

penalties, and the detection of such adulteration is provided for by the appointment of analysts. Officers and inspectors of inland revenue, or officers specially created under the Act, are to act as inspectors, and may at any time enter the premises of persons keeping food, drink, or drugs for sale, and demand samples of such commodities. These must be furnished, but the person furnishing such samples may have the privilege of retaining, under seal, a portion of such samples. This will afford means to verify results of analysis or settle disputes regarding any disagreement arising from this cause. Persons from whom samples have been obtained have also the privilege of attending when the sample taken by the inspector is opened by the analyst, and there are also other conditions and restrictions to ensure the just working of the system. In case the analyst detects adulteration the fine above stated may be imposed, together with the costs of analysis.

A useful feature, which will be the means of collecting much valuable information relating to adulteration, is that requiring analysts to make a quarterly report, to the Department of Inland Revenue, of all analyses made during the period, and of the nature and kind of all adulteration detected. This report will be printed and appended to the annual report of the Department.

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## Editorial Summary.

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**Preparation of Lunar Caustic.**—Mr. E. Bouilhon, (*Repert. de Pharm. in Phar. Jour. and Trans.*), alludes to the imperfections of caustic crayons, their varying color, composition and brittleness. Some manufacturers add nitrate of potassium, as well for the purpose of reducing cost as of producing a whiter caustic. In other cases, chloride of silver is present, either as an accidental impurity, or added for the sake of improving the color and toughness. Such crayons are quickly darkened by light. Again, a basic nitrate, or nitrite of silver, originating in the overheating of the fused salt, is often present. Strangely enough, the Codex, losing sight of the fact that the nitrate is easily reduced by organic matter, especially under the influence of heat, recommends the greasing of the moulds, and also directs the salt to be kept for some time in a state of fusion. The author rightly concludes that none of these expedients need be