

In almost all articles of food, adulterations are found, and such as are not only unwholesome, but positively poisonous. As prices advance, the temptation to adulterate and the habit of adulterating will increase. Not only the public health, but the public morals, demand that some embargo should be laid upon this abuse. It has been urged that adulterations are beneficial, inasmuch as they render many articles of food cheaper, and by diminishing their natural strength, improve them for consumption. This is fallacious; for impure food is never favorable to health; and as to cheapness, if the price is lowered, the quantity of the article sold is lessened, at least in equal proportion.

It has been said that milk is not impaired by water; but if we take into consideration the fact that many infants and young children live entirely upon milk, its dilution becomes a positive crime; since they are deprived of the nourishment requisite for their proper health. Colored confectionery has often caused disease, and the use in beer of *cocculus indicus*, in London, has produced serious illness.

The Professor enumerated some of the common articles of food most frequently adulterated. Tea was mixed with beech sycamore and leaves—with indigo and Prussian blue, copperas and gum—coffee with chicory, roasted beans and acorns—flour with coarse meal and grain—sugar with sand, clay, plaster of paris—milk with water and chalk—bread with potatoes, plaster of paris and bone dust—butter with lard, and lard with common fat—confectionery with arrow root, sulphate of lime and potter's clay—liquors and wines with cayenne pepper, cassia, alum, oil of turpentine, ginger, capsicum, sulphuric acid, hellebore, cream of tartar and elderberry juice.

Many of these adulterations were poisonous, as *nux vomica*, lead, arsenic, *cocculus indicus*, preparations of copper, and others.

These admixtures had not been detected in Cincinnati, but only, in all probability because articles of food had not been submitted to tests.

*Cocculus indicus* was now thrice as valuable as it was a few years ago; seeming to show it had been put to an illegitimate use. Men of science had prostituted their abilities and learning, to furnish methods of adulteration; but other men of science had exposed these frauds. The lecturer had examined recently sixteen specimens of milk—only four were pure; six were inferior though not watered, and six watered from fifteen to twenty-five per cent.

At the close, the Professor proposed that the Academy of Medicine should in view of the numerous adulterations of food, request the City Council to appoint an officer or officers, whose duty it should be to examine such articles as are sold daily for consumption, to determine if they are pure and wholesome.

We think this a good movement, and hope the council will lend their aid to carry out a reformation in the quality of food, which, no doubt, is greatly needed.