

pharmacy in the larger cities. In the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association for 1872 (v. 20, pp. 150-161) the committee presents the laws adopted by the several state legislatures for the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and San Francisco.

The Proceedings for 1873 (v. 21, pp. 506-508) contains a copy of the law passed in Ohio for cities of the first class, and the Missouri law, for the City of St. Louis, is presented in full in the Proceedings for 1874 (pp. 333-337) accompanied by a state law for Kentucky. During the remaining years of this decade five additional states adopted laws regulating the practice of pharmacy and during the decade from<sup>1880</sup> to 1890 no less than 25 states enacted laws of this type.

So far as known the Crimes Act of Pennsylvania (Laws 1860, No. 374) was the first American law to recognize the toxic and generally harmful character of morphine and the anticocaine law of Illinois (Laws 1897, p. 138) was the direct forerunner of our present day antinarcotic laws which, as now in force generally follow the suggestions laid down in the "Draft of an Antinarcotic Law" presented by James H. Beal at the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association at Mackinac Island, in 1903.

The history of the evolution of laws designed to regulate the practice of pharmacy and to restrict the sale and use of poisons is reflected in detail in the several volumes of the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the object of the present review is merely to call attention to the sequence of the development and to emphasize the important part taken by the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, through the Committees and Sections of that Association in safeguarding the best interests of the public by suggesting and endorsing legislation designed to restrict the promiscuous sale of poisonous and habit forming drugs.

While the laws now in force are far from perfect and while much remains to be done before the distribution and use of harmful and poisonous materials can be said to be adequately safeguarded" our thanks, and the thanks of the community at large are due to the pioneers in the field who fought so valiantly for the recognition of pharmacy as a calling destined to take an important part in protecting the health and the lives of American people.

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## HISTORY OF KUMMERFELD'S LOTION.

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Among the sadly neglected studies is history of pharmacy and quite especially the history of drugs and galenicals. The writer, an enthusiast on this subject, cannot conceive how a pharmacist can truly love his profession without some little knowledge of its history, and he therefore advocates that such knowledge should be instilled into the student in his college course.

The notes which the author has collected on pharmaceutical history are quite numerous. The history of Kummerfeld's lotion has been selected as the topic for

this paper, not because it is such an important preparation, but for the following two reasons:

1. None of the American or English books, which the writer is acquainted with, give its formula and therefore Aqua Cosmetica Kummerfeldi was made No. 1 of the "Pharmaceutical Formulas" for the proposed "Recipe Book" in Journal A. Ph. A., February, 1912.

2. Its history serves as a good example of the evolution of a simple formula into a more complex one.

Madame Kummerfeld (whether Miss or Mrs. is unknown to the author) was an actress living in Weimar during the time of the celebrated German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832). I find that Helene Böhlau, the author, mentions Madame Kummerfeld in her writings. "Weimarer Ratsmädel" and "Andere Geschichten." "Die Kummerfelden," as the actress was commonly called, was in the habit of having a recipe compounded at the Weimar Apotheke, containing Precipitated Sulphur, Borax and Rose Water, which she used as a cosmetic lotion. In those days as well as in the present days, toilet articles, etc., used or endorsed by actresses naturally became famous, as is well illustrated in the use of henna by Madame Adeline Patti. Consequently Kummerfeld's Waschwasser came into use in Germany and the formula was modified to suit the need or fancy of the patient, or prescriber or dispenser. According to a communication of Dr. Maaz of Grossrudestadt in Pharmazeutische Zeitung, 1912, p. 76, another, very likely later, modification of Aqua Cosmetica Kummerfeldi is as follows:

Precipitated Sulphur .....	7.5 gm.
Lime Water .....	150. gm.
Sulphurated Potassa .....	0.6 gm.

I find that the borax in the original formula as well as the liver of sulphur in Dr. Maaz's formula have been omitted from the recipes in use at the present time and that camphor and glycerin have been added. The lime water is still retained in some of the formulas. The addition of camphor undoubtedly has the object of acting as a cooling, antiseptic, bleaching and antipruritic agent. The addition of glycerin has the object of preventing the lotion from drying too quickly and also to help to suspend the solids.

Some of the formulas, f. i. of the Dresden, the Saxon and the Hessian Apothecaries, and those in "Hager" and "Dieterich" contain also two per cent. of acacia, which in the writer's opinion is a decided advantage, being used to emulsify the camphor. That the formula for Kummerfeld's Waschwasser is important on the Continent can be seen from being official in the Netherlands Pharmacopoeia and in the Ergänzungsbuch (supplement to German Pharmacopoeia). Inasmuch as it is also frequently prescribed in the United States, especially by dermatologists, and as none of the American books seem to publish the formula, and as the writer, who acts as a pharmaceutic information bureau around Greater New York and vicinity, has been asked for this formula on numerous occasions, he has therefore published same in the department of Pharmaceutical Formulas in the Journal A. Ph. A., February, 1912, p. 169.

In order to familiarize the pharmacists and others with the origin of this

preparation this paper was written. For convenience and in order to make the formula better known, I again repeat it:

## AQUA COSMETICA KUMMERFELDI.

Kummerfeld's Lotion or Cosmetic Water.

Camphor .....	10 gm.
Acacia, in fine powder .....	20 gm.
Glycerin .....	50 gm.
Precipitated Sulphur .....	100 gm.
Rose Water .....	820 gm.

To make ..... 1000 gm.

Triturate the finely powdered Camphor with the Acacia and the Precipitated Sulphur, then add the Glycerin and gradually the Rose Water, triturating constantly so as to obtain a homogeneous lotion.

*Shake well before dispensing.*

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 THE CUT-RATE ROUTE.

Although price cutting is not confined at all to the drug trade, still the merchants who perhaps have gone the farthest in this kind of work and have given the cutter the most wide-spread advertising are the cut-rate druggists. This is doubtless because they have had the ignorance of the public upon which to trade. They have taken advantage of the fact that the druggist has long been heralded as a robber-profit man. They have been willing to admit and even claim this in order to exploit their position as the money savers of the community. Whether this attitude is a fair one, whether it is a loyal position to take or not, we are not disposed to say. But this much we think: the cut-rate route to a mercantile success is not a short cut by any means. While some cutters have succeeded, it has been largely due to the fact that they were shrewd merchants and good advertisers rather than to the mere fact that they lopped off the profits from certain lines of goods. We believe that if the case of every cutter were to be carefully analyzed we would find that had that man followed his same live publicity means and had he done as much good work in the way of displaying goods and helping to make them self-selling, and at the same time kept his prices up to the normal level of his town, he would have succeeded to a greater extent. He would have developed practically as much business, and he would have done it all on a profit-paying basis. He would not have found it necessary to pare salaries down so closely or to work so hard to sell certain lines on which his profit still existed. The cut-rate route is not the route to getting rich quick, and in most instances it has not proved the route to getting rich at all.—*The Spatula.*