

As pointed out in Bulletin 110 (Oct. 1900), alcoholic preparations of ginger are known as Tinctures, Essences and Extracts. The tincture is the only one of these which is recognised officially by the British pharmacopoeia. The United States pharmacopoeia (8th revision) describes a fluid extract of ginger, made with alcohol of the same strength as that contained in the tincture, while the quantity of ginger used is five times as much as in the preparation of the tincture. It is possible that a satisfactory tincture might be made from this fluid extract, by dilution with alcohol; but the pharmacopoeia does not authorize preparation of the tincture in this way; and it is not to be taken as proved that a tincture so made could properly be substituted for the official tincture. Under no circumstances could the use of a weaker alcohol in dilution be justified.

Essence of ginger is not a pharmacopoeal preparation; and should not be dispensed. As a mode of supplying ginger for culinary purposes, the essences have a proper place in the grocery trade.

It will be seen that one of the samples low in alcohol (No. 39440) is sold as an essence of ginger, and should not have been accepted by our inspector. Two others (Nos. 22909 and 36171) contain less than 70 per cent. alcohol, and cannot by any reasonable interpretation be looked upon as coming up to pharmacopoeal requirements. Numbers 37562 and 37565 are stated to be made from the Fluid Extract. Even were such a method of preparing the tincture allowable, the samples in question have been made by dilution with an alcohol much below the strength required by the pharmacopoeia. They must be regarded as adulterated under the Act.

I beg to recommend the publication of this report as Bulletin No. 179.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,  
Chief Analyst.