

## THE DEBT WHICH MEDICINE OWES TO SECRET PREPARATIONS.

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A great many preparations are in daily use as household remedies, and even as official preparations in the U. S. P. and N. F., which originated as secret medicines. The history and the evolution of these remedies is very interesting, and the writer, as teacher of History of Pharmacy in one of our Colleges, takes special interest in this subject, and takes pleasure in presenting the origin of some of these remedies.

The reason that some of the proprietary remedies are called "Patent Medicines" is that they were originally patented, and I herewith present a list of some of the remedies still used to-day together with the date when they were patented:

Haarlem Oil.....	1672	John Hooper's Female Pills.....	1743
Godfrey's Cordial.....	1720	Dr. James' Powder.....	1747
Bateman's Pectoral Drops.....	1726	Roche's Embrocation.....	1803
British Oil.....	1742	St. John Long's Liniment.....	1820

All of these old remedies are still extensively used to-day, in spite of the fact that some of them have been patented almost two hundred and fifty years ago. The "Female Pills" originated by John Hooper, apothecary and man-midwife as he was called, continue to have a very large sale.

Physicians and pharmacists have lent a helping hand in originating preparations which have greatly enriched our Materia Medica, for instance: Paregoric was originated by Dr. Le Mort, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Leyden, and the predecessor of the immortal Boorhaave, the founder of the celebrated Vienna Medical College. Wine of Opium originated by the celebrated English physician, Sydenham, Comp. Powder of Rhubarb originated by Dr. James Gregory, Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh. Calamine Ointment, originated by Dr. Daniel Turner, a celebrated surgeon at London. Powder of Ipecac and Opium, by Thomas Dover, doctor and pirate. In connection with this, permit me to point out that even in those early times some of the doctors were pirates! Solution of Potassium Arsenite, by the apothecary, Thomas Fowler. In connection with Fowler's solution, I beg to state that he originally kept its Arsenic content secret and named it *Mineral Solution*.

Perhaps the most important of this class is *Rochelle Salt*, which was accidentally discovered by the French apothecary, Pierre Seignette in 1672, and the composition of which was kept secret for almost sixty years, until at last in 1731, two French pharmacists made an analysis.

*Sodium Bicarbonate* was introduced into medicine by the Berlin apothecary, A. W. Bullrich, as his "Universal Salz" in 1840. Let me point out that Bullrich "threw the bull" for a number of years and at the same time succeeded in getting "rich" from it. Nevertheless, pharmacy and medicine owe a great debt to Bullrich for introducing this chemical into therapy.

Many of the secret remedies became celebrated panaceas and obtained such fame, and did such an amount of good that the formulas of same were bought by the monarchs in those days at a very fancy price. This is an entirely different

procedure to what the present Board of Health of our great city of New York pretends to do!

The following are some of the examples:

Louis XIV, King of France, bought the following: Helvetius' Ipecac Remedy in 1686 at 1000 Louis d'or; Glauber's Kermes Mineral in 1720 at a fancy price; Talbor's Cinchona Remedy in 1780 at 2000 Guineas.

Louis XV bought the formula for La Mothe Tincture, giving him a pension of 4000 Livres a year.

Louis XVI purchased Mme. Nouffer's Tapeworm Remedy, at 18,000 Livres;

King Charles II of England bought Dr. Goddard's Drops for 6000 pounds Sterling, and Empress Catharine II of Russia invested in Bestuscheff's Tincture, 3000 Rubles.

It will no doubt interest the readers of the Journal A. Ph. A. to learn of a striking example of the effects, the bad effects, of the publication of a formula. The specific is that of *Warburg's Tincture*.

Originated in 1840 by Dr. Carl Warburg, an Austrian physician, it soon proved to be a specific in Malaria and Ague. In spite of being a secret remedy, the Austrian Imperial Health Board in 1848 ordered this tincture to be kept in stock in *all* the pharmacies of the Empire, and even established at Vienna, a central depot at which the preparation was manufactured under the supervision of the inventor.

The fame of Warburg's Tincture spread as far as India, and it was considered as one of the necessities of all British soldiers going to that country. In consequence of this, the preparation obtained a tremendous sale. At last Dr. Warburg was persuaded, in fact pressed to disclose his secret formula. Warburg did so. What was the consequence? Warburg, the originator of the celebrated Anti-periodic Tincture, died in poverty.

The author does not claim that this subject is exhausted and hopes to be able in the near future to find the time to make a complete compilation of the origin, the history and the evolution of the U. S. P. and N. F. preparations.

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## THE RELATION BETWEEN MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.\*

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In the first place, I shall take it that we are met here to-night, physicians and pharmacists, not merely for self glorification, but for the purpose of seriously discussing the true existing relations between our two professions, Medicine and Pharmacy; to find out whether we are drifting apart, developing a closer union, or merely maintaining a *statu quo* which we have inherited from our immediate

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