

green\* teas are thus vilely adulterated, the reader may fancy that he can at least take refuge in coffee—alas! in too many cases he will only avoid Scylla to fall into Charybdis. Coffee, as generally sold in the metropolis and all large towns, is adulterated even more than tea. The Treasury Minute, which allowed it to be mixed with chicory, is at the head and front of the offending. In the year 1840 this celebrated Minute was issued by the sanction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir C. Wood, the immediate consequence of which was that grocers began to mix it with pure coffee in very large quantities, quite forgetting to inform the public of the nature of the mixture, and neglecting at the same time to lower the price. The evil became so flagrant that, upon the installation of the Derby Administration, Mr. Disraeli promised to rescind this license to adulterate; but before the promise was redeemed, the administration was rescinded itself. Mr. Gladstone, upon his acceptance of office, loth, it appears, to injure the chicory interest, modified the original Minute, but allowed the amalgamation to continue, provided the package was labelled "Mixture of Chicory and Coffee." It was speedily found, however, that this announcement became so confounded with other printing on the label that it was not easily distinguishable, and in consequence it was provided that the words "This is sold as a mixture of Chicory and Coffee" should be printed by themselves on one side of the canister. It may be asked what is the nature of this ingredient, that the right to mix it with coffee should be maintained by two Chancellors of the Exchequer during a period of fifteen years as jealously as though it were some important principle of our constitution?—Chicory, to say the best of it, is an insipid root, totally destitute of any nourishing or refreshing quality, being utterly deficient in any nitrogenized principle, whilst there are strong doubts whether it is not absolutely hurtful to the ner-

vous system. Professor Beer, the celebrated oculist of Vienna, forbids the use of it to his patients, considering it to be the cause of amaurotic blindness. Even supposing it to be perfectly harmless, we have a material worth 8d. a pound, which the grocer is allowed to mix *ad libitum* with one of the value of 1s. 4d. If the poor get the benefit of the adulteration there might become excuse for permitting the admixture of chicory, but it is proved that the combination is sold in many shops at the same price as pure coffee. Analyses made by Dr. Hassall of upwards of a hundred different samples of coffee, purchased in all parts of the metropolis before the issuing of the order for the labelling of the packages "chicory and coffee," proved that, in a great number of cases, articles sold as "finest Mocha," "choice Jamaica coffee," "superb coffee," &c., contained, in some cases, very little coffee at all; in others "only a fifth, a third, half," &c., the rest being made up mainly of chicory.

Numerous analyses have been made of most of the articles of food and drink in common use by Dr. Hassall, and in a large majority of instances, with similar results.—*North American Homeopathic Journal.*

#### GALVANIC BATHS.

EIGHT years ago, while perusing the writings of Becquerel upon the subject of galvanism, our attention was arrested by the idea that this agent not only possessed the power of decomposing certain salts, but that during the process one constituent of the salt must pass to the positive and the other to the negative pole of the battery, traversing, if necessary, in its rapid course, even the tissues of the body. In a paper, published in this Journal more than three years since upon this subject, we earnestly called the attention of the profession to this important agent, and made allusion to some of the experiments of Becquerel. We then expressed our determination to continue these investigations, and at some future period to communicate the results

\* Assam tea is the only exception to this rule, but very little of it is imported.