PROPOSED NOTIFICATION TO TRADESMEN OF THE RESULTS OF ANALYSES MADE UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.*

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THE Lambeth Council, on June 13th, 1907, carefully considered a proposal to notify to tradesmen from whom a sample has been taken under the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, when such sample has been declared by the analyst to be genuine, within seven days of the receipt of the Public Analyst's certificate, but decided not to adopt it, having regard to the extreme difficulty of framing a notification which would not lend itself to any abuse. The statistics obtained from other metropolitan districts with regard to the practice there were as follows:—

1. No notification (22)—Battersea, Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Camberwell, Chelsea, Deptford, Fulham, Hackney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Holborn, Islington, Kensington, Lewisham, Paddington, St. Marylebone, Southwark, Stepney, Stoke Newington, Wandsworth, Westminster, Woolwich.

2. Modified notification (4)—Finsbury, Greenwich, Poplar, and St. Pancras, thus:—

(a) In Finsbury, when a sample has been found genuine, the following post card intimation is sent to the vendor, viz.:—

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that no proceedings will be taken by the Borough Council in respect of the sample of
purchased of you by the Inspector on the
day of 190 .

I am, yours faithfully,

(b) In Greenwich a notice is sent to the vendor in the following terms:—

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in informing you that it is not the intention of this Council to take any further steps in reference to the samples numbered ,
purchased on the

I am, yours faithfully,

This form has recently been adopted by Greenwich because it was found previously that when letters were sent to vendors stating that the samples were found to be genuine, the letter was sometimes used as an advertisement.

(c) In the borough of Poplar a verbal intimation is given to the vendor at the time of the purchase of the sample that if he hears nothing to the contrary within a month, the sample has been found to be genuine.

(d) In the borough of St. Pancras the following resolution recently passed by the Council is observed, viz.:—"That in future where samples of food and drugs are purchased for analysis from tradesmen in the borough, they be informed at the time of purchase that on applying to the medical officer of health after twenty-eight days from that date they will be told whether the analysis is satisfactory or not."

3. Notification (1)—Shoreditch, as follows:—When a sample has been found to be genuine, a card, enclosed in an envelope, and bearing the following particulars, is sent to the trader, viz.:

Date of despatch of card.

Sample No.

And merely the word "Genuine";

whereas, in those cases in which a sample is not genuine, but in which legal proceedings are not advisable, a somewhat similar card is sent to the tradesman, but, instead of the word "Genuine," the words "No Action" are printed.

With respect to the twenty-two boroughs where no notification is given, there are four, viz., Bermondsey, Camberwell, Fulham and Holborn, in which a communication is made to the vendor where a sample has been found, on analysis, to be not genuine, but the adulteration is not sufficiently large or serious to warrant proceedings, warning him as to the need of taking steps to ensure that the articles sold by him, in future, are free from adulteration.

In the borough of Bethnal Green it was formerly the practice to inform the tradesmen the result of the analysis, but the practice "has been discontinued, as it was found that such communications were of no real service, and were only made use of as advertisements."

In the borough of Stepney also it was formerly the practice to send an intimation to vendors that legal proceedings would not be instituted, but the practice has quite recently been discontinued by the Public Health Committee.

In the borough of Wandsworth no notice is given to the traders, except "in the case of public institutions, when samples are taken of milk, in course of delivery, purchased under contract, the result of analysis is furnished on application."

THE BETTERMENT OF BABIES.—Sheffield is interesting itself in the betterment of its babies. Mrs. Scarfield, the wife of the Medical Officer of Health for the city is the moving spirit in the "Motherhood" League of the city, and has succeeded in organizing a novel baby show. Thirteen prizes have been offered for babies of differing classes and ages. An additional prize was given for twins and another for the most hygienically dressed baby in the show. A demonstration of how to wash and dress a baby was also a feature of the show. Upwards of 400 babies were exhibited.

* From the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Lambeth, 1907.