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EDWARD STABLER.\*

THE stock which laid the foundation of Edward Stabler's pharmacy in Alexandria was invoiced at 96 £ 2s. and 3d. It was bought through the agency of Townsend Speakman, wholesale druggist of Philadelphia, June 25, 1792. The latter cautioned the buyer to reduce quantities ordered, "apprehending it most for thy interest for thee to have smaller quantities at first . . . till thou hast had some experience." The venture was a success—the stock, purchased by note, was paid for and doubled by the end of the first year, and the young apothecary married Mary Pleasants.

The first stock included three-quart flint-glass bottles with glass stoppers, at 5 shillings each. Two of these bottles disappeared—one remains, which was billed as containing spirit of nitre and is part of the purchase for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. An association in Alexandria contemplates establishing a museum in the store room and keeping it open for the public; if so, it is tentatively agreed that the articles purchased will remain in Alexandria so long as the museum is maintained. If not, the items will be moved to the Headquarters Building in Washington.

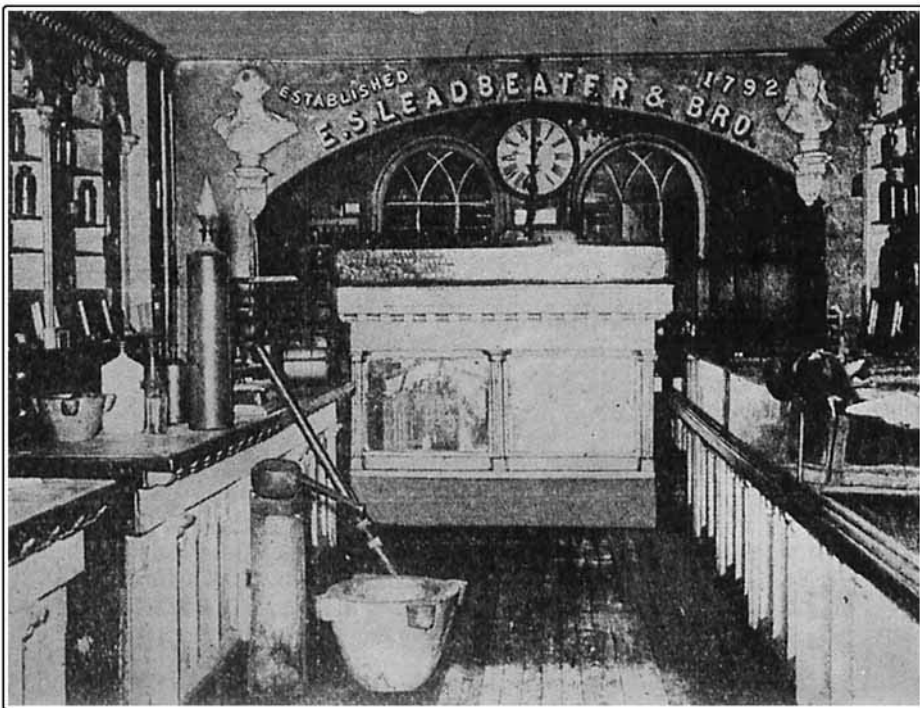
The clock dates back to the earlier years of the pharmacy. There are many records, books, orders, prescriptions, etc., which connect the history of the pharmacy with the present. A plate on the front counter records where Robert E. Lee received orders to proceed to Harpers Ferry to apprehend John Brown.

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\* Edward Stabler's earlier pharmaceutical experience was gained in the drug store of his brother, William, at Leesburg, Va. The first of the Leadbeaters came to Alexandria in 1830 and engaged with William Stabler, son of Edward, who had succeeded to the business. In 1835, John Leadbeater married a daughter of Edward Stabler and became a partner in the firm of William Stabler and Bro. in 1844, and sole owner in 1852.



Auction Sale of Leadbeater Pharmacy, Alexandria, Va., July 19, 1933. The sale took place in a room next to the old pharmacy.



Leadbeater Pharmacy, Alexandria, Va., before sale. The famed spirit of nitre bottle is on the counter, also a show bottle. On the front counter, at the left, is the General Robert E. Lee plate.



EDWARD STABLER.

Founder of Edward Stabler, successors are: E. Stabler & Son, William Stabler, William Stabler & Co., W. Stabler & Bro., John Leadbeater, J. Leadbeater and Son, Leadbeater & Co., E. S. Leadbeater & Co., E. S. Leadbeater & Bro., E. S. Leadbeater & Sons, Leadbeater Drug Corporation—1792-1933.