Vitamin A

Immediately prior to adding the 16 per cent. diethyl ether developing solvent, remove the plug from the tip of the lower column and the tube from the side arm of the lower column and plug the side arm orifice. Adjust the flow into and out of the lower column by means of the three-way cock and collect the eluate in calibrated 1 ml. tubes. Mix the solution in each tube by blowing through the liquid a few air bubbles with the drawn out pipette. Withdraw, from each tube, approximately 0·3 ml. of liquid and test for vitamin A by adding about five drops of antimony trichloride solution. The development of a blue colour indicates the presence of the vitamin. From each tube in which a positive test is obtained, take exactly 0·5 ml. of solution, combine together in a 10 ml. graduated flask and adjust to volume with light petroleum. Measure the optical density of the solution in a 1 cm. quartz cuvette, against a light petroleum blank, over the spectral region 290 to 340 mμ. at the following wavelengths 290, 307, 309, 311, 322, 324, 326, 328, 332, 334, 336 and 340 mμ. Transfer the test solution to the blank cuvette, and the blank solution to the test cuvette, re-measure the optical density at λ max. and from the mean of the two measurements calculate the value of E (1 per cent., 1 cm.) at λ max. Multiply this value by 1,830 to obtain the vitamin A potency in International Units per g. The total vitamin A potency is equal to the sum of the potency of the vitamin A and the equivalent vitamin A potency of the carotenoids.

The validity of the test is assessed from the optical density measurements at (λ max. minus 15 mμ.) and (λ max. plus 10 mμ.). The ratio of the optical density at each of these wavelengths to the optical density at λ max. (normally 324 mμ.) should fall within the range of 0·86 ± 0·02. If this is not so the whole determination must be repeated.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

The standard for butter prescribed in these regulations is the same as that contained in the Sale of Butter (Ireland) Regulations, 1902, which are now being revoked. The standard for margarine is the same as that prescribed in the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, and the Butter and Margarine Act, 1907, which were repealed by the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland), 1958. The regulations also prescribe a standard, which applies on sale by retail only, for margarine as respects the vitamin A and vitamin D content.

1960. No. 188 **[C]**

FOOD AND DRUGS

Composition—Mineral Oil in Food

REGULATIONS, DATED 23RD NOVEMBER, 1960, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDER SECTIONS 4 AND 68 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1958.

The Ministry of Health and Local Government, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Sections 4 and 68 of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland), 1958(a), hereby makes the following regulations:—

(a) 1958. c. 27.

Citation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Mineral Oil in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1960.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"the Act" means the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland), 1958;

"chewing compound" means chewing gum and other products of a like nature and use;

"dried fruit" means prunes, currants, sultanas and raisins;

"microcrystalline wax" means a mixture of solid hydrocarbons obtained from any substance of mineral origin which is white to pale amber in colour and is almost tasteless and odourless, has a melting point not below 160°F., has an iodine number not exceeding 4·0 and conforms to the test for sulphur compounds given in the British Pharmacopoeia monograph for liquid paraffin;

"mineral oil" means any hydrocarbon product, whether liquid, semi-liquid or solid, derived from any substance of mineral origin and includes liquid paraffins, white oils, petroleum jellies and hard paraffins;

"sell" includes offer or agree to sell or expose for sale.

3.—(1) Subject as hereinafter provided—

(*a*) no person shall use or permit to be used any mineral oil in the composition or preparation of any article of food intended for sale or sold for human consumption.

(*b*) no person shall sell or have in his possession for sale for human consumption any article of food containing any mineral oil.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall apply in relation to—

(*a*) any dried fruit containing not more than 0·5 part by weight of mineral oil per 100 parts by weight of dried fruit;

(*b*) any citrus fruit containing not more than 0·1 part by weight of mineral oil per 100 parts by weight of citrus fruit;

(*c*) any article of food containing mineral oil—

(i) by reason of the use in the composition of the said article of dried fruit or citrus fruit, or both dried fruit and citrus fruit, containing mineral oil not in excess of the quantities specified in sub-paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*);

(ii) by reason not of the inclusion of mineral oil as an ingredient in the article of food but of its use as a lubricant or greasing agent on some surface with which the article of food has necessarily to come into contact in the course of its preparation, if the said article contains by reason thereof not more than 0·2 part by weight of mineral oil per 100 parts by weight of the article of food;

(*d*) any chewing compound which contains not more than 12·5 parts by weight of microcrystalline wax per 100 parts by weight of chewing compound and otherwise contains no mineral oil.

Penalties

4. If any person contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of these regulations he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction—