NOTE ON AN ADULTERATED SAMPLE OF TEA.

BY A. BOSTOCK HILL, M.D., F.I.C.

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I am induced to bring the following results of analysis before the Society, not because I have discovered anything new, as regards the adulteration of Tea, but because, now all tea is examined in bond, an adulterated sample is a great rarity.

The sample in question was bought in one of the rural districts of the County of Warwick, and submitted to me by the inspector in December last. It was a green tea, but very slightly faced. The following were the results obtained:—

Total Ash	=12·10	} per cent.
Soluble Ash	= 1·29	
Alkalinity as [†] Potash	= 0·13	
Sandy matter	= 6·00	
Extract	=37·00	

The extract was obtained by boiling 1 gram, for an hour under an upright condenser, it was light in colour, but had a somewhat bitter astringent taste. On precipitating, an infusion, by neutral acetate of lead, and testing with dilute solution of ferric chloride, a green colour was produced, and a precipitate formed on standing; this, I believe, indicates that, at least, several per cent. of catechu had been added to it. A microscopical examination of the leaves showed that the great majority of them were from the tea plant, but there were several small ones, as to whose origin I have some doubt. These results show that the tea was adulterated with 6 per cent. of sand, which was not magnetic. The low amount of ash soluble in water, and the small degree of alkalinity of the ash, clearly prove the presence of exhausted leaves.

I may add that the sandy matter appeared to be all in the centre of the leaf, and not spread generally over the surface.