

recent action, in which the question whether Apollinaris was entitled to be called a Natural Mineral Water was decided in the affirmative, the *Lancet* has sent a special Commissioner to visit the Apollinaris Spring in Germany, and he now reports the result of his investigations there, and sets forth numerous analysis made on the spot, and of Apollinaris purchased in the open market. The article concludes as follows :

“It is difficult to suggest, in the face of the facts just recorded and of the experience which has decided upon the adoption of the methods of bottling Apollinaris which we have described, how those methods could be altered with any possible advantage to the public, or how any modification of those methods would enable the public to receive the water in a condition more natural than it is. As a matter of fact, Apollinaris water is bottled in such a way that the natural equilibrium of the water and its compliment of gas at a depth of 50 feet in the spring are preserved in the bottle for public use. Both water and gas are absolutely the natural products of the spring, and the composition of the bottled water is, according to our analysis, always the same and without any appreciable variation in the mineral constituents. Some portion of a useless constituent, in the form of oxide of iron (the total amount in the water being quite minute) separates from the water prior to bottling, but a useful constituent, in the shape of a small quantity of salt, is added to augment the amount of salt already naturally present in the spring, in order to prevent the possible decomposition to which the sulphate of sodium of the water is occasionally liable. The taste of the water in bottle is identical with that of the water taken directly from the spring. Apollinaris water has a peculiar soft flavour which is due, not to common salt at all but in part to the alkaline carbonates which neutralise the acids in the mouth, and in part to the natural state of combination of the mineral ingredients. As Professor Oscar Leibreich has said, ‘even the best manufactured artificial mineral waters differ from the natural ones in taste and value.’ There is nothing disclosed in our analysis of the bottled water which is not found in the water at the spring. In view of these facts which we have taken some trouble to ascertain for ourselves, it seems to us that the recent decision of the Lord Chief Justice that Apollinaris water is entitled to the description of a natural mineral water is in accordance with both law and common sense.

“We may add that our analysis and observations are in substantial agreement with those given at various times by the late Professor Virchow, Professor Bischof, Professor Liebreich, Professor Mohr, Professor Hofmann, Professor Kekulé, Professor William Odling, and the late Sir Edward Frankland.”