

LABORATORY
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GLACIAL ACETIC ACID

OTTAWA, April 28, 1908.

W. J. GERALD, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report upon 45 samples of Glacial Acetic Acid, purchased in retail drug shops, throughout the Dominion, in February of this year.

Of this number, 34 samples contain 95 per cent or more by weight, of real acetic acid, and these I have adjudged as genuine. The British Pharmacopœia, as well as that of the United States, requires Glacial Acetic Acid to contain 99 per cent of true acid. Exposure to moist air, from the frequent unstoppering of bottles, in the ordinary business of dispensing, may account for a dilution of a few units per cent, and I have considered it reasonable to regard as genuine all samples reaching 95 per cent strength.

Eleven (11) samples are decidedly below the standard strength, two samples falling to about 50 per cent.

It is to be remarked that the British Pharmacopœia, in addition to Glacial Acetic Acid, describes an Acetic Acid of 33 per cent strength, and a diluted Acetic Acid of 4.27 per cent.

I would respectfully recommend the publication of this report as Bulletin No. 153.

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

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.