The minimum amount of Ethyl Nitrite required by the British Pharmacopœia is one and three-quarters per cent (1·75) by weight. Of the collection now reported, 14 per cent of the samples contain less than this amount; 30 per cent contain less than 1 per cent of Ethyl Nitrite; 14 per cent contain less than one-half of 1 per cent; while nearly 9 per cent of the samples contain none at all.

"Although the names of the manufacturers, or furnishers as supplied by the vendor, are given in their proper places in the appended table, it is but right to insist that responsibility for the quality of Sweet Spirit of Nitre should rest upon the immediate dealer, or vendor of the article. There is no reason to believe that any manufacturer of repute furnishes this drug otherwise than up to standard strength. The name of the manufacturer or furnisher is given in accordance with section 19 of the Act, and not because of any proved negligence on his part.

"It is abundantly evident, in view of the continued sale of this drug in a condition in which it seriously handicaps the physician, and imperils the well-being of the patient, that druggists must be made to realize their responsibility in dispensing drugs which fail to meet the standard set by the pharmacopœias.

"Experiments made by the late Franklin T. Harrison, Public Analyst, proved that Sweet Spirit of Nitre made according to British Pharmacopœial directions can be kept, without change, for a year, under proper precautions. (See Bulletin No. 23, p. 7.)

"If this important drug cannot be procured by physicians in such condition as the pharmacopœia requires, it should either be removed from the pharmacopœia altogether, or physicians must learn to employ it in full knowledge of its doubtful character and be prepared for most erratic and uncertain results.

"The fact is that it can be prepared and kept by careful and intelligent druggists, and that this is not done must be regarded as a disgrace to the drug trade, and a very serious menace to the public."

The results of the present inspection may be summarized thus:—

	Samples.
Found to meet B.P. requirements	4
" correct as to content of Ethyl Nitrite	31
" approximately correct as to Ethyl Nitrite content	12
" to contain decided excess of Ethyl Nitrite	19
" to contain marked deficiency of Ethyl Nitrite	19
Total	85

It is to be noted that the revised pharmacopœia of 1914 makes some slight change in the standard for this drug as below:—

	1898.	1914.
Method of preparation	Unchanged.	
Ethyl Nitrite in freshly prepared spirit	2·5%	2·66%
Specific gravity	0·838	to 0·842
Ethyl Nitrite as dispensed: minimum	1·75%	1·52%
" " " maximum	2·50%	2·66%

Since the revised pharmacopœia of 1914 has but recently come into recognition in Canada, it is fair to interpret the results of analysis in such a way as to conform to either the edition of 1898 or that of 1914. As a matter of fact the differences as far as this drug is concerned are negligible.

It will be noted that, in the matter of specific gravity only five (5) samples fall within the limits fixed by the pharmacopœia. Fifty-four (54) samples have a specific gravity below 0·838 and twenty-six (26) samples have specific gravity above 0·842.