

statement of the presence of acetanilide is often included in a considerable mass of reading matter, so that it requires some care and time to ascertain if present or not. I think that the name of the potent drug should be prominently indicated.

Section 7 of the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act requires that declaration of the presence of either acetanilide or of phenacetin should be made on the label unless an affidavit has been filed specifying the amount of such drug present, and limiting this amount to a maximum which shall satisfy the Minister of Inland Revenue of the harmlessness to health of such maximum. The medical advisers of the Hon. the Minister have fixed this amount at 2 grains for acetanilide and 5 grains for phenacetin. In none of the powders containing phenacetin does the amount present exceed 5 grains.

Of powders in which acetanilide is the chief ingredient sixty-two (62) declare the presence of the drug, and are therefore within the protection of the Act, even though the amount contained is higher than the limit (2 grains) considered safe by our medical advisers. Twenty-seven (27) samples do not declare the presence of the drug, and do not contain any notable excess of it. Eleven (11) samples contain notable excess, without statement of the fact of its presence, but are protected by having a stamp upon them, being thus designated as old stock, and not amenable to the penalties of the Act, if properly stamped. (Circular G. 843). Fifteen (15) samples contain the scheduled drug in excess, without having any declaration of its presence upon the label, and without being stamped and are therefore amenable to the penalties fixed by Section 12 of the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act.

Eighty-eight (88) samples of the one hundred and fifty (150) herein reported, make distinct claim to curative powers. In most cases these claims cover headache, neuralgia, nausea, insomnia and many other ills; sometimes the claim is strengthened by addition of such words as "Sure," "Certain," "Instantaneous," &c. All such claims are unwarranted, and are misleading. They constitute misdescription or misbranding; and this should be made a punishable offence under the Act.

ACETANILIDE POWDERS.

In twenty-seven (27) samples containing this drug without declaration of its presence, and judged as meeting the claims of the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act, inasmuch as the permitted amount of two (2) grains is not materially exceeded, the actual mean content of acetanilide in each powder is 2·03 grains.

Of sixty-two (62) samples containing acetanilide, with notification of this fact on the label, the actual mean amount of the drug in each powder is 4·1 grains; being above 5 grains in 19 samples, and above 6 grains in 9 samples.

That the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act has caused greater care to be taken in dispensing of this dangerous drug may be inferred from the record of seven samples of old stock; that is stock in possession of the retail dealer at the time the Act came into force, and permitted to be sold if stamped in such a way as to show that they are not subject to the control of the Act.

The samples referred to are as follows:—

No.	Powder No. 1.	Powder No. 2.
No. 46014	5·1	5·5
" 46018	6·4	6 1
" 36392	4·9	4·3
" 47254	4·2	4·9
" 48023	5·1	5·5
" 43582	5·9	6·4
" 47257	4·4	4·1
Mean	5·1	5·2