

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OTTAWA, CANADA
BULLETIN No. 255

SWEET SPIRIT OF NITRE

OTTAWA, March 28, 1913.

WM. HIMSWORTH, Esq.,
Acting Deputy Minister,
Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report upon 73 samples of Sweet Spirit of Nitre, obtained by our inspectors during December, 1912, and January, 1913.

The report shows that 41 samples contain the legal amount of Ethyl Nitrite, while 32 samples contain less than the minimum permitted by the British Pharmacopœia.

This important drug has on two former occasions been the subject of inspection, and has always been found to show a high percentage of adulteration; consisting not in the addition of foreign matters, but in containing less of the active principle (Ethyl Nitrite) than the standard set by the pharmacopœias requires.

As has been pointed out in former bulletins, and emphasized by the pharmacopœias, the article is prone to decomposition; and, unless kept with special care, will always deteriorate in the hands of the dealer. This fact is so well known to the drug trade that physicians have a right to expect special care on the part of the druggist, who is properly held responsible for the quality of the drugs he dispenses. The following table presents the results of three inspections of Sweet Spirit of Nitre:—

Bulletin.	Year.	Total samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
			p.c.	p.c.
167.....	1908	77	37	63
234.....	1911	74	57	43
255.....	1913	73	56	44