

percentage so that (unless one could take the mean of a number of independent analyses of the same sample, a condition obviously impossible in this class of work) we must accept a possible error of 0.020, and consider percentages found between 0.680 and 0.820 as complying with the B. P. standard. Even the extremest variations found maximum = 0.940 morphine, minimum = 0.636 morphine, cannot be considered as indicating any dangerous deviation from the B. P. standard. These cases may be due to some carelessness in manufacture, to evaporation of the solvent through too long keeping in imperfectly closed bottles, or to additions of alcohol or water, with a view to making up loss due to evaporation. A strict interpretation of pharmacopoeal directions would classify the samples herein reported as follows:—

	Samples.
Within standard limits . . . . .	16
Above " " . . . . .	5
Below " " . . . . .	10
Total . . . . .	<u>31</u>

For reasons already given I consider that it would be going too far to describe the 15 samples included under the last two categories as adulterated, although a strict interpretation of the results of analysis might warrant this.

The only previous examination of Tincture of Opium made under the Adulteration Act, is reported in Bulletin No. 60, (January 1899). On that occasion 15 samples were reported, and found to be as follows:—

	Samples.
Morphine content correct . . . . .	8
" " high . . . . .	2
" " low . . . . .	5
Total . . . . .	<u>15</u>

I beg to recommend the publication of this report as Bulletin No. 168.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,  
Chief Analyst.