

## A SIMPLE DEVICE FOR HANDLING HOT EVAPORATING DISHES.\*

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The lifting, holding or transferring of a hot evaporating dish is frequently very inconvenient. The crucible tongs, although sometimes used, are not well adapted for the purpose of handling any but the smaller dishes. For handling dishes varying from six inches in diameter upward they are very risky to use.

Test tube holders are even less well adapted than crucible tongs and the method which is frequently or one might say, generally employed, that of using a towel or a piece of cloth, is decidedly unsatisfactory and unprofessional.

A satisfactory device which may be made in a few minutes by anybody who has a large cork and a sharp penknife has been in use by me for a long time with great success.

Take a No. 10 or 12 cork and beginning at the small end, cut a slit in it slightly wider than the thickness of the dish and running back about three-fourths the length of the cork. When completed, this makes a springy handle which can be slipped over the side of the dish and firmly grasped with the fingers without danger either of burning them or contaminating the contents of the dish. For large or heavy dishes, two of the improvised handles may be used, one being slipped over each side of the dish when it is to be moved.

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## PHARMACISTS THAT I HAVE MET.

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JAMES G. STEELE, SAN FRANCISCO.

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WILLIAM M. SEARBY.

In the year 1865, I had occasion to visit the drug store of H. P. Wakelee & Co., in the Occidental Hotel, on the corner of Bush and Montgomery streets (at that time I was in the employ of William H. Keith & Co., No. 521 Montgomery street). I met a pleasant voiced gentleman behind the counter, who, after some conversation, referred me to Mr. Stroud, an English pharmacist then in charge of the establishment.

My short talk with Mr. Searby was the commencement of a friendship that lasted forty-five years, until his death in October, 1910. This friendship strengthened with the passing of years and was of much benefit to me in many ways.

Mr. Searby was educated in England (his native country) and passed successfully through the different examinations in London, the headquarters of the British Pharmaceutical Society, until the *major examination* was reached, when he passed with "flying colors" and was granted the legal title of "Pharmaceutical Chemist." After some years of business partnership with his brother, Wright Searby, he made up his mind to go to America and so took ship for Vic-

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\*Presented to Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, June, 1913.

toria, British Columbia, where he arrived with a stock of goods and fixtures in 1860.

He passed the next five years in Victoria with varying fortunes, marrying meanwhile a young English lady by name Pidwell, and finally resolved to go to the "States," taking steamer and landing in San Francisco in 1865. He soon obtained employment with Wakelee & Co. After his engagement with the Wakelee firm, he started a store in 1866 at the corner of Fifth and Mission streets, where he did business until he moved to No. 871 Market street in 1875. He remained there in active business until with his partner, Mr. Zeilin, he moved his stock and fixtures to the corner of Stockton and Sutter streets, where they carried on a very successful drug business until the great earthquake and fire of April, 1906, when in common with one hundred other pharmacies the store was utterly destroyed.

In 1868 the store of William H. Keith & Co. came into my possession, my uncle, William H. Keith, retiring. At the instigation of William Simpson, an old-time apothecary, I visited several representative men in our vocation and got them to promise to attend a meeting at my store for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessity and feasibility of starting a pharmaceutical society. At the appointed time, eighteen attended and after much discussion it was resolved to call a general meeting of the druggists of San Francisco to meet in one of the public court rooms in November. Mr. Searby was present at this initial conference. He also attended the meeting held in November and was elected President of the new association which was called the "California Pharmaceutical Society." In after years the wisdom of this general title was seen. Fully one-half of the membership of the society was made up of "country druggists," all of whom were zealous in the cause and all enthusiastic admirers of Mr. Searby.

Mr. Searby held the office of President until 1878 and was re-elected in 1885-6. He was always elected one of the trustees at our annual meetings and exercised the best influence in the councils of the society.

In 1872 the California College of Pharmacy was founded. The first Board of Directors were elected at a stated meeting of the California Pharmaceutical Society, and were William M. Searby, William T. Wenzell, J. W. Forbes, William Simpson, John Calvert and James G. Steele. These gentlemen also acted as incorporators of the college according to California law. Rooms were engaged and fitted up in the third story of a brick building on Montgomery street between Washington and Jackson. The following professors were appointed by the board: William T. Wenzell, Chemistry; William M. Searby, Materia Medica; J. Winchell Forbes, Pharmacy, and Dr. Hehrmann Behr, Botany. Several young men matriculated and lectures were inaugurated. Professor Searby early showed great aptitude in teaching and holding the attention of his class. The infant college was affiliated with the University of California according to the scheme of John W. Dorinelle, who drew up the plan of organization providing for the "taking in" of subsidiary colleges.

The College of Pharmacy passed through many vicissitudes and was located in several buildings in different parts of the city, until in the fall of 1899 it came into the possession of and occupied the whole building erected by the state on

land donated by Gustav Sutro on Parnassus avenue, overlooking the Golden Gate Park.

Professor Searby held his professorship with slight intervals all through the years until his death. In the later years he also officiated as the Dean and Secretary of the college. Students of the college during Professor Searby's incumbency were instructed by the clear presentation of a subject commonly slighted and comparatively new to them. They knew something of drugs of course, but their knowledge of *materia medica* was small and vague. The professor's new and clear illustrations brought the subject before their eyes and caused these dry and recondite studies to become of vital interest. He would take, say, the roots of *Serpentaria*, *Spigelia*, *Rheum* and with his pocket lens make clear the special marks and characteristics of each drug. With his pleasant and correct English, he would excite and hold the attention of the students, fixing on their minds the individual nature of each drug, and doing it withal in so beautiful a manner that lessons became of interest and charm. Here, too, was shown year after year the power of teaching by example as well as by precept, which led his pupils to increasing stores of knowledge and proved of aid in their subsequent advancement!

Since the last semi-annual meeting of the California Pharmaceutical Society at Los Angeles in 1892, no semi-annual meetings have been held. The annual meetings were held in San Francisco until 1896. The gift of Gustav Sutro to the Affiliated Colleges of the magnificent site on Parnassus avenue overlooking the Golden Gate Park and much of the "Western Addition" and Richmond District, together with the erection by the State of three imposing buildings devoted to the professions of pharmacy, medicine, dentistry and law so fully occupied the minds of the pharmacists that all interest centered in the College of Pharmacy and the California Pharmaceutical Society was allowed to "go to sleep." Since then, however, the old society has been revived under the name of the California Pharmaceutical Association of which Professor Searby was elected President at the initial meeting held in November, 1907. This association has held annual meetings in different cities of the state and now rejoices in a membership of over 500.

In 1907, Professor Searby was elected President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the highest honor in the gift of organized American Pharmacy. Mr. Searby had attended several of the annual meetings of the association held mainly in eastern cities and attracted the attention of all by his erudition and graces of manner. As an after dinner speaker he was "*primus inter pares*," equal to the best and always devoting all his thoughts to the uplift of pharmacy.

In 1892 he became editor of the San Francisco Druggist, which publication in 1895 passed into the hands of Redington & Co. In May, 1909, he in conjunction with others deeply interested in the cause of pharmacy published the "Pacific Pharmacist," of which he was made the chief editor. On the death of Professor Searby this publication passed into the hands of Dr. Albert Schneider, a gentleman of rare attainments and a graduate of Columbia University, New York, and one well known to American pharmacists for his writings for the advancement of Pharmacy.

The long connection of Professor Searby with the California Pharmaceutical

Society, of which he was always regarded the responsible and managing head, proved of great value to that and similar organizations in the interests of pharmacists. From the parent society sprang the first Board of Pharmacy (of which Mr. Searby was a member and elected President), the operations of which were confined to the city and county of San Francisco, the said Board being dissolved in 1880, consequent to adoption of the new State Constitution and the vote of the people; the San Francisco and State Retail Druggists' Association, both of which lapsed in 1896; the State Board of Pharmacy, created by the State Legislature in 1892; the Pacific States Pharmaceutical Association, which was merged in 1909 with the Pacific Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association; the California College of Pharmacy, organized in 1872, and in the same year accepted as one of the Affiliated Colleges with the University of California, various pharmaceutical societies in the State, particularly in the "Bay Cities" (around San Francisco Bay), and divers conventions and committees called from time to time, to consider the needs of modern pharmacy and the requirements of the retail drug business.

All these felt and acknowledged the benefit of the guiding hand of Professor Searby. In all these and kindred organizations he was an honored and hard-working member, filling important positions and arousing in others by power of his own example, high and noble thoughts and purposes. He was dignified by his coadjutors with the title of "Nestor" in Pharmacy of the Pacific coast.

Professor Searby's contributions to Pharmaceutical literature consist mainly of papers on practical Pharmacy, on pharmaceutical education and pharmaceutical legislation, published in the San Francisco Druggist, the Pacific Druggist, the American Journal of Pharmacy, the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the California Pharmaceutical Society and the Pacific Pharmacist.

The more important papers contributed by him to the cause of progressive pharmacy were: On Pills and Pill Excipients; on Spigelia; Materia Medica for Pharmacists; The Decomposition of Potassium Iodide by Spirit of Nitre; Pharmaceutical Legislation; What Studies Should a Young Man Take up Who Intends to Enter a College of Pharmacy; a Simple Way of Making Simple Syrup; on *Rhamnus Californica* and *Rhamnus Purshiana*; Changes that I have Witnessed in the Drug Business during the Past Forty Years; An Improved Process for Making Compound Cathartic Pills; Standardizing Galenical Preparations; on Radams' Microbe Killer; Revision of the U. S. Pharmacopeia; Poison Laws; on Weights and Measures; Old versus Modern Pharmacy; The California State Board of Pharmacy, etc., etc.

In his college work Professor Searby proved himself a teacher of rare ability and great power. Not only did he impart knowledge to the students in the college classes, but unconsciously and unintentionally he impressed upon them the force of a beautiful character. The students, his associates in the faculty and the directors all honored and revered him. Mingling with him in his business life, it was easy to see that "success in business" was not his sole ambition. He never deemed wasted any effort or time that he could give to the betterment of others and many examples could be cited of his entire unselfishness and of his desire to assist in the progress of his fellow beings. He was a man who was

before the public sufficiently to receive national recognition, yet without an enemy. He always stood for honesty in municipal affairs and always opposed "grafting" of all kinds, and yet no one ever wished him ill. Kind, courteous and gentlemanly to all, though never flinching when the right was in question, he "tempered justice with mercy" and won through kindness coupled with firmness. He was a valued and efficient officer of the Presbyterian Congregational Church. His was the true Christian spirit. He led a consistent and blameless Christian life. No one can adequately estimate the good he did while among the living, or the influence of his example after death.

The Board of Directors of the California College of Pharmacy received many tributes of respect for Professor Searby's memory, from numerous organizations and individuals. The Directors and the Alumni Association of the College of Pharmacy passed resolutions of regret and condolence and caused them to be sent to the family of the deceased.

The Secretary of the Board of Regents of the University of California notified the Board of Directors that the Regents had voted to have a marble chair with a proper inscription to the memory of Professor Searby set up in a suitable place within the University grounds.

His name will always be held in grateful remembrance and will be classed with the names of Proctor, Parrish, Cushman, Hoffman, Ebert, Squibb, Rice, Maisch and others who have made it the work of their lives to exalt the cause of true Pharmacy in America.

The professor's devotion to the uplift of Pharmacy in California and the Pacific States had much influence in turning the eyes of the pharmacists to the merit and necessity of organization and was a moving factor in building up the membership of the California Pharmaceutical Association.

In 1912 the Board of Directors of the College had a mural tablet prepared with a suitable inscription to the memory of Professor Searby, and set up on the wall of the college building.

Professor Searby died in October, 1910. One of the deans of the Affiliated Colleges on learning of the illness and nearness to death of the professor, said: "The death of Professor Searby will prove a great loss to the entire student body. He possessed a tender conscience and never did or thought a wrong thing."

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#### KEEPING UP WITH PROGRESS.

The narrow man can't survive. Broader chests and broader foreheads are ready to replace him. The young man is challenging his ability. Unless he constantly renews his vitality and reviews his knowledge—unless he keeps posted and keeps pacing—unless he adds to his mental kit the newer tools of thought and trade—the newer systems and the newer economics—he cannot hope to compete in the after-building.—*Herbert Kaufman.*