

practically impossible to infer with accuracy from facts at present ascertained what would be the effect of, for instance, formic aldehyde upon a patient suffering from uraemia."

"A factor still more subtle in its influence upon the question before us is idiosyncrasy. Certain individuals are extremely sensitive to certain drugs, and it appears that among these drugs must be reckoned at least one of the agents used as a preservative. Although legislation covering all possible idiosyncrasies would be too complicated to be practical; nevertheless, it must be pointed out that as matters are at present, an individual possessing idiosyncrasy with regard to the poisonous action of boracic acid would not be able to profit even by his own experience. For since the addition of this substance to foods is not declared he might be continually made ill by the repeated involuntary consumption of articles of food containing it."

"The actual material upon which to base trustworthy conclusions not existed heretofore, in that the declaration of preservatives, and also a regulation of and notification of the amount thereof present in any preserved food must be regarded as a necessary preliminary to any accurate observations or statistics upon the subject. Had declaration of preservatives been in force during recent years, we should probably now have been in possession of medical evidence more directly based upon fact than that which we have had laid before us."

"Notwithstanding the fact that trustworthy data as to actual injury are but few, there is evidence pointing to the probability that such injury does at times accrue. We cannot overlook the danger to which the uncontrolled use of drugs in the food of the population may be likely to give rise."

"Compounds of boracic acid have not been proved to be more hurtful than saltpetre to the consumer, yet saltpetre has been used from time immemorial in curing bacon, etc. The modern use of borax and boracic acid has enabled producers to dispense with a large proportion of common salt formerly necessary, thereby rendering bacon far milder to the palate, and protecting it from taint and fly-blow."

"After very carefully weighing the evidence we have come to the conclusion that as regards the trade in fresh and cured meat, fish, butter, margarine, and other food substances in the consumption of which but small quantities of the antiseptic are taken into the system, there exists no sufficient reason for interfering to prevent the use of boron preservatives. Even butter, of which the imports from all countries except Denmark frequently contain boracic acid, is not consumed in such quantities by individuals as to convey more than a very moderate daily amount of the drug into the system. The evidence satisfies us that the amount of preservative corresponding to 0.5 per cent. of boracic acid is sufficient for the purpose of preserving butter."

"But the circumstances and considerations affecting the milk traffic are very different. Milk, a very perishable substance, peculiarly liable