

equal to that used in the preservation of most perishable foods, and in some cases is even larger than the amount necessary to preserve. The vines were tested at intervals during the cranberry season, but not even a trace of benzoic acid could be found.

The writer called the attention of Dr. W. D. Bigelow, of the United States Department of Agriculture, to the exceptionally large amount of benzoic acid naturally in cranberries, who immediately began a thorough investigation of this matter. We worked entirely independently of each other all summer and fall, and as far as I have been able to ascertain, our results have agreed in nearly every detail.

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Determination of Nitrites in Waters.—Apropos of R. S. Weston's interesting notes upon this topic¹ it may be worth while to call attention to the fact that the "nitrite" error, due to the presence of burning Bunsen lamps, is often much greater than is suspected. In the water laboratory here the chemically pure distilled water is prepared by the use of a large copper retort heated by a very broad Bunsen burner. Only one other lighted burner is constantly in the room and that a small one. Distilled water, as delivered by the tin worm, was tested with the following results, duplicates being run in each instance. One Nessler tube was exposed to the room atmosphere, after addition of the "nitrite" reagents, and the other carefully protected therefrom. The results are stated as parts per million.

Conditions under which distilled water was collected.	Nitrites present in protected tube.	Nitrites present in unprotected tube.
Not allowed to come in contact with air of laboratory.....	none	0.0015
Slight contact with air. Tin condensing tube entering neck of receiving bottle.....	0.002	0.003
Water allowed to drop six inches through open air to receiving casserole.	0.007	0.008

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Pipette Weighing-bottle.—Among chemists who are called upon to analyze milk the need of a combination pipette and weighing-

¹ This Journal, 27, 281.