

HISTORICAL FRAGMENTS.*

BY EDWARD KREMERS.

No. 20. An "Arzney Holbuch."

The ownership of the prescription is a mooted question that has been discussed frequently in the pharmaceutical press. Of interest in this connection is one of the mural paintings in the Castle Isogne of northern Italy said to date back as far as the close of the fifteenth century. It represents an apothecary shop. To the one side we see a physician writing a prescription for a patient. The explanation for this is apparently found in a rule which demanded that the physician write his prescription in a book kept by the apothecary in his shop for that very purpose. This would seem to settle the question of ownership as laid down in one of the fundamental rules regulating the practice of both medicine and pharmacy. This rule necessitated not only an inconvenience on part of the physician, but one that must have seemed quite unnecessary. The writing of individual prescriptions to be taken to the apothecary shop by the patient was more rational and therefore prevailed.

These brief considerations leave the rights and convenience of the patient out of consideration. As a matter of self protection the pharmacist claims the right to file the prescription. The patient, however, also has certain rights to the document and naturally may claim a copy to be provided by the apothecary. Individual copies, however, were apt to be misplaced or lost. This difficulty was circumvented by supplying a book for copies of prescriptions to each family that had them filled for the most part at the apothecary shop issuing the book in question.

The first book of this kind that has come to the notice of the writer is the "Arzney Holbuch" issued almost a century ago by the Hirsch-Apotheke in Bremen for the use of Mr. Carl Winkler and his household. The label on the outside of the cover is badly worn, but the one on the inside of the cover is well preserved and is herewith reproduced.

The printed words are herewith reproduced in Roman, the written words in Italics, viz.:

Arzney Holbuch
 fuer
 Herrn Winkler
 Wohlgeboren
 Ost-torstr(asse) No. 6
 von
 H. Toel
 Hirsch Apotheke

Arznei = medicine, hence a book for getting medicine at H. Toel, proprietor of the apothecary shop at the sign of the stag. *Herr* is the German for Mr. and *Wohlgeboren* means literally well born, *i. e.*, the equivalent of Esquire.

Carl Winkler was born June 4, 1798. He came to Bremen in 1830 and was married in 1836. The first entry in the "Arzney Holbuch" is dated Sept. 30, 1837.



* Section on Historical Pharmacy A. P. H. A., St. Louis meeting, 1927.

He came to Milwaukee in 1843 when the present metropolis of Wisconsin was but a village. The latest European entry is dated Feb. 6, 1843. In Milwaukee Mr. Winkler established himself as an apothecary at the corner east of the City Hall. He was joined by his family shortly afterward. The first Milwaukee entry is not dated. The second bears the date July 10, 1846. In 1848 he sold his drug store to Ernst Steinmeyer, the father of Wm. Steinmeyer, the well-known grocer, and moved out into the country southwest of where the Soldiers Home was later established. Still later (about 1854 or 1855) he again returned to the city but not to practice pharmacy. For the copy of this "Arznei Holbuch" the writer is in-

Sept. 30. 37.

Sept. 30, 37.

Rp. Tart. emet. gr ii
 Pulv Rad. Ipecac. ʒβss
 Aquæ fœniculi
 Oxymel squillæ aa ʒi

*Rp. Tart. emet. ʒii
 Pulv. Rad. Ipecac. ʒβss
 Aquæ fœniculi
 Oxymel squillæ aa ʒi
 M.D.S. Alle 2 Stunden 2 Essloeffel voll
 zu nehmen.*

M.D.S. Alle Viertelstunde 1 Essloeffelvoll bis zum Erbrechen.

Rp. Pot. Riveri e Succo Citri parat. ʒiii
 Aquæ Melissæ ʒV
 Syr. sacch. ʒβss

*Rp. Pot. Riveri e Succo Citri parat. ʒiii
 Aquæ Melissæ ʒV
 Syr. sacch. ʒβss
 M.D.S. Alle 2 Stunden 2 Essloeffel voll zu nehmen.*

M.D.S. Alle 2 Stunden 2 Essloeffelvoll zu nehmen.

Für die Köchin

Rp. Sal seignett. ʒβss
 Nitr. depurat. ʒiij
 Extr. Liquirit. ʒii
 Sulph. loti ʒiij

*Für die Köchin
 Rp. Sal seignett. ʒβss
 Nitr. depurat. ʒiij
 Extr. Liquirit. ʒii
 Sulph. loti ʒiij
 M.f.p. d. ad scat.*

M.f.p. d. ad scat.

debted to his daughter, Mrs. Rose Schuchardt, the sister of General Carl Winkler of Civil War fame.

As already stated, the first prescription entered is dated September 30, 1837, and dates back to the days in Bremen. The last one bears the date February 22, 1855, at which time the family had presumably returned to the city. For the most part the physician's name is not recorded. The patient for whom the medicine in question was prepared is more commonly indicated. Thus in connection with the third prescription on the first page we read "Für die Köchin" (for the cook). On page 2 we find one recorded "Für Madame." The names of the children are not infrequently recorded: "Für Lina," "Für Friedrich," "Johannes

Winkler," "Für Roeschen," or simply "Herrn Winkler's Tochter." The handwriting of the copyist naturally varies. Some prescriptionists copied with a neat hand, the script of others leaves much to be desired.


As already pointed out, the record begins with September 30, 1837. Five prescriptions were recorded during the balance of that year. During the next year, only four prescriptions were copied; during 1839, not less than thirteen; during 1840, seven; during 1841, fifteen; during 1842, six; during 1843, seven. This apparently ends the Bremen period and that of the Hirsch Apotheke that issued the book. The next copy bears no date but the original was no doubt written by Dr. Fessel, who apparently was the family physician in Milwaukee. The second copy of this period is dated October 7, 1846 and the third one October 14th. Others follow for the years 1848, 1852, 1853, 1854 and 1855. Here the record ends.

A facsimile of the first page is reproduced on page 1190.

B. 23. 5. 70.

Rp. Morph. hydrochlor.	0.03
Aq. Amygd. am.	7.5
Aq. Foeniculi	60.0
Mucil. Gi. Mim.	
Syr. Alth. aa	30.0
M.D.S. Stuendlich ¹ Theeloeffel	
Frau Eckert	
	Dr. Schultze.
Reiteretur'	
22. 8. 70	
	Dr. Schultze.
Reiteretur. 29. 12. 70	
	Dr. Schultze.

B. 23. 5. 70.



Rp.
Morph. hydrochlor 0,03
Aq. Amygd. am. 7,5
Aq. Foeniculi 60,0
Mucil. Gi. Mim.
Syr. Alth. aa 30,0
M. D. S.
Stuendlich i Theeloeffel.
Frau Eckert.

Dr. Schultze
Reiteretur
22. 8. 70

Dr. Schultze
Reiteretur. 29. 12. 70
Dr. Schultze

Whereas the prescriptions of 1837 are written in the apothecaries' system of weights, this one of 1870 is written in the metric system.

¹ Latin, *reitero, avi*, a verb of the first conjugation, meaning to repeat. Hence *reiteretur*, in German es werde wiederholt, or erneuert; in English, let it be remade, or repeated.

The second book bears the rubber stamps of several apothecary shops. The first is that of the "Apotheke z. Schwarzen Adler. (Apothecary shop to the sign of the black eagle.) Neue Ross Str. 21." It appears for the first time in 1860 and recurs on several pages. The next one, appearing for the first time in 1870 is a modification thereof. It gives the name of the proprietor W. Krebs. A second modification occurs for the first time in 1873. It records "Berlin" as the place in which the apothecary shop is located and supplies the date on which the prescription was copied. Hence it is found with every new prescription recorded. February 18, 1875 is the last time it occurs. The next stamp bearing the date of April 28, 1875, records the name of F. Herbricht. In connection with a few of the

very last prescriptions copied in 1884, the rubber stamp is replaced by a small round label such as has been used on corks in place of a cap. In four instances the rubber stamp of another apothecary shop is found, *viz.*, that of the "Apotheke zum rothen Adler am Koellnischen Fischmarkt, Berlin C. alte Rossstr. 26. Dr. F. Dronke" proprietor. It appeared under date of Sept. 6, 1883. August 28, 1884 it appeared again but this time with the name of E. Rueckheim. A similar stamp was applied to a prescription in 1874 but with N. Philippona as proprietor.

Again the handwriting varies considerably. Some prescriptions are copied with neatness and care, others are scarcely legible. One original prescription is pasted into the book, not copied.

The book evidently served as a prescription record for a Mr. Neumann, the members of his family, his servants and even his horse. The apothecary shops in which the family prescriptions were filled were apparently located in the same neighborhood.

This second book was kindly sent to the writer by Mr. Israel Shrimski to whom it had been given for this purpose by Mr. R. A. Whidden, Vice-President of Bauer & Black, Chicago. A letter of inquiry concerning Mr. Neumann brought the following reply: "I am sorry that I cannot give you any interesting details regarding this book other than it was presented to me by a student in pharmacy about twenty-five years ago."

A page of this book is likewise reproduced photographically on page 1191.

HIGH POINTS IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.*

BY B. L. MALTBIE.

While for more than seventy-five years the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has been leading the retail pharmacist in the way he should go, it was not until 1910 that any attempt was made to organize the manufacturing pharmaceutical industry.

In the spring of 1910 a few representatives of pharmaceutical manufacturers met for luncheon in the Congress Hotel in Chicago and discussed the difficulties under which the industry labored, particularly the class of small manufacturers that were then springing up and supplying those of the trade who were more interested in price than in quality with low quality products, at cut prices. As a result of this round table talk a call was sent out to manufacturers to assemble in Detroit on May 30, 1910 in an attempt to form an organization.

Inasmuch as there was little personal acquaintance among manufacturers at that time it was difficult to get them to attend, but it was found, when the day arrived, that 17 houses were represented. The time was principally spent in becoming acquainted. Suspicion was in the air; the delegates were afraid of each other—afraid to speak their minds. The principal topic discussed was the poor quality of products that were being marketed by some of the smaller houses at a

NOTE: For discussion see Minutes Section on Historical Pharmacy, November JOURNAL.

* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. PH. A., St. Louis meeting, 1927.