

than that obtainable in State work. The laboratories of this department have been short of two assistant chemists for nearly a year on account of these conditions, and also a drug chemist for about four months.

The inspection force is better organized and more efficient than ever before. A system of following up previous inspections either by the same or another inspector, for the purpose of noting whether recommendations of the department have been carried out, has been very successful indeed. The details of equipment required by the Food Sanitation Act of 1916 have been brought to the personal attention of nearly every handler of food products in the State of Kentucky and the improvements recommended have largely been made without undue friction. The department appreciates that part of the work of inspection is educational, and hence has endeavored to give any assistance possible in the way of such practical advice as will help in improving sanitary and other conditions. As a result of this policy there has been a great improvement in the sanitation of grocery stores, dairies, meat stores, bakeries, slaughterhouses and eating places. The general sanitary conditions of these places and their methods of handling food products are markedly in contrast with those of former years, before the passage of this specific sanitation law, and for the better. The inspection force has been very efficient in carrying on the field work of the department and are to be complimented on the substantial results obtained.

The following table is a digest of the work of the department for the year 1917:

| Laboratories                     |                     |                       |       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|                                  | Official<br>Samples | Unofficial<br>Samples | Total |
| Food laboratory .....            | 358                 | 249                   | 607   |
| Drug laboratory .....            | 150                 | 26                    | 176   |
| Bacteriological laboratory ..... | 195                 | 176                   | 371   |
| Total .....                      | 703                 | 451                   | 1,154 |