

THE WORK OF THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DURING THE YEAR 1924-1925

This Laboratory has rendered valuable service during the last fiscal year in the interests of public health, and a detailed account of work done regarding the analysis of adulterated milk is presented.

The total number of samples examined during the year was 4,076, which are classified as follows:

Excellent	703	Good	1,458	Fair	864	Inferior	171	
Suspicious	26	Non-classified	162	Rejected	2	Adulterated	500	
Poor	144	Negative	18	Positive	28			
Total.....							4,076	

Of the 4,076 samples examined, 2,883 were of cow's milk, which are classified in the following table:

Excellent	702	Good	730	Fair	826	Inferior	139	
Suspicious	24	Non-classified	136	Rejected	Adulterated	* 326	
Total.....							2,883	

* Percentage of adulteration, 11.31.

The adulteration of cow's milk this year has been reduced considerably having fallen to 11.31 per cent, the lowest eiper obtained in 24 years. This reduction is probably due to the two following reasons: 1st, to the steady and intense campaign which is being carried on in the prosecution of offenders; 2nd, to the use of powdered skimmed milk for the adulteration of cow's milk. This adulteration with diluted powdered skimmed milk complicates the interpretation of the analyses seriously as the data obtained as a result of same is very similar to the accepted standard. The analyst is for this reason forced to include the specimen in those classified as inferior or fair, increasing these two groups at the expense of the group adulterated with water alone. This very serious problem has been solved by the new milk law recently approved by the Leg-

islature, which among other things, provides that all powdered skimmed milk sold or used in Porto Rico as cattle feed shall be duly colored with artificial certified coloring material in order to prevent its fraudulent use in the adulteration of milk for human consumption.

The following chart gives a statistical report of milk adulteration from 1901 in order to demonstrate the results obtained from the work carried out during the last 24 years:

1901-02-----	25.00 per cent
1902-03-----	20.70 per cent
1903-04-----	23.80 per cent
1904-05-----	25.80 per cent
1905-06-----	28.70 per cent
1906-07-----	37.00 per cent
1907-08-----	25.00 per cent
1908-09-----	23.40 per cent
1909-10-----	21.30 per cent
1910-11-----	50.50 per cent *
1911-12-----	26.60 per cent
1912-13-----	20.60 per cent
1913-14-----	11.90 per cent
1914-15-----	21.20 per cent
1915-16-----	19.90 per cent
1916-17-----	21.60 per cent
1917-18-----	22.50 per cent
1918-19-----	26.30 per cent
1919-20-----	26.68 per cent
1920-21-----	24.12 per cent
1921-22-----	19.40 per cent
1922-23-----	20.95 per cent
1923-24-----	14.22 per cent
1924-25-----	11.31 per cent

* New law approved.

Table Showing Number of Samples of Cow's Milk Analyzed, Number Adulterated and Percentage of Adulteration

Towns	Total	Adulterated	Percentage
Aguada	16	3	18.75
Aguadilla	120	6	5.00
Aguas Buenas	4		
Aibonito			
Añasco	40	7	17.50
Arecibo	135	10	7.41
Arroyo	25	2	8.00
Barceloneta	22	4	18.18
Barranquitas	3	1	33.33
Barros	9	1	11.11
Bayamón	29	2	6.90
Cabo Rojo	37	10	27.02
Caguas	108	18	16.66
Camuy	59		
Carolina	5		
Cataño	43	4	9.30
Cayey	14	3	21.43
Ciales	6		
Comerio	13	5	38.46
Corozal	3		
Dorado	3		
Fajardo	39	1	2.56
Guánica	2		
Guayama	61	2	3.27
Gurabo	15	1	6.66
Hatillo	22	1	4.54
Homacao	42	8	19.04
Isabela	8	1	12.50
Jayuya	16	3	18.75
Juana Díaz	22		
Juncos	23		34.78
Lajas	24	2	8.33
Lares	17	1	5.88
Las Marias	12	2	16.66
Las Piedras	7	1	14.28
Lolza	11	1	9.09
Manatí	30	1	3.33
Maricao	1		
Mayagüez	227	54	23.78
Moca	20	2	10.00
Morovis	16	3	18.75
Naguabo	8		
Naranjito	8		
Patillas	2		
Ponce	303	21	6.90
Quebradillas	21	1	4.76
Río Grande	8	2	25.00
Río Piedras	45	5	11.11
Sabana Grande	28	3	10.71
Salinas	16		
San Germán	68	18	26.47
San Juan	652	41	6.29
San Lorenzo	29	15	51.72
San Sebastián	22	10	45.45
Santa Isabel	4		
Toa Alta	11	2	18.18
Uturo	30	5	16.16
Vega Baja	5		
Vieques	9	1	11.11
Yabucoa	3		
Yauco	50	1	2.00
<i>Food and Drugs Inspectors</i>			
District No. 1 (A)	12		
District No. 1 (B)	4	1	25.00
District No. 2	9		
District No. 3	94	3	3.19
District No. 4	34	8	23.52
District No. 5	62	17	27.42
District No. 6	32	4	12.50
Quarantine Hospital	5		
Totals	2,883	326	11.31