jurious to a consumer.

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was discove id in any of the samples. he Bulletin that "only three samples It is furth. 1 ctionable odor, one of these being are mentioned as aving very bad, and two samples are characterized as stale. Thus, only five per cent. of the samples were found to be in any degree doubtful, so far as quality is concerned." This part of the report is particularly gratifying, since statements have appeared in the Canadian press to the effect that salmon of bad quality was frequently offered for sale in the markets of the country. trustworthy information as to the truth of this charge, a circular and a schedule were issued, December, 1899, by the Inland Revenue Department to physicians practising in Canada, requesting them to mention any cases of illness in their practice apparently attributable to the use of tinned foods. In reference to the information evoked by this circular, Mr. Macfarlane writes: "The number of cases actually given amounts to 970 for the whole Do-The period of observation sometimes means the whole time during which the physician has been practising, and in many other cases it extends back only a year or two. The average period I find to be seven years. The number of cases of disease apparently attributable to the use of tinned goods would, therefore, average about 138 per annum in the whole of Canada. total number of cases which terminated fatally amounted to fifteen in the above-mentioned average period."

Mr. Macfarlane states that, in reply to the query in the schedule, "Have you judged the symptoms of poisoning to point to metallic or to ptomain poisons," the answers are indefinite; but, interpreting them reasonably, about 70 per cent. of the cases are attributed to ptomain, and 30 per cent. to metallic poisoning. In reference to the charge of ptomain poisoning, the physicians ascribed it to several causes, viz. (1) because the contents of the tin were too old; (2) because they were exposed too much to air after opening, and without being transferred to another vessel; (3) owing to imperfect exclusion of air previous to opening; (4) because of unsound character or inferior quality when originally packed. The suggestion is also offered by the physicians that "screws should be used in screwing the boxes in which the tins are packed, as nails sometimes happen to be driven through the tins, causing access of tir.