

PARIS MUNICIPAL LABORATORY.

On another page we print the report of the Paris Municipal Laboratory for the month of February. We should be glad to print these returns every month if our space allowed of it, as they shew strikingly the activity with which this useful legislation is enforced in Paris, as compared with the apathy shewn in England, and especially in the metropolis. There are several points in the return which will be of interest to our readers, in view of the amendment of the Act, which must naturally take place in this country in a short time.

Milk adulteration appears to be almost as prevalent in Paris as in London, for we find that more than 30 per cent. of the samples bought by the Inspectors were watered and skimmed.

The most remarkable feature in the return is the extent to which the falsification of wine is practised in Paris, and the stringent standard set up by the Municipal Laboratory for judging by. Thus we find that a disagreeable flavour, fortification with alcohol or sugar, or the addition of salicylic acid, are all sufficient to place samples in the "C" or "Bad" class. We notice also that more than 25 per cent. of the samples of wine were condemned on the ground that they were plastered with two grammes per litre, and that 24 samples are condemned as adulterated with foreign colouring matters.

It will be observed that in chocolates, 8 samples were condemned on the ground of the addition of the debris from the shell and starch, and 9 samples are condemned for the addition of foreign fats, which we presume have been added to replace the cocoa butter. This adulteration is said to be very common in this country, but we have not yet met with a case of prosecution for it.

Thirty-two samples of tin ware and glazed pewter were examined, and 27 of them were condemned on account of the presence of lead.

Colouring matters, toys, and coloured papers and wrappers are dealt with very stringently, though, in our opinion, not too much so. Only two samples out of 37 examined passed satisfactorily.

ANALYSES MADE DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY IN THE MUNICIPAL LABORATORY OF PARIS.

Nature of the samples analysed :—					Total A.	Good B.	The other samples are classed as follows :—	
Wines .. .. .	..	..	..	..	782	136	72	Sickness of wine (bitter, acid, fusty, &c.)
							117	Flavour disagreeable.
							206	Plastered above two grams per litre.
							78	Fortified or sugared.
							62	Adulterated with decoction of dried grapes (raisins).
							234	Adulterated with water.
Vinegars .. .. .	..	..	..	..	18	1	24	„ with foreign colouring matters.
							15	„ with salicylic acid.
							17	Substitution of alcohol vinegar for wine vinegar.
Beers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	21	15	4	Adulterated with water.
Ciders .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6	3	2	„ with salicylic acid.
Alcohols and Liqueurs ..	..	..	..	..	19	5	3	Adulterated with water.
							11	Adulterated with forbidden colouring matters.
Syrups .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	0	8	„ with glucose and various adul- terants.
							2	Adulterated by adding glucose.
							2	„ with forbidden colouring matters.
Waters .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7	2	5	„ various causes.
							4	Contaminated with organic matter.
Milks .. .. .	..	..	..	..	531	364	167	„ with mineral matter.
Butters .. .. .	..	..	..	..	35	28	7	Watered and skimmed.
Oils .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	Addition of foreign fats.
Flours .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8	6	2	Addition of foreign oils.
Doughs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	Damaged flours.
Meats .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6	3	3	Tainted.
Sugars .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Preserves .. .. .	..	..	..	..	19	17	1	Green with copper.
							1	Tainted.
Peppers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7	3	4	Addition of flour and dust.
Salt .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coffees, chicorys, Teas ..	..	..	..	..	13	13	..	..
Chocolates .. .. .	..	..	..	..	25	8	8	Addition of the debris from the shell & starch.
							9	„ of foreign fats.
Honeys .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	..
Jams .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	Addition of glucose.
Colouring materials .. ..	..	..	..	..	22	1	21	Addition of flour and dust.
Toys .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	Forbidden colouring matters.
Coloured papers and wrappers	..	..	..	..	10	1	19	Forbidden colouring matters.
Tin and glazed pottery ..	..	..	..	..	32	5	27	Coloured with forbidden colouring matters.
Spices .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	Presence of lead.
Pharmaceutical preparations	..	..	..	..	11	11	..	..
Perfumery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8	1	1	Forbidden substances.
Petroleums .. .. .	..	..	..	..	11	7	1	Inflammable below 35° C.
Various .. .. .	..	..	..	..	45	17	28	Various causes.
					1656	658		

NOTE.—The totals of the columns B and C will not agree with the number of the analyses made, for the same sample may be counted under several headings in column C.