying with the standard for pineapple preserve except that it was somewhat less concentrated have been refused admission on

Abbreviations, ix	Ale, 288
Absorptiometry, filters for, 461	Alginates in ice cream, 413
Acetic acid in mincemeat, 145	Alkaline oxidation value of vinegar, 300,
in vinegar, 295, 297	301
Acetone-carbon tetrachloride test for	Alkalisation of cocoa, 232, 235
cocoa-butter, 240	Alkaloids in cocoa, 236
Acid calcium phosphate, 184, 190	in cocoa products, 179
Acid insoluble ash, 33	Allen-Marquardt process, 284
Acid phosphates, 76–78, 184, 190	Allyliaethicayoneta in mustand 260
in self-raising flour, 76, 174	Allyl isothiocyanate in mustard, 260
Acid sodium pyrophosphate, 184, 190	in horseradish, 268
Acid value of oils, 420	Almond oil, 432–434
Acidity of acid phosphates, 185	in salad oils, 435
of beer, 289	Almond shells in pepper, 253
of cheese, 408	Almonds, Ground, 434
of flour, 160	Alum in baking powder, 184
of fruit juices, 211	in bread, 176
of honey, 131	Alumina cream, 111
of jam, 141	Amaranth, 99, 102
of lemon curd, 143	Ammonia in milk, 343
of milk, 344	Anchovies, 20
of mincemeat, 145	Aneurine in bread, 177
of oils, 420	in flour, 156, 169–171
of spirits, 282, 286	Aniseed, 257, 258
of vinegar, 294–297	Annatto in milk, 353
of wine, 275	Antibiotics, 94
Acids of butter-fat, 388	Antimony, 56
of fruit, 198	Antioxidants, 95
Acorn starch, 153, 154	determination and detection of, 96
Adams' method for fat in milk, 342	Apple juice, 210
Adipic acid, 184	Apple pulp in jam, 142
Agar, 331, 363	Apples, 138
Agene, 167	Apricot kernel oil, 432, 434
Agricultural products, pesticidal residues	Apricots, 138
on raw, 14	Arabinose, 106
Ailanthus in mint, 246	Arachidic acid, 435
Albumin in egg, 193	Arachis oil, 430
in milk, 333	detection and determination of, 435
Albuminoid ammonia value of fruit	Arrowroot, 151
juices, 218	Arsenic, 53
of vinegar, 302	determination of, 55
Alcohol in beer, 288	in beer, 291
in spirits, 279–284	in fish, 54
in wine, 273	limits for, 53
Alcohol extract of spices, 243	Artificial cream, 367
Alcoholic beverages, 17	Artificial "vinegar," 296
Aldehydes in spirits, 287	Arum starch, 152
Aldose sugars, iodometric determination	Aschaffenburg and Mullen's phospha-
of, 120–123	tase test, 359
46	35

Aschaffenburg's turbidity test for steri-	Black pepper, 249-253
lized milk, 361	Blackberries, 138
Ascorbic acid, determination of, in fruit	Blackcurrent jam, 135
juices, 211	Blackcurrent syrup, 219
in fruits and vegetables, 201	Blackcurrents, 138
in paprika, 254	Blancmange powders, 180
in syrup of blackcurrant, 219	Bleachers in bread, 176
Ash, determination of, 32	Bleaching agents in flour, 166
Ass's milk, 334	Bleeding bread, 175
Atomic weights, 463	Blue value (vitamin A test), 439
Available carbon dioxide, 172, 186	Bock, 288
Avé-Lallemant baryta value, 394	Bole, 99 Bomer's test, 427
Bacon, 308	Bondon cheese, 404
Bacteriological examination of milk, 362	Bonita, 21
B.Coli, in ice-cream, 415	Boric acid, 89
in milk, 362	in butter (and margarine), 387
Baking powder, 184-192	in cider, 293
available carbon dioxide in, 185	in milk, 351
calcium in, 188–192	Bottled mineral waters, 18
cream of tartar in, 188–192	Brandy, 280
original composition, calculation of,	Brazilian arrowroot, 151
189–192	Bread (F.S.C. report and definitions),
phosphates in, 184, 187–192	174
residual carbon dioxide in, 185	analysis of, 176
standards, 185	bleeding, 175
tartaric acid in, 188–192	Brown, 175
total carbon dioxide in, 185, 186 Banana starch, 153, 154	milk in, 175, 177 Soda, 213, 215
Banda mace, 264	Brie cheese, 404
Barfoed's reagent, 105	British wines, 278
Barley, Pearl, 154, 182	Bromates in flour, 167
Barley meal, 154	Brown mustard, 259
starch, 149, 150	Browne's formula for glucose in honey,
Baryta value, 394	133
Basil, 245, 246	Buckwheat starch, 153, 154
Baudouin's test for sesame oil, 436	Burgundy, 272
Bay leaf, 245, 246	Butter, 25, 385
Bean starch, 152, 153	analysis of, 386
Beef, composition of, 304, 311	boric acid in, 387
Beef cubes, 318 Reef fat in suct. 428	diacetyl in, 387
Beef fat in suet, 428 detection of in cocoa-butter, 239	salt in, 386 Butter confectionery, 447
in lard, 426	Butter-fat, analysis of, 388–398
Beet sugar, 124	characteristics of, 388
Bellier's test, 435	in butter confectionery, 447, 448
Benzidine test for persulphates, 166, 167	in canned soups, 445, 447
Benzoic acid, 71–74, 450	in margarine, 399
in soft drinks, 217, 452	rancidity of, 398
Benzoyl peroxide in flour, 166, 168	Reichert-Polenske-Kirschner process
Beverage materials, 17	for, 389
Beverages, 17	Butylated hydroxanisole, 96
Bieber's test for kernel oils, 437	Butylated hydroxytoluene, 96
Bitter almond, 434	Butyro-refractometer readings, 136
Bitter lemon, 216	Cana hattan 220
Bitter orange, 216 Biorklund's test for beef fet, 230	Cacao butter, 239
Bjorklund's test for beef fat, 239 Black mustard, 259–263	Cacao mass, 232 Caerphilly cheese, 404
Diack inustatu, 200–200	Cacipinity cheese, TOT

Caffeine in coffee, 229	Chewing gum, 442
in coffee extract, 229, 230	Chicken, chopped, minced, 315
in tea, 225	Chicory, 226–229
Cake, 178	Chillies, 253
Calciferol (Unit), 459	Chloranilic acid method for creta in
Calcium, determination of, 42	flour, 165
in baking powder, 188	Chloride, loss during ashing, 32
in gelatine, 325, 326	Chlorine in flour, 166–168
in sausages, 311	Chlorine dioxide in flour, 166-168
Calcium carbonate in flour, 156, 163,	
	Chlorine-sugar number for milk, 345
173	Chlorobenzoic acid, 84, 88
Calcium phosphate, Acid, 184, 188, 190	Chocolate, 238
Calcium sulphate in acid phosphates,	drinking, 233
174	Chopped chicken in chicken stock, 315
Calcium tartrate in canned cherries, 205	Chopped ham, 315
Camembert cheese, 404	Chromotropic acid test, 91, 274
Cane sugar, 124	Cider, 291
Cannod fish 20 224	
Canned fish, 20, 324	Cider vinegar, 294, 296, 303
fruit, 9, 204	Cinnamic acid, 85
oysters, 23	Cinnamon, 247
soups, 445	Cistus in sage, 247
fat in, 446, 447	Citric acid in milk, determination of, 346
vegetables, 9	in condensed milk, 374
Capers, 249	Citrus fruit juices, 209-212
Capsaicin in red pepper, 254	Claret, 272
Capsicum, 254	Clearing agents for sugar solutions, 111
Caramel in milk, 353	Clerget-Herzfeld method, 114–116, 133
in vinegar, 299	Clot-on-boiling test, 354
Caraway, 258	Clove stalks, 249
Carbohydrates, 105, 106	Cloves, 249
Molisch's test for, 105	Coal-tar dyes, 99–104
Carbon dioxide, available, 172, 186	Cocoa, 232
in baking powder, 185	fat in, 233, 235
in self-raising flour, 172	in blancmange powder, 180
Cardamom, 265	in chocolate, 236
Carr-Price Blue Value, 439	
	products, 16
Casein, 383	shell in, 233, 237
Casein number for milk, 345	theobromine and caffeine in, 236
Cassia bark, 248	Cocoa-butter, 239
Catalase in milk, 333	Coconut oil, 427
Caviar, 22	in butter and margarine, 394
Cayenne pepper, 253	Coconut shells in pepper, 253
Celery fruits ("seeds"), 258	Cod, 319
Cellulose, 40	Cod-liver oil, vitamin A in, 440
Cereals, 147–182	Coffee, 19, 225
	extractives in, 226, 228
Champagne, 272, 293	
Channel Islands Milk, 338	solid extracts (Instant Coffee), 231
Cheddar cheese, 405	Coffee and chicory, 227
Cheese, 25, 403	Coffee essences (and extracts), 229
analysis of, 407	caffeine in, 229, 230
composition of, 404, 405	Coffee mixtures, 227
quality considerations, 406	Cold-water extract, 243
Cheese spread, recommended standards	of ginger, 266
for, 406	Coliform organisms, 362, 415
Cherries, 138, 205	Colostrum, 334
Cheshire cheese, 405	
	Coloring matters, 98
Chestnut starch, 153, 154	detection of oil-soluble, 104
Chavicine in pepper, 251	detection of water-soluble, 99

100	
Coloring matters—continued	Dairy ice-cream, 409
in sugar, 125, 127	products, 24
regulations, 98	Damsons, 138
R _F values of water-soluble coal-tar,	Darnel starch, 153, 154
102	Date stones in pepper, 253
Colza oil, 431–433, 437	Dates, 12, 198
Comminuted drinks, 213–219	Deceptions, prohibited, 2
Condensed milk, 368 analysis of, 371	Degrees of acidity, 344 Dehydroacetic acid, 90
equivalent pints of, 374, 375	Dehydroascorbic acid, 211, 212
labelling of, 370	Demerara sugar, 125
standards, 369	Denatured spirit, 274
sweetened, 26	Deniges test for methyl alcohol, 274
Confectionery, 15	Dextrin, 152, 154
butter, 447	in honey, 133
Conway micro-diffusion technique, 36,	Dextrose, 106, 112, 128
37	Diacetyl in butter, 387
Cooking fats, 428	Diastase, estimation of starch by, 161
Copper, 60	Diastatic activity of flour, 162
determination of, 61	Dietary foods, 28
limits for, 60	Dill, 257, 258
Copper oxide, equivalents of sugars, 118	Diphenyl, 94, 201
Copper reducing power ("K" value), 117	Dirt in milk, 351
Cordials, 214, 216, 217	Dissolved oxygen absorption test for meat, 305
Coriander, 257, 258	Distilled malt vinegar, 295
Cornflour, 154, 310	Dithiol method for tin, 71
Cottonseed oil, 431, 432	Dodecyl gallate, 96
detection of, 436	Dried egg, 194
Coumarin in custard powder, 181	Dried fruits and vegetables, 12, 198
Crayfish, sea, 23	Dried milk, 376
Cream, 25, 364	analysis of, 379
analysis of, 365	equivalent pints of, 378
artificial, 367	labelling of, 377
reconstituted, 367	solubility of, 380
Cream of tenter in boling pounder 184	standards, 376
Cream of tartar in baking powder, 184,	Dried soups, 447
188, 190 in canned grapes, 205	Drinking chocolate, 233 Dripping, 428
Cream powders, 184	Dry ashing for trace element determina-
Creatine and creatinine in meat extract,	tions, 51
316, 317	Dulcin, 277
Creta praeparata in flour, 156, 163	Dyes, 98
in self-raising flour, 173	Dyox, 167
Critical temperature of dissolution of	
fat in acetic acid, 240	East Indian arrowroot, 151
Crude fibre (see also "Fibre"), 40	E.Coli in ice-cream, 415
Crude protein, 33	in milk, 362
Crushes, 214, 216, 217	Edible oils, 27
Crustacea (canned), 324	Egg in lemon curd, 143, 144
Cubebs, 252	Egg oil, 194
Cummin, 257, 258 Cupric reducing power, 117	Eggs, 192 dried, 194
Curcuma, 268	frozen, 194
starch, 151	Egg-yolk solids in salad cream, 196
Currants, 198	Electric bleacher, 168
Curry powder, 269	Emmerie and Engel's method (for vita-
Custard powder, 180	min E), 441

Emulsifying agents (F.S.C. recom-	Flour—continued	
mendations), 457 Emulsifying salts in processed cheese,	aneurine in, 155, 156, 169 ash of, 155, 158	
406, 408	bleaching agents in, 166	
Enzymes in milk, 333	composition of, 155	
Equivalent pints of condensed milk, 374,	creta in, 155, 156, 163-165	
375	fibre in, 155, 160	
of dried milk, 377, 378	improvers in, 165	
Ergot in rye, 182	iron in, 155, 156, 162	
Ester value of vinegar, 300–302	maltose figures of, 162	
Esters in spirits, 286 Evaporated milk 26, 368	moisture in, 155, 158 oil in, 159	
Evaporated milk, 26, 368 Evers' test for arachis oil, 435	protein in, 155, 160	
Extract in spirits, 284	starch in, 161	
in wines, 275	vitamins in, 155, 156, 169-172	
Extractives in coffee and chicory, 228	Flour, Self-Raising, 172	
	Flour confectionery, 178	
Facing of barley, 182	Fluorine, 75	
of rice, 181	determination of, 76	
of tea, 221	in baking powder, 76, 185	
Factors for volumetric analysis, 462, 463	in flour, 165, 172	
Farina, 154, 310 Fat, determination of, 38	limits for, 75 Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1	
in condensed milk, 369, 372	Food law, 1	
in dried milk, 376, 379	Food standards, 6	
in ice-cream, 409, 411	Formaldehyde, 91	
in milk, 334-338, 341	Formalin, 91	
in sausage, 309	Formic acid, 92	
Fats, 416	Formol titration, 37	
Fat-soluble vitamins, 438	for ice-cream, 412	
Fatty fish, 319	for milk, 344	
spoilage of, 321 Fearon's test, 107	for soft drinks, 218 for vinegar, 300	
Fehling's solution, 116	Free fatty acids (F.F.A.), determination	
Fennel, 257, 259	of, 420	
Fenugreek, 265	Freezing point of milk, 333, 337, 348	
Ferric ammonium citrate, 156	French coffee, 227	
Ferrocyanides in vinegar, 299	French dressing, 28	
Fibre, determination of, 41	Fresh fish fillets, 21	
in cocoa, 237	Fresh fruits, 13	
in flour, 155, 160 in pepper, 252, 253	Freshwater fish (salmon), 319, 321, 323	
Fiehe's test, 132, 299	Frozen egg, 194	
Figs, 198	Frozen fish fillets, 21	
dried, 12	Fructose, 106, 112	
Filters, for absorptiometry, 461	Fruit butters, 14	
"Filth" test, 47	curd, 143	
sanitation and, 4	jams, 14	
Fish, 19, 319	juices, 209	
cakes, 323	Fruits, 138, 198	
fillets, 21 paste, 322	canned, 9, 204 fresh, 13	
roe, 22	(spices), 249	
spoilage, 320	Furfural in spirits, 286	
Fitelson's test for teaseed oil, 437	<u>.</u>	
Flesh and flesh products, 304	Galactose, 107	
Flour, 155-172	Gallates in fats, 95-98	
analysis of, 157	Garlic, dried, 248	

Gelatin, 24	Herring, 319
in meat extract, 318	Hexabromide test for fish oils, 438
Gelatine, 324	Hexamine, 92
analysis of, 325	Higher alcohols in spirits, 284
composition of, 325, 327	Hinton and Macara's method for aldose
jelly strength of, 327	sugars, 122
regulations, 325	Hock, 272
Gerber process, 40	Holdé's test for mineral oil, 420
for cream, 366	Homogenised milk (fat estimation), 341
for ice-cream, 411	Honey, 130–133
	technical invert sugar in, 132
for milk, 341	
Gervais cheese, 404	Honeydew honey, 133
Gin, 283	Horseflesh, in meat products, 312
Ginger, 265	Horseradish, 268
Ginger marmalade, 135, 136	cream, 196
Ginger wine, 278, 279	Hortvet method, 348–351
Gingerol, 268	Human milk, 334
Gliadin, 155	Husk in white pepper, 253
Gloucester cheese, 405	Hydrogenated oils, 397, 426
Glucose, liquid, 128	Hydroxybenzoic acid, 86
in honey, 133	Hydroxymethylfurfuraldehyde in honey,
in jam and marmalade, 137	132
Gluten, 160	Hypochlorites in milk, 352
Glutenin, 155	
Glycerol in wine, 276	Ice-cream, 10, 409
Glycogen, 106	analysis of, 411
in meat, 312	dairy, 409
Goat's milk, 334	methylene blue test for, 414
Golden raising powder (see also "Bak-	overrun, 413
ing powder"), 184	regulations, 409
Golden syrup, 127	storage of, 410
	Icing sugar, 125
Gooseberries, 138	
Gorgonzola cheese, 405	Ilford filters, 461
Gottlieb process, 39, 342	Improvers in bread, 176
Grape sugar, 106	in flour, 165, 166
Grapefruit juice, 210	"Impurities" in spirits, 280, 284
concentrated, 209	India pale ale, 288
Grapes, canned, 205	Indian tonic water, 213, 215, 279
Gravimetric determination of sugars,	Infant foods, 381
117, 118	Instant coffee, 231
Gravity (Original) of beer, 289	Interdepartmental Committee on Milk
Greengages, 138	Composition, 337
Griess-Ilosvay reaction, 88	International Units for Vitamins A and
Ground almonds, 434	D, 459
Gruyere cheese, 405	Inulin, 106
Guernsey milk, 338	Inversion of sucrose, 112, 115
Gutzeit method for arsenic, 56	Invert sugar, 107, 112
	determination of, 112–122
Halibut-liver oil, vitamin A in, 440	in honey, 132, 133
Halphen's test for cottonseed oil, 436	in jam, 136
Hanus method for iodine value, 418	Invert syrup in Honey (Fiehe's test),
Hard cheese, 405	132
Hardened fats, 397, 426	Iodine, determination in iodised salt, 445
Health safeguards, 1	Iodine value of oils, 417
Hehner's test for formaldehyde, 91, 352	of vinegar, 300, 301
for mineral acid in vinegar, 298–299	Iodised salt, 444, 445
Herbs, 7, 245	Iodometric determination of sugars, 120
Herbs and Spices, 241	Irish stout, 288
Heros and opices, 241	111311 31041, 200

Iron in flour, 155, 156, 162	Lecithin in egg, 193, 194
in gelatine, 326, 327	Legislation, Food, 1–29
Isinglass, 332	Lemon curd, 143, 144
Iso-electric point of gelatine, 326	Lemon juice, 209, 210
Iso-oleic acid in fats, 426	Lemon thyme, 247
Iso-propyl alcohol in wines, 274	Lentil, 154
	starch, 153
Jam, 14, 134	Lime gelatine, 325, 326
analysis of, 136	Lime juice, 210
fruit content of, 135, 137	cordial, 214, 216
pectin in, 139, 140	Lintner's method for starch, 161
reducing sugars in, 136	Liquid glucose, 128–130
regulations, 134–136	Lobsters, 23
soluble solids of, 135, 136	Loganberries, 138
Jamaica pepper, 256	London gin, 284
Jellies (Table), 14, 327	Long pepper, 251, 252
compounds, 331	Lowenthal process, 224
crystals, 329	Luncheon meat, 316
tablets, 327	M. G. I. I. at 909 417
Jelly (jam), 134	MacConkey broth, 363, 415
Jersey milk, 338	Mace, 263
Jorissen's test for salicylic acid, 87	Maceration method for sour milk, 343
Juniper berries, 283	Maize meal, 154
"K" value, 117	Maize starch, 150 Malic acid in vinegar, 303
Kay and Graham's phosphatase test, 361	Malt vinegar, 293–295, 297–303
Ketchup, Tomato, 11, 207	Malted milk, 383
Ketone rancidity, 423	Maltose, 106, 107, 112
Kirschner process, 392, 393	Maltose figure (of flour), 162
Kjeldahl process, 33	Manihot starch, 151
Kosher ice, 409	Mannose, 106, 107
Kreis test, 423	Maple sirup, 16
Krzizan process for faced rice, 181	Maple sugar, 16
	Maranta starch, 152
Label statements, required, 2	Marble arrowroot, 152
Lactic cheese, 404	Mare's milk, 334
Lactometers, 339, 340	Margarine, 398
Lactose, 107, 112	analysis of, 399
detection of, 107	regulations, 398–403
determination in bread, 177, 178	vitamin A in, 399–403
in condensed milk, 374	Marjoram, 245–246
in milk, 346	Markham apparatus, 35–36
in sausage, 311	Marmalade, 14, 134, 135
iodometric determination of, 121	Marsh-Berzelius method, 55
Laevulose, 106, 112	Mayonnaise, 28, 195–197
Lager beer, 288	Meat, 24, 304
Lane and Eynon's method, 118-123	assessment of spoilage, 305
Lard, 424–428 beef fat in, 426	chilled, 306 composition of, 304, 311
Lard substitutes, 428	cured, 306
Lead, 63	frozen, 306
determination of, 65	luncheon, 316
in beer, 291	products, 24
limits for, 63	preservation of, 306
Lead acetate as clarifying agent, 111	sampling of, 304
Lead number, 140	spoilage, assessment of, 305
Leaf lard, 424	Meat content of sausages, 310-312
Lea's peroxide test, 422	Meat extract, 316

36	
Meat paste, 314	Mojonnier process, 39
Mercury in vinegar, 298	Molasses, 127
Metals in food, 49–75	Molisch's test for carbohydrates, 105
Methyl alcohol in wines, 274	Molybdenum-blue colorimetric method
Methylamine test for lactose, 107	for arsenic, 58
Methylene blue test for milk, 338, 357	Monier-Williams' method for benzoic
for ice-cream, 414	acid, 85
Micro-analytical test for purity, 47	for sulphur dioxide, 81
Microscopical examination of spices, 243	Mother cloves, 249
of starches, 147–154	Muscovado sugar, 125
Middleton and Stuckey's wet oxidation	Mushrooms, dried, 13
method, 52	Mustard, 259
Mild ale, 288	allyl isothiocyanate in, 260
Milk, 23, 333–363	starch in, 260, 263
acidity of, 344	Mutarotation, 106, 113
adulteration of, 347 ash of, 345	Mutton fat in lard, detection of, 426 Myrosin, 259
citric acid in, 346	Mystin, 352
composition of, 334–336	Wrystin, 332
dirt in, 351	Neufchatel cheese, 404
enzymes in, 333	Neutralising value of acids used for bak-
factors which affect the composition	ing powder, 184, 185
of, 334	Nickel in fats, 397
freezing point of, 348	Nicotinamide in flour, 156, 171
hypochlorites in, 352	Nicotinic acid in flour, 156, 171
in bread, 177	Nipagin, 87
in sausage, 311	Nipasol M, 87
lactose in, 334, 346, 347	Nisin, 94, 455
"Mastitis," 345	Nitrates in cured meat, 89, 307
nitrates in, 347	Nitrites, 88
preservatives in, 351	in cured meat, 307, 451, 455
quaternary ammonium compounds in,	in flour, 168
352	in milk, 352
reaction of, 336	Nitrogen, determination of, 33
regulations, 337–339	in fat-free of meat, 304, 311
sour, analysis of, 343	Nitrogen peroxide in flour, 168
water in, 334, 347–351	Nitrogen trichloride in flour, 167
Milk bread, 175, 177	Nonalcoholic beverages, 17
Milk chocolate, 238	Nonbrewed condiment, 294, 296
ice, 409	Nonsugar solids of jam, 139, 140
powder, 376	Normal weight of sugars, 113
sugar, 106, 107	Novadelox, 168
Milks containing non-milk fat, 363 Millet starch, 153, 154	Nut products, 26
Millon's reagent, 86	Nutmegs, 263 Nutrose, 383
Mincemeat, 145, 146	Nuts, 26, 198
Mineral acid in vinegar, 298	1146, 20, 130
Mineral matter, 32	Oat flour, 95
Mineral oil in food, 442	Oat starch, 149, 150
Mineral waters, 18	Oatmeal, 154
Minerals, daily requirements (and	Obscuration (of spirits), 284
claims for), 460	Octyl gallate, 96
Mint, 245, 246	Offals in Meat Products Order, 308
sauce, 246	Oils and fats, 38, 416
Mixed herbs, 269	iodine value, 417
Mixed spice, 270	rancidity tests, 421
Mohler's test for benzoic acid, 84	saponification value, 419
Moisture, determination of, 30	titre of, 417

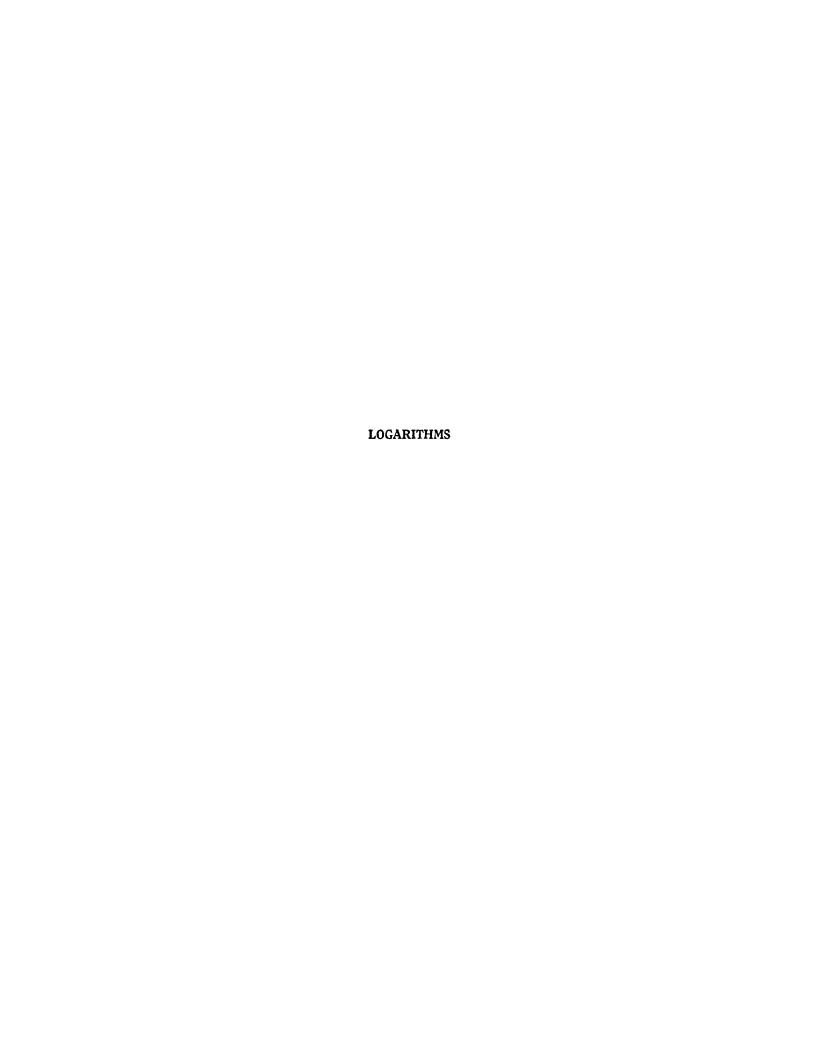
Oils determination of 30	Dommonotto 959
Oils, determination of, 38	Pepperette, 253
Oils, edible, 27	Perfume rancidity, 423
Old Tom gin, 284	Peroxidase in milk, 333
Olive oil, 430	Peroxide value of oils, 421
tests for adulteration of, 435	Perry, 291, 293
Olive stones in pepper, 253	Persulphates in flour, 166
Onion, dried, 248	Pesticidal residues on raw agricultural
Orange juice, 210	products, 14
concentrated, 209	Pesticide residues, 169
Orange peel, dried, 13	Phosphatase test, 359
Orange wine, labelling of, 279	Phosphate, determination of, 44
Oranges, diphenyl in, 201	Phosphates, acid, 184
o-phenylphenol in, 202	in baking powder, 187–192
thiourea in, 203	in flour, 166, 174
Organic phosphorus in dried egg, 194	Phosphoproteins in eggs, 193
Original gravity of beer, 289	Phytosterol acetate test, 397
Orleans process for vinegar, 295	Pickles, preservative in, 452, 453
Orthophenylphenol, 94, 202, 450, 454	Pickling spice, 270
Osazones, preparation of, 105	Pimento, 256
O'Sullivan's method for starch, 161	Pimiento, 254
Overrun of ice-cream, 413	Piperidine in pepper, 251
Oxidation value of vinegar, 300, 301	Piperine in pepper, 251
Oxides of nitrogen in flour, 168	Plums, 138
Oysters, canned, 23	Poisonous metals in foods, 49
Oysters, raw, 22	Poivrette, 253
Data ata 200	Polarimetry of sugars, 112–116
Pale ale, 288	Polenske process, 392, 393
Palm-kernel oil, 427	Polishing of rice, 181
in butter and margarine, 394	Pollen in honey, 133
Paper chromatography of antioxidants,	Pommel cheese, 404
97	Poppyseed oil, 432
of colouring matters, 101–104	Pork, 304, 311
of preservatives acids, 84	Pork sausage, 308
of sugars, 108	Port, 272
Paprika, 254, 255	Portland arrowroot, 152
Parachlorobenzoic acid, 84, 88	Potassium bromate in flour, 167
Parathn, test for, 420	Potato starch, 150, 151, 154, 310
Parahydroxybenzoic acid, 85, 86	Potatoes, 154, 199
Parmesan chasse 405	Potted fish, 322
Parmesan cheese, 405 Parsley, 245, 246	Potted meat, 314
and thyme stuffing, 269	Poultry, 24
Pasteurized milk, 338	Poultry products, 24
Phosphatase test for, 359	Prepared mustard, 263
Pea flour, 154	Preservative acids, detection by chro-
starch, 152, 153	matography, 84
Peach-kernel oil, 432, 434, 437	Preservatives, 78, 450
Peanut oil, 430, 432, 435	in jam, 142
Pearl barley, 182	Preserves, 14, 134-146
Pectin, in fruits and vegetables, deter-	Processed cheese, 405
mination of, 199	recommended standards, 406
in jam, 140	Prohibited deceptions, 2
Pentacyanoammonioferroate reagent,	Proof spirit, 280
203	Propionic acid, 93
Pentosans, determination of, 200	Propyl gallate, 96, 97
Pepper, Black and White, 249–253	Protein, determination of, 33
long, 251	Pyrophosphate, acid sodium, 184, 188,
red, 253	190
, 	

717	LA
Queensland arrowroot, 150, 151	Sage, 245, 247
Quinine tonic water, 213, 215, 279	Sage and onion stuffing, 269
~ , , ,	Sago, 154
Raffinose, 108, 116	starch, 151, 153
in beet sugar, 126	St. Vincent arrowroot, 151
Raisins, 198, 452, 454	Salad cream, 195
Rancidity of oils and fats, 421	egg-yolk solids in, 196, 197
	oil in, 196
Rape oil, 431, 433	Salad dressings, 28, 195
tests for, 437	Salad oils, 430
Raspberries, 138	Salicylic acid, 87
Raspberry jam, 135	detection of, 84, 87
Raw oysters, 22	Salmon, 319
Ready-to-drink beverages, 213, 215,	fat, 323
216	Salt, 444
Recknagel's phenomenon, 340	Sanatogen, 383
Redcurrant jam, 135	Sanitary safeguards, 1
Reduced iron, 156	Sanitation and filth, 4
Reductase test, 357, 414	Saponification value of oils, 419
Refractive index, of oils and fats, 416,	Sardines, 20, 319
425, 433	Sauce, Tomato, 207
of sugar solutions, 109	Sauces, preservative in, 452, 453
Required label statements, 2	Sausages, 308
Requirements of food law, 1	analysis of, 309
Regulations, Food, 1–29	F.S.C. Report on, 308
Reichert value, 391, 393	meat content of, 310–312
Reichert-Polenske-Kirschner process, 389	Savory, 245, 247
semi-micro modification, 392	Schiff's test, 274
Reinsch's test, 55	Schryver's test, 92
Rennin, 403	Sea crayfish, 23
Resazurin test, 358	Seafoods, 19
Residual carbon dioxide, of baking pow-	Seeds in jam, 138, 140
der, 185	Self-Raising Flour, 172–174
of self-raising flour, 172	Separated milk, 338
Riboflavin in flour, 171	Sesame oil, 432, 433
Rice, 154, 181	detection of, 436
starch, 149, 150	Sheep's milk, 334
Richmond's milk scale, 340	Shell in cocoa, 233, 237
Ringer's solution, 363	Shellfish, 50, 319, 324
Rope in bread, 175	Sherry, 271, 272
Roquefort cheese, 405	Shredded suet, 428–430
Rose-Gottlieb process, 39, 342	Shrewsbury-Knapp test, 92
for condensed milk, 372	Shrimp, 23
Rosemary, 245, 247	Silent spirit, 282
Rosenmund and Kuhnhenn method for	Sinalbin, 259
iodine value, 419	Sinigrin, 259
Rubner's test, 107	Sirups, 15 Skimmed milk, 338
Rum, 279, 283	with non-milk fat, 363
Rye flour, 154, 182	Soda bread, 175
starch, 149, 150	Soda water, 213, 215
Sacabarimeters 112	
Saccharin in soft drinks 217	Sodium pyrophosphate, acid, 184, 188, 190
Saccharin in soft drinks, 217	Soft cheese, 404
in wine, 277	
tablets, 448 Saccharose, 107	Soft drinks, 212 benzoic acid in, 217, 452, 454
	fruit juice in, 213–215, 217
Safeguards, 1 Saffron, 99	saccharin in, 213–215, 217
Juni 201, 30	5400Hallin III, 410 -410, 417

I N D E X 475

Solbrol, 87	Suet, 428–430
Solid glucose, 129	Sugar, cane and beet, 124–127
Solubility of dried egg, 195	Sugar-dried egg, 195
of dried milk, 380	Sugars, 15, 105
Soluble cocoas, 232	chromatographic detection of, 108
Soluble solids in fruit curd, 143	determination of, 111–124
in jam and marmalade, 135, 136	relative sweetness of, 126
in mincemeat, 145	Sulphated ash, 33
in table jellies (tablets), 327, 329	Sulphates in acid phosphates, 174, 189
Somogyi's method for determining	Sulphites, 79, 450
sugars, 123	Sulphur dioxide, 79–83, 450–456
Sorbic acid, 93	determination of, Monier-Williams'
Soups, canned, 445	method, 81
dried, 447 Sour milk, analysis of, 342	determination of, Shipton's method, 82
South Devon milk, 338 Soxhlet extraction apparatus, 38, 39	determination of, using iodine, 80
Soya in sausages, 311	in flour, 169 in fruit juices (direct titration
Soya meal, 183	method), 81
Specific gravity of fruit juices, 210	in wines, 277
of milk, 339	Sulphuric acid in vinegar, 298
of sugar solutions, 109, 111	Sultanas, 452, 454
Specific rotation of starches, 106	Sunflower oil, 432
of sugars, 106, 112, 113	Sweet potato starch, 152
Specific rotatory power, 112	Sweetness of sugars, 126
Spice seeds, 7	Sylvester and Hughes' method for zinc,
Spices, 7, 241–270	74
determination of volatile oil in, 242	Syrup, 127
Spirit indication of beer, 288	Golden, 127
Spirit vinegar, 294, 295	of blackcurrant, 219
Spirits, 279	T 11 131 007 004
"impurities" in, 280, 284	Table jellies, 327–331
Spoilage of fish, 320	setting test for, 328
of meat, 305	Table jelly compounds, 331
Squashes, 214–218 Stabilizing agents, 457	crystals, 329 tablets, 327
Stabilizing agents, 457 Stalks in tea, 220, 225	Table salt, 444
Standard solutions in volumetric analy-	Tailed pepper, 252
sis, 462	Talc in barley, 182
Standards for foods, 1	in rice, 181
Starch, determination of, in cereals, 161	Tannin in tea, 221, 224
in cocoa, 237	Tapioca, 152-154
in lemon curd, 144	Tartaric acid in baking powder, 184,
in mustard, 263	188, 192
in sausages, 309	Tea, 18, 220
Starches, 147–154	caffeine in, 221, 225
Sterilised milk, 339, 361	spent, 221
Stilton cheese, 405	stalks in, 220, 225
Stout, 288	Teaseed oil, 432, 433
Strawberries, 138	detection of (Fitelson's test), 437
Strawberry jam, 135 Struvite in canned fish, 324	Tetracyclines, 94 Theobromine in cocoa, 235
Stuffings, 269	Thiamin (thiamine), 169, 459
Sucrose, 107, 112, 125	Thorpe and Holmes' method, 274
determination of, 114, 115, 120	Thiourea in oranges, 203
in condensed milk, 373	Thyme, 245, 247
inversion of, 112, 115	Tin in foods, 70
solutions (s.g. and r.i. of), 109-111	Titre of oils, 417

Tocopherols, 441	Vitamin C, in flour, 167
Tolerances for filth, 5	determination in fruit juices, 211
Tomato juice, canned, 11	in fruits and vegetables, 201
Tomato ketchup (catsup, sauce or	in paprika, 254
relish), 207–209	Vitamin D, 440, 459
Tomato paste, canned, 11	Vitamin E, determination of, 441
Tomato paste, purée, 11, 206	Vitamins, daily requirements (and
Tonic water, 213, 215, 279	claims for), 459, 460
Tortelli and Fortini's test, 437	International Units, 459
"Total alkaloids" in cocoa, 236	Volatile oils in herbs and spices, 242,
in chocolate flour confectionery, 179	244
Total carbon dioxide, 172, 186	Volumetric determination of fat, 40,
Total volatile bases in fish, 321	341
Tous-les-mois starch, 150, 151	of sugars, 118, 124
Trace element determinations, General	Volumetric solutions, Factors for, 462
rules for, 52	747 1 . 1 11 1
Trace elements in food, 49–78	Walnut shells in pepper, 253
Treacle, 127	Water, determination of, 30
Trimethylamine in fish, 320	in milk, 347–351
Tuberculin tested milk, 338	Water soluble ash, 33
Tuna, 21	Wensleydale cheese, 405
Turbidity test for sterilized milk, 361	Werner-Schmid process, 38, 342
Turmeric, 99, 268	West Indian arrowroot, 152
Turmeric test for boric acid, 90	Wet oxidation of foodstuffs, 51
1 umene test tor some mora, et	Wheat flour (see also "Flour"), 155
Umbelliferous fruits, 256–259	bleaching of, 166
United States Food, Drug and Cosmetic	composition of, 155
Act, 1	F.S.C. Report on, 156
Unsaponifiable matter, 419, 443	improvers in, 165
Urease test for soya, 183	regulations, 156
	Wheat rusk, 154, 310, 311
Valenta test, 396	Wheat starch, 149, 150
Vanillin in custard powder, 180	Wheatmeal flour, 157
Vegetable colours, 99	Whisky, 282
Vegetables, 198	White bread, 174
canned, 10, 205	White fish, 319
Ventzke scale, 113	White mustard, 259–263
Viennese coffee, 227	White pepper, 250–253
Vieth ratio, 334, 347, 365, 379	Wholemeal bread, 175
Vinegar, 293	flour, 157 •
alkaline oxidation value, 300, 301	Wijs' solution, 418
"artificial" (nonbrewed condiment),	Wiley's method for liquid glucose, 129
296	Wine vinegar, 294, 296
	Wines, 271–279
definitions, 293	
ester value, 300–302	alcohol in, 273
iodine value, 300, 301	British, 278
malic acid in, 303	labelling of, 278
mercury in, 298	saccharin in, 277
mineral acid in, 298	044
oxidation value, 300, 301	Yeast extract, 318
Viscogen, 367	Yellowtail, 21
Vitamin A, in margarine, 399	
in oils, 438	Zinc, determination of, 73
Vitamin B ₁ , determination in flour,	limits for, 72
169	Zinc ferrocyanide clearing agent, 111
•	



LOGARITHMS

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