

LABORATORY  
OF THE  
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 143

DRUGS  
CHLORAL HYDRATE, AMMONIUM BROMIDE, PURIFIED CREAM  
OF TARTAR

OTTAWA, December 3, 1907.

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

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report dealing with 389 samples collected at *etc.*, and more particularly described as follows:—

	Samples.
Chloral hydrate .....	129
Ammonium bromide .....	129
Boracic acid (sold as ammonium bromide) .....	1
Potassii tartras acidus. ....	92
Rochelle salt (sold as pot. tart. ac.) .....	1
Cream of tartar .....	36
Bi. carbonate of soda (sold as cream of tartar) .....	1
Total .....	389

The collections were made in July and August last, and particular instructions were issued to guide the inspectors in their work. Unfortunately these instructions were ignored by four of the inspectors, and, in consequence of this fact, thirty-seven samples of cream of tartar were purchased under that name, a name which is not recognized by the British Pharmacopœia. Cream of tartar is not a drug, although *purified cream of tartar* is an official synonym for potassii tartras acidus. These samples must, therefore, in justice to the vendors, be judged as commercial cream of tartar, and not in terms of the pharmacopœal definition for the purified article.

Descriptive notes precede the tables, and the only other point which deserves mention here is the occurrence of serious blunders in dispensing. When one is served with