

It may be assumed that manufacturers intending to introduce borax into foods as a preservative, would not purchase the article without a guarantee of its freedom from arsenic; in other words, that borax as sold for laundry purposes should not be expected to meet the rigid standard set for borax as a food preservative.

A considerable number of the samples herein reported, are found to contain much more arsenic than 4 parts per million; some indeed showing from 50 to 100 parts per million. While an article of this quality may be decidedly objectionable or even dangerous, if employed in cream or butter, I have merely drawn attention to those cases in which excess of arsenic has been found, without charging adulteration under the Act. It may be sufficient to emphasize the fact that borax for food preservation, should be purchased with a trustworthy guaranty of purity, and that ordinary commercial borax is quite unfit for such a purpose.

The following synopsis of results, presents the matter of this report at a glance :—

Found genuine, and without excess arsenic.....	21	samples.
Found genuine but with excess arsenic.....	19	"
Found to contain carb. soda, declared.....	2	"
Found to contain carb. soda without declaration and therefore adulterated.....	13	"
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Total.....	55	"

I beg to recommend publication of this report as Bulletin No. 372

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,

Chief Analyst.