Research on bituminous coal was continued throughout the year. A summary of the work was published in the fifty-eighth Annual Report of the Laboratory, Appendices I and II.

Health.—Foodstuffs in great variety and a few other general samples were submitted by the Department of Health. Of seven brands of baking-powder examined two were deficient in carbon dioxide.

The bores examined were free from lead and arsenic, but there is a tendency for salt to be present in excess. In one case as much as 180 grains per gallon was found. The recognized limit in Great Britain is 50 grains.

The breads comprised brown, wholemeal, and wholemeal raisin, and were all satisfactory.

Butter in most cases complied with the regulations, and only four samples exceeded the standard for water.

There were several cases of misbranding of various food products.

Face-powders in use in Japan were reported to have contained white-lead, so a [illegible] was made of six well-known brands on the Wellington market. All proved quite free from injurious metals.

Milk.—The number of milk-samples officially taken during the year was 2,027, made up as follows: Wellington City supply, 1,730; Christchurch City supply, 97; [illegible] supplied by the Medical Officer of Health, Dunedin, 200; country district [illegible] Report of the Director of Health, Dunedin, 200.

Wellington City.—In 1924 the milk-supply [illegible] adulteration. Of 1,710 samples taken, 8 only were deficient in fat and [illegible]. In 1925 the year under review, a milk shortage consequent on cold, wet weather provided strong incentive to watering. The number of samples examined was practically the same—viz., 1,730—but 10 were decidedly low in fat, and 23 had been watered to the extent of at least 5 per cent. [illegible] per cent. of water was found. [illegible] for slight deficiencies [illegible]

Dunedin.—[illegible] Report of Health, Dunedin.—Of the 200 samples taken during the year, [illegible] deficient in fat, 1 were found to be watered, 3 were slightly below standard, and in 22 instances the supplies were warned for [illegible]. There was little improvement in cleanliness during the year.

Country Districts.—Medical Officer of the Medical Officer of Health, Dunedin.—[illegible] of an analysis in Dunedin, [illegible] were forwarded to Wellington for analysis, the use of bottles preservatized with [illegible] satisfactorily.

As in other districts, the country [illegible] to be considerably improved.—Of the 340 samples taken in the Otago District, [illegible] were found to be watered, 5 were slightly below standard, and in 36 instances the supplies were warned for dirt.

Plumber Scum.—Two hundred and two analyses of human and [illegible] milks were made for Plumber [illegible]

[illegible] for the [illegible] stores were [illegible] and by the Stores Control [illegible]

[illegible] for the Public [illegible] and construction material. For the Main Highways Board tests were made [illegible] of tar and bitumen, and occasionally defective sections of roadway were examined [illegible] of failure.

A number of exhibits [illegible] that had been [illegible] were submitted by the Police Department.

The Railway Department required analyses of deposit from [illegible] railway stores.

Gas Control.—The testing of town gas for calorific value has been recently [illegible] in the work undertaken by the Laboratory. Regular tests of the gas supplied in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch were made during the year, and will be commenced shortly in Dunedin. [illegible] railway [illegible] in the work [illegible] and Christ-

Auckland Branch.

During the year 1,739 samples were analysed for Government Departments, the bulk of which—viz., 1,708—were forwarded by the Health Department.

Christchurch Branch.

The samples analysed from the opening of the Laboratory in August to December, 1925, totalled 357, of which the Health Department supplied 343.

[illegible] Branch.

Explosives and Dangerous Goods.—[illegible] report is not available until the end of June it will be included in the next year's Laboratory Report.

Conclusion.

I wish to express my appreciation of the willing and efficient service rendered by officers of all grades during the year, and to thank scientific officers and the heads of sub-departments for their hearty co-operation and support at all times.

The valuable assistance rendered by other Government Departments is also gratefully acknowledged.

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