

The remaining 57 samples, similarly classified, yield percentages of volatile oil much higher than 14 and it is open to question whether samples showing less than this amount do not consist in whole or in part, of "exhausted cloves," that is, cloves from which the volatile oil has been removed in whole or in part.

Starch is present in 27 samples. This is not a normal component of cloves. In a few cases the amount is so small that it may be present accidentally, but generally this assumption is not tenable. Pimento starch is usually the variety found; but sometimes wheat and maize have been identified. It must be remembered that this spice, while very frequently adulterated by addition of foreign matters, is capable of another kind of adulteration, namely, the removal of the whole or part of the volatile oil to which the spice owes its value.

The definition of Standard Ground Cloves must be written in such a way as to exclude both forms of adulteration. Such a definition is being considered.

I beg to recommend the publication of this report as Bulletin 173.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.