

FEED FLOUR.

In Bulletin No. 231 (page 5) I called attention to a variety of feeding stuff sold as shorts or middlings, but having characters which would seem to indicate that it is rather a low-grade flour than shorts or middlings, as these are generally known. The following quotation from Bulletin No. 231 explains this matter:—

"A considerable number of samples, which appear to answer a description of low grade flour, were found in the above collection; but these were supplied indiscriminately as shorts or middlings, as indicated by the maxima for fibre and for fat, though most of them were sold as middlings.

"In order to discover whether the present collection indicates any accepted distinction between the terms, I have collated the results for 72 out of 73 samples sold as shorts, and for 54 out of 68 samples sold as middlings, being in each case the number of samples respectively, which meet the requirements of legal definition.

"Seventy-two (72) samples of shorts give results as follows:—

SHORTS.			
	Fat.	Proteids.	Fibre.
Means.	4.65	16.20	6.3
Maxima.	6.48	18.46	8.0
Minima.	3.44	14.00	3.9

"Fifty-four (54) samples of middlings give the following results:—

	Fat.	Proteids.	Fibre.
Means.	4.47	15.95	5.2
Maxima.	6.26	18.02	8.1
Minima.	3.02	14.13	1.4

"The results appear to justify the conclusion that the article sold as shorts is not substantially different from the article sold as middlings; and this conclusion is corroborated by the expressed opinion of many millers, in answer to questions by our inspectors. At the same time it is to be noted that samples characterized by very low fibre, low fat and a high starch content (indicating flour), are usually sold as middlings, rather than as shorts.

"Examples of this are found in the following:—

Number.	Fat.	Proteids.	Fibre.	—
46084.	2.16	10.37	1.5	low in proteids and fibre.
36956	1.55	12.73	0.7	" " fat and fibre.
43271.	2.08	12.51	0.8	" " "
43281.	2.32	13.26	1.3	" " "
47413.	2.66	15.11	1.9	" fat and fibre.
47414.	3.16	12.56	1.8	" proteids and fibre.
38185.	2.66	11.42	0.9	" fat and fibre.
38189	2.02	12.03	0.5	" " "
47611.	2.37	14.61	1.1	" fat and fibre.
47618.	1.98	13.04	0.8	" "
47621.	2.28	12.86	1.0	" "

"Feeds of this kind should be sold as feed-flour; or by some name which distinguished them from legal shorts or middlings. While they possess considerable value for feeding purposes, they must be regarded as adulterated under the Act when offered as shorts or middlings. Their low fibre content is an advantage from the point of view of nutritive value, since this is replaced by starch in amount equivalent to the difference between the legal maximum for fibre (8 per cent) and the actual fibre present."