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New Legislation and Official Literature Issued during 1976

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Lists are given of some of the documents of 1976 which relate to legislation likely to be encountered in Public Analysts' laboratories. Reference is also made to some of the major recommendations in reports issued in 1976.

The very useful LAA/Bulletins which had been received from the MAFF Food Standards Division in former years seemed to cease, as such, with LAA/Bulletin/8, issued in March 1976, but their place has been taken by the newer "Information Bulletins for Public Analysts", the first three of which were issued in 1975. Numbers 4 to 14 were issued in 1976 and gave some forewarning of forthcoming EEC methods of analysis. Public Analysts are now committed to using these, and the intention was that they would all be investigated and put into workable form, but in the present economic climate few were in fact tested and the Ministry has therefore arranged for Working Groups of Official Chemists to carry out some of the tests on a topics basis in 1977. The Bulletins' topics in 1976 were as follows:

Bulletin number	Topics
4	Bread, butyric and propionic acids, crude fibre, total lipids.
5	Lactose, starch, water-soluble ortho and pyrophosphates.
6	Sugars (loss, dry matter, reducing sugars, sulphated ash, polarimetry).
7	Coffee extracts (caffeine, moisture, solvent residues, etc).
8	Ceramics in contact with food.
9	Synopsis of all methods of foodstuffs analyses under discussion.
10	Vinyl chloride residues.
11	Final drafts for fibre, milk fat, volatile fatty acids in butter, fatty acid composition of butterfat by GLC, tartaric acid in bread, lecithin.
12	Chlorine solvents. Adulteration of coffee extracts, Chloramine-T Index of coffee extracts.
13	Preserved milk (sampling procedures, dry matter, fat, sucrose, lactates, phosphatase activity).
14	Purity criteria for additives—ether extract of colours, non-volatiles in propionic acid, thiosulphate in sodium sulphite, volatile fatty acids in lactic acid, insoluble matter in food phosphates, reducing matter in calcium lactate, volatile acids in phosphoric acid, free acid in gallates, fluorescein in erythrosin, isomers, etc., in canthaxanthin, isomers, etc., in β -carotene, isomers, etc., in β -apo-8, carotenol and in the acid ethyl ester, salicylic acid in hydroxybenzoates, peroxide number, impurities in <i>o</i> -phenyl phenol, benzene-insoluble matter in lecithin, formates in acetates, nitrates in phosphoric acid, free acid in sodium diacetate . . . and other quality control determinations for materials to be used as food additives.

In addition, in May 1976, there was a very useful publication, *Concise Guide to Food Legislation*, which had been assembled by Dr D. Pearson of the National College of Food Technology at the University of Reading, and which made a convenient summary of much of the existing firm legislation about food.

New Legislation Affecting Milk

During 1976, the position with regard to milk standards was inclined to be confused, particularly in the period 30 September to 9 December.

Section 4 and Schedule 4 B. 3 (3) of the European Communities Act 1972 had removed Section 33 from the Food and Drugs Act 1955 as from 1 January 1976. By doing so, it caused the Sale of Milk Regulations 1939 to cease to have effect, and the former presumption that milk was "genuine" when it had a fat content greater than 3.0 per cent. and a milk solids other than fat content greater than 8.5 per cent. no longer applied directly.

The relevant legislation for milk provided the European standard given in Regulation EEC No. 1411/71, but an amending regulation EEC/3358/75 had extended the transitional period during which former standards could be used in Britain to 31 March 1976. Later, Regulation EEC/566/76 made a further amendment in which the date 31 March 1976 became replaced by 30 September 1976.

A Press Notice (Number 191) which was released on 17 June 1976 gave the information that Britain had opted for Non-standardised Whole Milk.

On 27 August 1976 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food sent a letter, reference MK12183 J, inviting comment on proposals for enforcement regulations connected with milk for liquid consumption, and finally the *Drinking Milk Regulations 1976 (SI 1976 No. 1883)* were issued with Circular FSH 12/76 dated 9 December 1976, and brought the new legislation into force from 9 December 1976. In order to have a clear understanding of these Regulations, one needs to refer to the Regulation EEC No. 1411/71 as amended by Regulation EEC No. 566/76 and corrected by corrigenda. The important sections of the *Drinking Milk Regulations 1976* take the following form:

ARTICLE 3

For the purpose of this Regulation—Milk means the milk yield of one or more cows and Drinking Milk means the following products for delivery to the consumer:

Raw Milk. Milk which has not been heat treated or subjected to treatment having the same effect.

Whole Milk. Milk which has been heat treated or subjected to an authorised treatment of equivalent effect by a processor and which meets one of the following requirements as to fat content.

Standardised whole milk: Fat content at least 3.50 per cent.

Non-standardised whole milk: The fat content has not been altered since milking either by addition or separation of fat or by admixture with milk whose fat content has been altered. The fat content must be at least 3.0 per cent.

Semi-skimmed Milk: Subjected to at least one heat treatment or treatment of equivalent effect by a process and whose fat content lies between 1.5 per cent. and 1.8 per cent.

Skimmed Milk: Milk subjected to one heat treatment or equivalent effect and whose fat content is under 0.3 per cent.

Milk may only be marketed as drinking milk for human consumption if it reaches certain standards of quality (including composition) and meets certain marketing requirements.

ARTICLE 5

Article 5 permits raw milk to be sold to a consumer as Drinking Milk only by the producer on his farm. Member States may also allow raw milk to be marketed as Drinking Milk in other ways.

ARTICLE 6

Article 6 states that only milk which reaches standards laid down for Drinking Milk may be delivered for direct consumption in the Community, and Member States may also provide for an additional whole milk category with a fat content of not less than 3.8 per cent.

A guide-line figure for fat content shall be fixed for each Member State and shall be the weighted average fat content of the whole milk produced and marketed in the Member State in question during the previous year.

Thus for Eire from 1 October 1976 to the end of the 1976-1977 milk year the fat content should be not less than 3.51 per cent. and for the U.K. for the same period the fat content should be not less than 3.76 per cent.

The Separated Milk Regulations 1973 are revoked by Regulation 11 of the new regulations, which have incorporated their provisions, but the Milk and Dairies (Semi-skimmed and Skimmed Milk) (Heat Treatment and Labelling) Regulations 1973 remain in force. Similarly the provisions of Regulation 5 of the new regulations make the Milk and Dairies (Emulsifiers and Stabilisers) Regulations 1962, and the Milk and Dairies (Preservatives) Regulations 1962 superfluous, so those regulations too, have been revoked.

The most concise summary of the new legislation is in the MAFF Press Notice number 366 dated 18 November 1976, and it is also clearly explained in the circular which was issued by the Ministry with the regulations, and which reached the dairies about a fortnight before they became operational and reached the local authorities four days after they became operational.

The regulations restrict their specific comment to fat contents, but the prohibition on added water is implied in the definition of "milk" and remains in force in the U.K. by virtue of what remains of Section 32 of the Food and

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Drugs Act 1955. It should also be noted that although there is no absolute standard for the fat content of raw milk as there is for the fat contents of all forms of heat treated milk, both whole milk and raw milk are required to be as the milk comes from the cow. Since pasteurised milk is always bulked milk, one would not expect to see any such milk offered for sale which had a fat content less than the absolute standard of 3.0 per cent. (although individual farmers *have* begun to install small pasteurising plant for their own farm-produced milk because it is expected that direct sale of raw milk to the public may be phased out by 1980), but there is no absolute standard for the fat content of raw milk. It is therefore assumed that Public Analysts will continue to require the supervised milkings, which are referred to as Appeal-to-Cow samples and taken according to the provisions in the Seventh Schedule to the Act, to be taken whenever a raw milk sample is found to have a fat content which falls below the general standard of 3.0 per cent., and perhaps occasionally when low-fat milk has come from a small pasteurising plant, and bears the name "Non-standardised Whole Milk".

The provisions for taking Appeal-to-Cow samples in connection with Standardised Whole Milk have been withdrawn, but although there is an absolute standard of not less than 3.0 per cent. of fat for Non-standardised Whole Milk, a farmer is not permitted to adjust its composition as he might have done with Standardised Whole Milk.

Article 6, paragraph 2 of the European legislation permits the continued sale of Channel Islands and South Devon Milk.

The only other legislation affecting milk consisted of Diseases of Animals legislation relating to Brucellosis, namely SI 1976 No. 244, No. 387 and No. 1640, and the Food Subsidies (Conditions) (Milk) Order 1976, and three Milk (Great Britain) (Amendment) Orders SI 1976 No. 639, No. 1271 and No. 2059 which changed the maximum retail prices for the various grades of milk which are sold in Great Britain.

The Milk and Dairies (Milk Bottle Caps) (Colour) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 2186. Operating from 5 July 1977. Revoke the regulations of 1973 but re-enact them with provision for Sterilised and Ultra Heat Treated Milk codings.

The colour codes are now:

Pasteurised Channel Islands	Gold
Pasteurised homogenised	Red
Pasteurised Kosher	Blue and silver stripes
Pasteurised Kedassia	Purple and silver stripes
Pasteurised	Silver
Untreated Channel Islands	Green with a single gold stripe not exceeding 1 centimetre wide
Untreated	Green
Sterilised	Blue
U.H.T.	Pink

Kosher and Kedassia milk bottles may be marked to show if the contents are Channel Islands, etc., or homogenised.

Channel Islands, etc., milk bottles may be marked to show that the milk has been homogenised and Untreated Channel Islands, etc., bottles may be marked to indicate "Kosher" or "Kedassia" milk.

The bottles may only be lettered in the shaping of the actual glass or in black or silver, there being no choice of use of silver lettering with Pasteurised, or Pasteurised Kosher, or Kedassia milks, whose lettering may only be in the shaping of the glass or in black.

New Legislation Affecting Food

The Skimmed Milk with Non-milk Fat (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 103, exempt Osterfood from certain requirements and replace expressions of vitamins A, D and C in terms of international units with microgrammes per ounce or per fl. oz., per 100 gm or per 100 ml except that for ascorbic acid (including dehydro-ascorbic acid) the declaration must be in milligrams.

Soft Drinks (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 295. This requires a soft drink, intended for consumption after dilution, to have the same as or better composition after dilution than the corresponding soft drink intended for consumption without dilution, also containers for these drinks to be clearly labelled with precise instructions as to manner of dilution which must be not less than 4 parts of water to 1 part of the particular drink.

The Specified Sugar Products Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 509. (Made 26 March 1976; operation 27 April 1976.) These regulations, which apply to England and Wales only, come into operation on 27 April 1976. The regulations implement Council Directive No. 73/437/EEC (OJ No. L356, 27 December 1973, p. 71) on the approximation of laws of the Member States concerning certain sugars intended for human consumption.

The Regulations provide definitions, methods of analysis and reserved descriptions for specified food products. They also prohibit the labelling and advertising (subject to specified exceptions) with reserved descriptions of food and impose restrictions on labelling of sugar solution, invert sugar solution and invert sugar syrup with the word "white". The sulphur dioxide content of glucose syrup and dried glucose syrup must be declared and the Regulations make consequential amendments to the Labelling of Food Regulations 1970 as amended by Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations 1974 and as amended by the Preservatives in Foods Regulations 1975.

The Cocoa and Chocolate Products Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 541. (Made 2 April 1976; Operation—Regulations 2 and 22, 5 May 1976—remainder, 5 May 1977.) These Regulations, which apply in England and Wales only, came into operation on 5 May 1977, except for Regulations 2 and 22 which came into operation on 5 May 1976. The regulations implement Council Directive No. 73/241/EEC (OJ No. L228, 16 August 1973, p. 23) on the approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption as amended by Council Directive No. 74/411/

EEC (OJ No. L221, 12 August 1974, p. 17), Council Directive No. 75/155/EEC (OJ No. L64, 11 March 1975, p. 21). The Regulations prescribe definitions and descriptions of cocoa and chocolate products as well as, subject to specified exceptions, controlling labelling of such products and imposing requirements in the advertisement of such products. In addition, compositional requirements are specified.

The Labelling of Food (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 859. (Made 1 June 1976; operation 1 July 1976.) These Regulations, which apply to England and Wales only, came into operation on 1 July 1976. The Regulations further amend the Labelling of Food Regulations 1970, as amended. The Regulations amend the definition of "container", "prepacked" and add a definition of the word "nuts". Amendments are made as to descriptions of fish and also diabetic claims as well as labelling of food for retail sale in respect of permitted additives.

The Honey Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1832. (Made 29 October 1976. Operation—Regulations 2 and 14, 3 December 1976—remainder, 1 May 1977.) These Regulations, which apply to England and Wales only, implement Council Directive No. 74/409/EEC (OJ. No. L221, 12 August 1974, p. 10) on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to honey. The Regulations provide definitions of honey, blossom honey, comb honey, chunk honey, honeydew honey, drained honey, pressed honey and extracted honey. Analytical methods are defined for determining diastatic activity and specify compositional requirements. A restriction is imposed on the use of honey as an ingredient in food preparation; also the Regulations prohibit the use of the word "honey" in labelling and advertising unless honey which complies with these regulations is used.

The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) (Honey) (Revocation) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1833. These Regulations, which come into operation on 1 May 1977 and apply to England and Wales only, revoke the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) (Honey) Regulations 1934, which prescribe grade designations and grade designation marks for honey.

The Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1887. (Made 10 November 1976; operation 10 December 1976.) These Regulations further amend the Preservatives in Food Regulations 1975. They extend the list of foodstuffs which may contain permitted preservatives and permit the presence in food of formaldehyde when this is due to the use of dimethylpolysiloxane in that food.

The Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1886. (Made 10 November 1976; operation 10 December 1976.) These Regulations further amend the Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations 1975. They add guar gum to the list of emulsifiers and stabilisers permitted in soft cheese, whey cheese, processed cheese and cheese spread at levels in accordance with good manufacturing practice.

The Colouring Matter in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 2086. Made 6 December 1976; coming into operation [except as provided in Regulation 1(1)(a) and (b)] on 1 January 1977. In all respects, 1 January 1978.

These Regulations remove the colouring matters Fast Yellow AB E105, Orchil or Orcein E121, Solanthrene Blue RS or Anthragen Blue or Indanthrene Blue E130, Black 7984 E152 and Burnt Umber E181 from the list of colouring matters permitted in or on food. The amendments came into operation on 1 January 1977 except for the purposes of Regulations 4 (which relates to the sale, etc. of food containing colouring matter) and 5 (which prohibits the use of added colouring matter in specified goods but exempts husks containing nuts from the prohibition) of the principal regulations. For the purposes of any regulations made under Section 4 or 7 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, they do not take effect until 1 January 1978.

A consequential amendment to the Cheese Regulations 1970, as amended, is included and this also comes into operation on 1 January 1978. This amendment removes orchil (orcein) from the list of permitted colouring matters in processed cheese and cheese spread.

The Bread Prices (No. 2) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 2128. Operates from 4 January 1977—includes some definitions of "Standard Loaf", etc.

The Cider and Perry Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1207. Came into operation 20 August 1976. Prescribes arrangements for managing a new excise duty on cider and perry (SI 1976 No. 1206 allows an exemption from registration of premises where less than 1500 gallons per year of cider or perry are made). Last year's *Wine and Made-wine Regulations* provided that from 1 January 1976 cider with a strength exceeding 15° proof spirit would be liable to excise duty.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 14 September 1976 issued Circular FSH 11/76 which offered *Explanation Leaflet No. 2* to outline the requirements for the description and presentation of wines and wine musts. It, with 12 annexes, runs to 34 pages. Two booklets are available from the MAFF on the subject of wine. Both bear the general title *The Wine Trade and the EEC* but No. 1 is called *Accompanying Documents and Records* and No. 2 is called *Description and Presentation of Wines and Grape Musts*.

The Ware Standard Prescription 1976 (Potatoes). In force from 1 August 1976. The standards for potatoes require potatoes to be clean and larger than those which pass through a standard 35 mm square mesh sieve (5 per cent. tolerance). They must be free from rot, growth cracks, misshapes, hollow heart, damage through waterlogging or frost, worms, slugs or other pests, mechanical damage, internal discoloration, taint, growth shoots and excess soil.

Pesticide Residues in and on Fruit and Vegetables

A Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food letter reference SW 3640E dated 20 December 1976 drew attention to Directive 76/895/EEC or 23 November 1976 (published in OJ No. L. 340 of 9 December 1976). The letter and its accompanying leaflet explained that in this area at least, prescribed methods of analysis are not being specified provided that each member country does not impose standards for pesticide residues which are stricter than those in Annex II of the Directive. The leaflet draws attention to *Recommended International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues 4th Series*, issued by the Secretariat of

the Joint FAO/W.H.O. Food Standards Programme, FAO, Rome (HMSO, 97 pp.).

Further, a letter, reference TOX 7974, from the MAFF Pesticides Safety Precautions Scheme office gave an opinion that THIRAM when used properly, (with an interval of 14 days between the last application and distribution) should not give rise to residues greater than about 7 p.p.m. They recommended that residues in excess of 30 p.p.m. should be regarded as undesirable.

New Legislation Affecting Medicines

The Medicines Act 1968, SI 1976 No. 30. The Medicines (Animal Feeding Stuff) (Enforcement) Regulations 1976. (Made 8 January 1976; operation 1 April 1976.) These Regulations, made under Section 117 of the Medicine Act 1968, apply throughout the U.K. The principal provisions of the regulations are as follows.

1. Modifications of Sections 112, 113 and 115 of the Medicines Act 1968 (which sections contain powers of inspecting, sampling, etc., medicinal products and lay down procedures for analysis of samples) are made for the purposes of the application under the Medicines Act of those sections to animal feeding stuffs (Regulation 2 and Schedule 1 Part I). (The full provisions of those sections as so modified are set out in Schedule 1 Part II.)
2. The methods by which samples of animal feeding stuffs shall be taken, set aside and submitted for analysis by an agricultural analyst, and the steps to be taken by such analyst when samples are received for analysis are set out (Regulation 3 and Schedule 2).
3. The methods by which analysis of animal feeding stuffs to be carried out are prescribed (Regulation 4 and Schedule 3) and also the forms of certificate of analysis or examination (Regulation 5 and Schedule 4) and the metric substitutions to replace imperial units (Regulation 6 and Schedule 5).

The Regulations implement certain of the provisions of Directive 70/373/EEC of the Council of the European Economic Community of 20 July 1970 (OJ No. L. 170, 3 August 1970, p. 2) (SE 1970 (II), p. 535) on the introduction of Community methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feeding stuffs; and Commission Directives 72/199/EEC (OJ No. L. 123, 29 May 1972, p. 6) (SE 1966-72, p. 74), 74/203/EEC (OJ. No. L108, 22 April 1974, p. 7) and 75/84/EEC (OJ/84/EEC) (OJ No. L32, 5 February 1975, p. 26) establishing Community methods of analysis for the official control of feeding stuffs.

The Medicines (Feeding Stuff) Limits of Variation) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 31. The schedule prescribes tolerances for anthelmintics, anti-blackhead drugs, anti-coccidial agents, anti-microbial substances, anti-scour agents, arsenicals, growth promoters, hormones, tranquillisers and copper.

The Medicines (Child Safety) Regulations 1975, SI 1975 No. 2000. (Made 3 December 1975; operation 1 January 1976.) These Regulations prohibit the sale or supply of certain childrens' aspirin or paracetamol other than in child-

resistant containers, which include opaque reclosable containers complying with British Standard 5321 and specially selected opaque unit packages in the form of bubbles, blisters or other sealed units. The Regulations require childrens' aspirin or paracetamol to be white and limit the content of each container or pack of unit packages to 25 dosage units. The requirements as to packaging do not apply to childrens' aspirin or paracetamol assembled in containers or packs not intended for retail sale and there are certain exceptions for sale or supply by doctors or dentists and for dispensing in hospitals, health centres or registered pharmacies. The export of childrens' aspirin or paracetamol is excepted from the requirements of these regulations and there are temporary provisions relating to certain existing stocks and to containers that comply with child safety requirements of other countries. Regulation 4 provides for offences and penalties.

The Medicines (Child Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1643. (Made 30 September 1976; operation 3 November 1976.) These Regulations amend the Medicines (Child Safety) Regulations 1975, which prohibit the sale or supply of certain aspirin or paracetamol for administration exclusively to children other than in child-resistant containers, by extending that prohibition for administration to all human beings. Other amendments provide for exemption from the prohibition for sale or supply at registered pharmacies to persons not wishing to be supplied with such products in child-resistant containers and for temporary exemptions for containers that comply with child safety requirements of other countries and for sale or supply in certain circumstances of existing stocks that are not exclusively for administration to children. The reference to British Standard 5321 is amended as from the coming into operation of these regulations so as to refer to that Standard as amended by AMD 2077 published on 16 August 1967.

The Poisons (Amendment) Rules 1976, SI 1976 No. 978. (Made 20 June 1976; operation—Rules 1–6, 26 July 1976, remainder 26 August 1976.) These Rules amend the Poisons Rules 1972. They delete the requirements as regards fluoroacetanilide (Rule 3); impose new requirements as regards aldicarb, formetanate and methomyl (Rules 6, 7 and 8); and provide an exemption in relation to containers used for dental gels containing sodium fluoride (Rule 4). They increase the fees as regards local authorities' lists (Rule 5). Provision is also made to enable strychnine to be purchased, by officers of the Ministry or Department concerned, for the destruction of foxes in any area which may be declared to be infected with rabies (Rule 2).

The Poisons List Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 979. (Made 20 June 1976; operations 26 July 1976.) This order amends the Poisons List. Those alkali fluorides which are in Part I of the List are transferred to Part II; certain compounds of antimony and fluoroacetanilide are deleted from Part I; and arsenic and all its compounds, other than those in Part II, are included in Part I.

The Medicines (Labelling) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1726. Take effect as follows.

- (a) With respect to dispensed medicines, on 22 November 1976.

- (b) With respect to medicinal products licensed after 22 November 1976, from the date of the relevant licence.
- (c) With respect to medicinal products already licensed but where a variation is granted after 22 November 1976, from the date of the grant of variation.
- (d) In relation to a medicinal product for incorporation into an Animal Feed, on 1 July 1977.

With respect to products covered by a licence of right, etc., according to when assembled, size of container, etc., the packages must be labelled with the name of the product and its licence number and batch reference, and if to be sold direct to the public, with appropriate quantitative particulars—but with special dispensations for packets complying with present labelling requirements to be acceptable in retail outlets up to 30 June 1980.

Chemists' nostrums etc., may continue to be sold retail with present legal markings until 31 December 1978 unless existing labelling is fired on, when the extension continues for another year.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* for 20 November 1976, pp. 474–477, and 1 January 1977, p. 11, gives a comprehensive summary of the Regulations. There are 14 labelling provisions in the Standard labelling Particulars but these are modified for small containers and dispensed medicinal products.

Present law is that of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933, The Pharmacy and Medicines Act 1941, The Therapeutic Substances Act 1956 and Part II of The Diseases of Animals Act 1950. The statutes will be repealed when Part III of the Medicines Act 1968 is brought fully into force, but even after the repeal it will still be lawful to sell medicinal products labelled in the older way until the dates shown above.

Note. Medicine Act Legislation notes for guidance were prepared by the Department of Health and Social Security both in connection with the enforcement of the provisions connected with Animal Feeding Stuffs, (those being issued under the code MAL 40), and with labelling (those being issued under the code MAL 42).

The Medicines (Specified Articles & Substances) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 968. (Operation 12 July 1976.) The Regulations provide for certain items such as contact lenses, intra-uterine contraceptive devices, etc., which are not medicinal products but have a part-medical purpose, to be subject to certain provisions of the Medicines Act.

The Medicines Act 1968 (Commencement No. 5) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 74. (Operation 20 February 1976.) This order partly repeals Section 1 of the Therapeutic Substances Act 1956 and wholly repeals Section 2, as parts of Section 135 of the Medicines Act 1968 come into force.

The Medicines (Bal Jivan Chamcho Prohibition) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1861. (Operation 10 November 1976.) This order prohibits the sale and importation of a baby tonic which consists of a dark brown aromatic solid substance provided with an iron spoon having an unsuitable metal plating upon it. A letter from the Department of Health and Social Security bearing the reference CMO

(76) 28 requested that information about the product should be given to the Department on telephone 01-638 6020 ext. 361.

B.P.C. Supplement 1976. The supplement provides information about 31 medicinal substances and four pharmaceutical adjuvants added to the B.P. by the 1975 Addendum. It also introduces a new formulation, *Compound Sodium Chloride and Dextrose Powder* for the treatment of infants dehydrated by diarrhoea, and it amends the monograph on Eye Drops to accord with the latest DHSS recommendations. There are minor adjustments to Belladonna formulations and tragacanth has been omitted from paediatric mixtures of succinylsulphathiazole and of sulphadimidine. Manufacturers may add adjuvants to mixtures but these must be declared and their concentration stated, and they must not interfere with official analytical methods. Further amendments were issued which became effective on 16 August 1976, affecting 13 B.P.C. items and made five amendments to the Supplement 1976. An agreement was announced, reached between the Pharmaceutical Society and the Medicines Commission, that official standards for medicinal products will not be duplicated after 1978 in the B.P.C. when they already appear in the B.P.

British National Formulary 1976-78. The new edition of the British National Formulary became effective from the 1 June 1976 at the same time as the B.P.C. supplement 1976 became effective. One important change has occurred in this edition. There are no longer any recommendations to the pharmacist about what quantity and dose of medicine he should dispense when a doctor has failed to state these on a prescription. Responsibility for dealing with such omissions is now left with the pharmacist.

Amendments to the B.P. 1973 and its Addendum 1975. Effective from 1 July 1976, the amendments involved 42 items.

Non-proprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances. This booklet is No. 581 in the World Health Organisation Technical Report series and is the 20th Report of the W.H.O. Expert Committee. The booklet is mainly explanatory and is not a list of non-proprietary names.

The Medicines (Certificates of Analysis) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1970. (Operating from 21 December 1976.) Section 115 of the Medicines Act provides for members of the public who have cause, to submit samples of medicine for analysis by a Public Analyst but, unlike the similar provision of the Food and Drugs Act, there is a requirement to divide the specimen in the same way that a sampling officer must. The Analyst must provide a certificate in the form prescribed in SI 1976 No. 1970 on payment of a fee of five pence.

New Legislation Affecting Other Matters

The Vitreous Enamel-ware (Safety) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 454. (Made 22 March 1976; operation 1 June 1976.) These Regulations impose requirements relating to the permissible level of release of lead and cadmium from vitreous enamel articles for use with food. Relevant British Standard Specifications may be obtained from the British Standards Institute, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND.

The Control of Pollution Act 1974 (Commencement No. 5) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 731 (C. 21). (Made 12 May 1976.) This order brings into force, on the 14 June 1976, provisions of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 which relate to the licensing of the disposal of controlled waste and the cleaning of streets. The Order applies to England and Wales.

Public Health. The Motor Fuel (Lead Content of Petrol) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1866. (Made 8 November 1976; operation 30 November 1976.) These Regulations apply to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They provide that, subject to certain specified exemptions and to such exemptions as the Secretary of State may confer in particular cases, no person shall produce, treat, distribute, import, sell, offer for sale, possess for sale, use or cause or permit to be used, any petrol which is for use in the United Kingdom and which contains in respect of the period 30 November 1976 to 31 December 1977 more than 0.5 grams, and in respect of the period 1 January 1978 onwards more than 0.45 grams, of lead per litre when tested by the method prescribed in the British Standard B.S. 2878: 1968. They also require petrol pumps at petrol filling stations to be marked by the occupiers of those petrol filling stations in accordance with the British Standard B.S. 4040: 1971 (Star Marking).

Public Health. The Oil Fuel (Sulphur Content of Gas Oil) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1988. (Operating from 29 December 1976.) With provisions similar to those enumerated for lead, the maximum amount of sulphur per hundred grams of gas oil will be 0.8 grams until 30 September 1980 and thereafter 0.5 grams.

Public Health. The Motor Fuel (Sulphur Content of Gas Oil) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No 1939. (Operating from 29 December 1976.) As with the Oil Fuel Regulations, the types of oil are defined and the method of test is restricted to that called the Wickbold Combustion Method of B.S. 5379: 1976 EN 41 and the results interpreted according to B.S. 4306: 1968. (The equipment, which is very expensive, is held by the Liverpool Public Analyst's Laboratory, and probably most Public Analysts will pass samples submitted to them to that Laboratory for examination.)

The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 849. The Regulations, made under part IV of the Agriculture Act 1970 (as amended by Schedule 4E to the European Communities Act 1972), amend the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations 1973 in order to implement the EEC Directives 74/63/EEC and 75/14/EEC which relate to undesirable substances in animal feeding stuffs, to implement certain EEC methods of analysis to implement the provisions of Directive 75/696/EEC on the use of non-protein nitrogenous ingredients in feeding stuffs, to provide for the declaration of added preservative, to provide for the declaration of poultry waste and other non-protein nitrogen ingredients, to revise certain tolerances and to provide for a change to use of metric units. In fact, the size of sample prescribed is insufficient for testing for undesirable substances and in order to interfere as little as possible with manufacturers' choice of raw materials the limits apply only to feeding stuffs for sale to farmers. Another curiosity about this part of the new legislation is that although the actual limits for aflatoxins are tight, a special

letter was sent from the Ministry drawing attention to the degree of error which exists in the analytical method for aflatoxins, thus extending the tolerances. The non-protein nitrogen which may be declared as protein is defined as including urea, biuret, iso-butylidene diurea, urea phosphate and uric acid when the feeding stuff is for ruminants but not for non-ruminant animals. Ammonical and nitrate nitrogen are not acceptable as "protein". Nitrogen derived from poultry waste must be declared as "protein equivalent of uric acid". Along with the general tidying up in such a matter as using the metric term "milligrams per kilogram" instead of "parts per million", the old declarations of " P_2O_5 " have become declarations of "phosphorus".

The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 115. (Made in January 1977; operating from 1 March 1977.) These Regulations strictly belong to the year following this survey but from the publication of the text of Directive 76/603/EEC in the OJ No. L. 198 on 23 July 1976, it was known that it was going to become necessary to state preservatives, manufacturing aids and antioxidants by name. The 1977 Amendment Regulations make this change, by providing lists of additives of these kinds, so that the analysts only need look for about 120 compounds under these three headings. Clearly it is not intended that this part of the legislation will be implemented. As if to underline this fact, a letter, reference DW 189A, was sent by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the Association of County Councils, on the 6 November 1975, to say that inspectors could make their own decisions whether to have an analysis done before prosecuting manufacturers. A letter, dated 27 October 1976, informed Chief Executives about the Ministry's cavalier suggestion, and by 1977, most analysts had managed to see stray copies of the ACC letter which had been smuggled around the laboratories. The 1977 Amendment Regulations (SI 1977 No. 115) also allowed higher levels of Vitamin D₃ in poultry foods.

The W.H.O. recommends a maximum level of nitrogen as nitrate in Drinking Waters of 10 mg per litre. In a letter dated 11 August 1976, and bearing the reference CMO 976/15, this limit became converted to 11.3 mg per litre. The letter went on to say that levels up to 22.6 mg per litre were acceptable. The intention was laudable, however. It was to make sure that supplies of low nitrate water were made available for babies who were being fed with artificial foods which need diluting with water. In June 1976 the dangers of Dried Milk Feeds for Babies were revealed to the public (although the department of Health had known of the hazard since 1974).

In September 1976, another letter, this time from the Department of the Environment, suggested that levels of sodium which exceeded 100 milligrams per litre in Drinking Waters may also be dangerous for babies. One suspects that this came out of the Dried Milk investigation which had suggested that cot deaths were due to excess salt (aggravated in the absence of added Vitamin A) which often occurred in the diet of babies fed dried cows' milk feeds.

The Units of Measurement Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1674. (Operating from 1 November 1976.) These define for the first time in U.K. law a complete system of units of measurement. They authorise the units prescribed in

Chapter A of the Directive 76/770/EEC. Incidentally, a new definition of the litre makes it smaller by 28 millionths, and because the gallon is defined in terms of the litre, the gallon also is reduced in size by a similar amount.

The Evidence (European Court) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 428. (Operating from 4 May 1976.) This order enables evidence for proceedings before the European Court to be taken by courts in the U.K.

The Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act 1975 (Commencement) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 429. The Order introduces a code for the taking of evidence by courts in the U.K. on behalf of other courts.

Department of Industry booklet, *Labelling Textiles*. Explanatory guide on the Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations. Crown copyright 1974, ISBN 011 511 077 1.

EEC Legislation Documents

The implementation of legislation made by the EEC continues to mystify enforcement bodies. In general, the legislation in Regulations gives rise to a U.K. Statutory Instrument within a short period, but the provisions in Directives do not come into effect until about two years after notification. Since, however, there are usually concessions made to various member countries, there is little point in doing much more than list the items of EEC legislation which have come to analysts in 1976.

European Communities Commission Background Report ISEC B 43 76 (dated 23 July 1976.) The report stated that 18 new Directives had been added to the 62 already adopted by the Council. Eight concerned motor vehicle lighting equipment. The noise emitted by tractors would be reduced within five years to those which apply in Britain. Total harmonisation of legislation affecting cosmetics had been achieved. Four Directives applied to measuring instruments (making the total to date 24). Two had been adopted on interferences with radio reception by electrical household appliances. One concerned gas cylinders and boilers and the final one imposed a total ban on monomer vinyl chloride as an aerosol propellant, and a long-term ban on PCBs and PCTs.

OJ No. L 20 (28 i 76) Regulation (EEC) 103/76, marketing standards for certain fresh or chilled fish.

OJ No. L 24 (30 i 76) Directive 76/118/EEC defines and regulates certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milks for human consumption.

OJ No. L 67 (15 iii 76) Regulation (EEC) 556/76, fat content of whole milk.

OJ No. L 81 (27 iii 76) Regulation (EEC) 673/76, additional conditions with which imported wines have to comply.

OJ No. L 108 (20 iv 76) Directive 76/399/EEC, amendment on the rules concerning colouring matters for use in foodstuffs for human consumption.

OJ No. C 91 (22 iv 76) Proposal for a Directive relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer.

- OJ No. L 126 (14 v 76) p. 31. Directive 76/462/EEC, eleventh amendment concerning preservatives for use in foodstuffs for human consumption.
- OJ No. L 163 (24 vi 76) p. 12. Regulation (EEC) 1455/76, amending sulphur dioxide content of certain quality white wines.
- OJ No. L 198 (23 vii 76) p. 10. Directive 76/603/EEC, amending annexes concerning additives in feeding stuffs.
- OJ No. L 223 (6 viii 76) p. 1. Directive 76/628/EEC, amending provisions relating to the weights of packs of certain cocoa products.
- OJ No. L 262 (27 ix 76) p. 201. Directive 76/769/EEC, restrictions on the marketing and use of PCBs and PCTs.
- OJ No. L 339 (8 xii 76) p. 1. Regulation (EEC) 2967/76, standards for the water content of frozen and deep frozen chickens, hens and cocks.
- OJ No. L 340 (9 xii 76) p. 19. Directive 76/893/EEC, relating to materials intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.
- OJ No. L 342 (11 xii 76) p. 6. Regulation (EEC) 2997/76, amending provisions for the addition of alcohol to certain wine products.
- OJ No. L 364 (31 xii 76) p. 18. Directive 76/933/EEC, amending annexes concerning additives to feeding stuffs.

In addition, certain other EEC documentation was made available, usually by LAJAC and occasionally by the MAFF. It included the following items (in date order).

European Communities Background Note ISEC/BII/76—Labelling, etc. (1) Describing proposals to prevent misleading the shopper, and drawing clearer distinctions between foods and medicaments and (2) setting out eight principles of labelling including a statement of minimum durability.

Document COM (76) 107 (final) (dated 29 March 1976) and *Document R/3073/76* (dated 15 December 1976). Proposal for a Directive relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer.

Document R/1096/75 (AGRI 327). Proposal for a Directive concerning coffee and tea extracts and their substitutes.

Document XI/321/76-E. Proposal for a Directive relating to edible caseins, caseinates and coprecipitates.

Working Document No. 3221/VI/76, Methods of Analysis for Preserved Milk (incl. C 6 Determination of Lactic acid and Lactate Content in Dried Milk) (followed on 3 November 1976 by MAFF ref. FS 6248 A, *Proposals for Regulations on Condensed Milk and Dried Milk Products*).

Document R/1235/76 (ECO 103). Draft Directive relating to cosmetic products.

Working Document No. 2607/VI/76-E. Proposal for a Directive relating to substances used in the manufacture of foodstuffs to affect their acidity or alkalinity.

Document R/2754/76 (AGRI 760). Standards for the water content of frozen and deep frozen chickens, hens and cocks.

Working Document No. 2271/VI/76-E. Proposal for a Directive relating to emulsifiers, stabilisers, thickeners and setting agents for use in foodstuffs.

Codex Alimentarius CX/MIN 77/2. Revised Draft European Regional Standard for natural mineral waters; prescribes limits for permanganate value (12 mg/kg), for nine metals, for arsenic, for five anions, for radioactivity and prohibits various contaminants. It also proposes a limit for bacteria of not more than 20 aerobic bacteria per millilitre.

Document COM (76) 573 (final). Proposal for a Directive laying down purity criteria for antioxidants that may be used in food for human consumption.

MAFF ref. FS 6203 A. (20 December 1976). Proposals for regulations on fruit juices and fruit nectars.

MAFF ref. FS 6320 (dated 1 December 1976) drew attention to a provision in Article 6 of the EEC Directive on Honey which is likely to change the requirements for the diastase activity of honey and its content of hydroxymethylfurfural.

Consumer Matters

Research Surveys of Great Britain carried out a survey in 1976 and published the results early in 1977. A thousand housewives throughout the country were interviewed, and two-thirds of those, it was found, knew virtually nothing about the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, the Office of Fair Trading, or the Consumer Advisory Centres. Only one in four had seen the Food Price Services at the Consumer Advisory Centres and of that quarter, only a third had used the service. Furthermore, only a fifth of the housewives who were interviewed said that having been told about them, they would now use the Consumer Advisory Centres (RSGB publication, £25).

Green Paper on Consumer Safety (Cmnd. 6398). Twenty three issues on which new legislation might be made are listed in the Green Paper. At a meeting in May the Secretary of State said that the Green Paper would not proceed to legislation within the next two years.

Second Report (1975) of the Office of Fair Trading. This 94-page report showed that 406,845 complaints had been investigated by the Office in 1975. On page nine there is a statement that changes in the law should be made only when absolutely necessary.

Review of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. A report by the Director General of Fair Trading (Cmnd. 6628). This 99-page document provides a very learned review and makes many recommendations for changes in the law.

Not a very large amount of Consumer Protection legislation finds its way into these laboratories, and only two Statutory Instruments were noted:

The Mail Order Transactions (Information) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1812. (Operating from 1 January 1977.) This instrument provides for all mail

order advertisements for goods to show the name and address of the person carrying on the business.

The Consumer Transactions (Restrictions on Statements) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1813. This order prohibits exclusion clauses which purport to negate the terms of enactments which give the purchaser certain statutory rights.

Weights and Measures, Etc.

Analysts' concern with weights and measures is usually limited to relatively minor and technical matters related to whether a commodity belongs in a particular category in one or other of the Schedules to the Act, and whether therefore it may be exempt from the need to declare weight. Nevertheless a few Statutory Instruments find their way to the laboratories, probably because Analysts tend to keep a general eye open for labelling irregularities. One or two other matters which are also only of slight relevance to analytical considerations may also be mentioned in this section.

The Weights and Measures Act 1976 removes the last major legal impediment to the completion of metrication in Britain.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Biscuits and Shortbread) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 111. (Operating from 1 January 1978) provides for the replacement of Part XI of Schedule 4 of the Act (inasmuch as it refers to biscuits) and makes the first moves towards metrication of biscuit pack weights.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Edible Fats) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 430. (operating from 1 January 1977) replaces the provisions of Part IX of Schedule 4 of the Act which relate to butter and other edible fats and Part XI of the Schedule which relates to their substitutes. The fats may only be sold in fixed multiples of avoirdupois or metric quantities.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Dried Fruits) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 431. (operating from 1 January 1977 similarly replaces Part IX of Schedule 4 to the Act in so far as it relates to dried fruits.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Tea) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1294. (operating from 1 April 1978) replaces Part VIII of Schedule 4 to the Act and provides for the sale of tea only in fixed amounts.

The Weights and Measures (Flour and Oat Products) (Exemption) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1295 makes provision for various kinds of flour, cakeflour and cornflour to be made exempt from the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) to Part VIII of Schedule 4.

The Weights and Measures (Potatoes) (Exemption) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1296 permits quantities of potatoes packed in a quantity exceeding 20 kg to show no imperial weight markings.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Bread) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1297 (operating from 1 January 1978). Part IV of Schedule 4 to the Act is amended to accommodate metric weights.

The Weights and Measures (Equivalents for Dealings with Drugs) Amendment Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1664 (operating from 1 November 1976) revokes Regulation 3 of the 1970 Regulations (which excluded dealings in those drugs which were mixed for feeding to animals in feeds).

The Units of Measurement Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 1674 (operating from 1 November 1976) introduces some SI units, defines some derived SI units, defines the terms "litre", "tonne", "bar", "are", "tex", "revolution", "grade or gon", "unified atomic mass unit", "electronvolt", "diopetre", "metric carat", and modifies some of the existing definitions in the Weights and Measures Act. Thus the litre is defined as a cubic decimetre (i.e. by volume instead of in terms of a weight of water) and the gallon becomes 4.54609 cubic decimetres.

The Immature Crabs and Lobsters Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 305 (operating from 15 March 1976) supersedes the Sea-Fishing Industry (Crabs and Lobsters) Order 1966, introducing metric sizes and prohibiting the carrying of immature crabs and lobsters in foreign fishing boats (within limits).

The Trade Descriptions (Indication of Origin) (Exemption No. 9) Directions 1976, SI 1976 No. 160 (operating from 1 March 1976) waives until 1 January 1977 the need to mark Dried Molassed Beet-Pulp for animal feeding which bears a United Kingdom name with an indication of its country of origin.

The Trade Description (Indication of Origin) (Exemptions No. 10) Directions 1976, SI 1976 No. 260 (operating from 1 April 1976) excludes indefinitely the requirement in Section 1(2) of the Trade Description Act which requires that the origin of imported bacon which bears a United Kingdom name be stated, provided that it is marked "imported".

The Welfare Food (Amendment) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 517 (operating from 30 April 1976) provides for modified Dried Milks to be available instead of National Dried Milk in certain circumstances.

The Food and Drugs (Control of Food Premises) Act 1976. The Act (22 July 1976) provides power for District Authorities to close food premises where an offence against regulations made under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 has occurred or where there is imminent risk of danger to health.

The Biological Standards Act 1975 (Commencement) Order 1976, appoints 1 July 1976 as the day for the coming into force of the Act.

Weights and Measures Etc. (No. 2) Bill. The Bill seeks to amend the 1963 Act in various ways but it contains a peculiar section in Section 10. This includes the provision :

Where it appears to the appropriate Minister that—

- (1) any food . . . are likely to be for a limited period of time in short supply and
- (2) the alleviation of the situation is likely to be seriously hindered by a relevant requirement,

he may exclude or modify the relevant requirement . . . for a period.

Environmental Matters

The most important environmental document for analytical laboratories is one bearing a date two years earlier, but which seemed to become generally available in 1976, so this heads the list.

Technical Data Note 2/74. Threshold Limit Values for 1974. Health and Safety Executive—H.M. Factory Inspectorate. The booklet also shows intended changes.

The next most important document is a booklet from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations:

Cadmium, Lead, Mercury and Methylmercury Compounds—A Review of Methods of Trace Analysis and Sampling with Special Reference to Food.

Other documents to be noted are the following.

The Control of Pollution (Licensing of Waste Disposal) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 732 (operating from 14 June 1976).

The Control of Pollution Act (Commencement No. 6) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 956.

The Control of Pollution Act (Appointed Day) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 957.

The Control of Pollution (Discharges into Sewers) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 958.

The Control of Pollution (Radioactive Waste) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 959.

The Control of Pollution (Repeal of Local Enactments) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 1638.

Department of the Environment Circular 2/76. Control of Pollution Act 1974. Implementation of Part III—Noise (27 February 1976).

Department of the Environment Circular 39/76. The Balancing of Interest between Water Protection and Waste Disposal (13 April 1976).

Department of the Environment Circular 43/76. Control of Smells from the Animal Waste Processing Industry (7 May 1976).

Department of the Environment Waste Management Paper No. 5. The Relationships between Waste Disposal Authorities and Private Industry.

Department of the Environment Waste Management Paper No. 6. Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Wastes.

Working Party on the Monitoring of Foodstuffs for Heavy Metals. Fifth Report Survey of Lead in Food. First Supplementary Report 1975.

Department of the Environment Central Unit on Environmental Pollution: Pollution Paper No. 5. Chloro-fluoro-carbons and their Effect on Stratospheric Ozone.

Department of the Environment Central Unit on Environmental Pollution: Pollution Paper No. 10. Environmental Mercury and Man.

Twenty-third Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the European Communities R/105/76. Dumping of Waste at Sea.

Sixteenth Progress Report of the Standing Technical Committee on Synthetic Detergents (D of E).

Joint Announcement by the MAFF, the Department of Health and Social

Security, The Scottish H & H Department, and the DHSS for Northern Ireland No. 105. Food Additives and Contaminants Committee Request for Comment on Asbestos in Relation to Food.

Matters for the Agricultural Analyst

As has already been indicated in the parts of this review which have dealt with medicines, and with legislation affecting other matters, sweeping changes occurred in 1976 in relation to Animal Feeding Stuff. The principal documents of interest to the Agricultural Analyst are the following.

- ✓ *The Medicines (Animal Feeding Stuff) (Enforcement) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 30.* These regulations were explained in a leaflet called *Guide to the Enforcement of the Medicated Animal Feeding Stuff Provisions*. MAL. 40 (January 1976), which was distributed by the Animal Health Division of the MAFF at Chessington, Surrey. The official certificate of analysis calls for a statement of the method which has been used in arriving at the results shown in the certificate.
- ✓ *The Medicines (Feeding Stuff, Limits of Variation) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 31.*
- ✓ *The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuff (Amendment) Regulations 1976, SI 1976 No. 840.* The requirements for fertilisers remain unchanged for the time being in SI 1973 No. 1521, but changes are expected soon. SI 1976 No. 840 implements changes required by the EEC.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS

Some analysts find themselves required to examine Waste Foods under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1973, which was made under the Diseases of Animals Act 1950. Parts of the 1950 Act are being replaced by The Diseases of Animals Act 1975 but the sections of the 1950 Act under which the regulations were made do, in fact, remain. Nevertheless the following Diseases of Animals legislation was made in the year 1976.

The Diseases of Animals Act 1975 (Commencement No. 1) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 159.

The Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (Amendment) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 32.

The Diseases of Animals (Fees for the Testing of Disinfectants) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 453.

The Diseases of Animals Act 1975 (Commencement) No. 3 Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 775.

The Diseases of Animals (Local Authorities) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1976, SI 1976 No. 919.

Proposals for Legislation

The following proposals for changes in U.K. legislation were received during the year.

Proposals to Amend the Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations 1975. Announced 10 May 1976.

Proposals to Amend the Preservatives in Food Regulations 1975. Announced 10 May 1976.

Supplementary Proposals to Amend the Preservatives in Food Regulations 1975. Announced 9 September 1976.

Proposals to Amend the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1973. Announced 9 September 1976.

Proposals for Regulations on Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars. Announced 20 December 1976.

Proposals for Regulations Controlling the Level of Erucic Acid in Food. Announced 22 December 1976.

Further proposals for the provision of Food and Drugs Act Quarterly Reports. To date, the Ministry has drafted a form of joint report in which the analysts' returns and returns of District Inspectors who may have dealt with "unfit" or "complaint" samples not submitted for analysis are combined for submission to the Ministry.

SAFETY

Basic Rules for Safety and Health at Work. Health and Safety Executive Booklet 35, HMSO.

Safety Policies—How to Write and Enforce Them. The Commercial Publishing Co., 1076 Harrow Road, London HW10 5NL.

Safety in Science Laboratories. Department of Education and Science. DES Safety Series. No. 2, HMSO.

Laboratory Safety. British Safety Council, 62/64 Chancellors Road, London W6 9RS.

REPORTS

FACC Report on the Review of Flavourings in Food (published March 1976), contains a review of the present situation, with a basic definition of "flavouring", and it advocates a "permitted list". There are ten recommendations and extensive lists of substances used for flavouring purposes.

Final Report of the Steering Group on Food Freshness (published April 1976). The report recommends that two comprehensive codes of practice should be drawn up to deal with frozen foods and foods such as dairy products and meat products which require chilling. The group also considered that open date marking of individual containers should not be applied to foods other than those about which recommendations have already been made.

FSC Review of the Soft Drinks Regulations 1964 (as amended) Part II Soft Drinks FSC/REP/65. The brief summary made in the MAFF Joint Announcement of 9 June 1976 (No. 178) is a very comprehensive one. The recommendations include the following. The term "soft drink" should include powder mixes or syrups for dilution but should exclude syrup intended to be frozen.

Drinks sold in open containers at counters and catering tables should be included. The word "crush" should be discontinued. Dilution instructions given with concentrates should produce drinks complying with the "ready-to-drink" standards. A declaration of fruit content should be made on fruit squashes, drinks or cordials. All the drinks of the Shandy type labelled to suggest the presence of alcohol should contain at least 1.5 degrees of proof spirit, and the phrases "made from whole oranges", etc., should be discontinued.

FSC Report on the Change from Calorie to Joule in Food Energy Declarations FSC/REP/67 (published October 1976). The principal recommendations are, that for statutory food energy declarations, the joule should replace the calorie from 1 January 1978 and optional use of the calorie should end two years later; that the kilojoule rather than the megajoule should be adopted for food labels, and that terms like "low joule diet" should replace the present use of "low calorie diet", etc.

Other Documents of Interest

Recommended International Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues. Fourth Series. Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, Codex Alimentarius Commission CAC/RS 65-1974.

Pesticide Residues in Food. Report of the 1974 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting. WHO Technical Report Series, No. 574.

Pesticides Residues in Food. Report of the 1975 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting. WHO Technical Report Series, No. 592.

Toxicological Evaluation of Some Food Additives (Including Food Colours, Thickening Agents and Others). FAO Nutrition Meetings Report Series, 55/A.

Evaluation of Certain Food Additives (some food colours, thickening agents, smoke condensates and certain other substances). Nineteenth Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. Technical Report Series, No. 576.

Evaluation of Certain Food Additives. Twentieth Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. Technical Report Series No. 599.

Specifications for the Identity and Purity of some Food Colours. Flavour Enhancers, Thickening Agents and Certain Other Food Additives. WHO Food Additives Series, No. 7.

Control of Nutritional Anaemia with Special Reference to Iron Deficiency. Report of an IAEA/USAID/WHO Joint Meeting. Technical Report Series, No. 580.

Topics of our Time. 1: Vitamin D Deficiency and Osteomalacia. Department of Health and Social Security.

Sugar Board. Nineteenth Annual Report (to 30 November 1976). Including "The Story of the Sugar Board".

Bill to Provide Safety Regulations for Privately-owned Swimming-pools made Available for Public Use. Bill 55. 47/2.

Surveillance of Drinking Water Quality. WHO Monograph Series. No. 63. This publication deals largely with organisation of surveillance, the necessary qualifications of staff, sampling, etc., and retains the O-tolidine test for "free" chlorine.