

It is to be kept in mind that the figures just quoted were obtained by work done upon commercial samples of Bran, many of which were adulterated by addition of oat-hulls and other matters containing fibre, hence the average results are decidedly higher than would be the case had only genuine wheat-bran been included.

So far as the present inspection is concerned, 35 samples (out of 186) show more than 10 per cent of fibre. Only 8 samples exceed 11 per cent and the highest fibre found is 11.95 per cent.

Section 15 of the Feeding Stuffs Act permits an excess of two per cent (maximum of 12 per cent fibre) provided that the total value of the Bran meets requirements. The particular sample now referred to shows 14.53 per cent proteids and 5.26 per cent of fat, so that the excess of fibre is fully compensated. The great majority of these samples fall well within the 10 per cent limit.

Under these circumstances I find no reason for advising reconsideration of the fibre standard for Bran.

Although from the point of view of nutrient value all the samples herein reported meet legal requirements. Fifteen samples are found to contain more than 25 noxious weed seeds per pound. The very liberal interpretation of the Weeds Seeds Act, in virtue of which we permit 25 seeds per pound is based upon the consideration that before these seeds have a chance of germination they are passed through the digestive system of animals to whom the Bran is fed, and it is reasonable to expect that a considerable proportion of the vital seeds in the feed will in this way have their germinating power destroyed.

Experimental work on this subject done in the Maryland Experiment Station in 1908, and quoted in Bulletin No. 254 of this Department, seems to justify the limit of 25 seeds per pound as reasonable. At the same time, it is to be noted that this limit has not, up to the present, received legal recognition.

I beg to recommend publication of this report as Bulletin No. 355.

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

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.