

turing houses in America and Europe during 1925-26 and we realized then that it would be well-nigh impossible for any chemical or drug to leave the laboratories of the firms unless they were of proper standard.

We take this opportunity of thanking the various laboratories visited for the wonderful hospitality shown to us by the staffs; for their kindness in explaining many of their private processes to us and for their ready answers to the many questions we asked during our tour.

In the analysis of the various items listed I have had the assistance of Mr. Moody Meng, Ph.C., M.P.S. (London).

EDITOR'S NOTE: In a letter to the Editor, Pharmacist Cameron expresses the hope that his communication will stimulate many hospital pharmacists to publish results in their laboratories in the JOURNAL A. PH. A.

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### SCHIEFFELIN & CO.—THE OLDEST WHOLESALE DRUG HOUSE IN NEW YORK CITY.\*

BY OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

One of the chief divisions of that interesting subject "History of Pharmacy," as outlined in another paper before this Section, is the "History of Pharmacies and Drug Stores." During the preparation of a paper "Old Drug Stores in New York State," presented at the meeting of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association June 1927, at Thousand Islands, I came across the Oldest Wholesale Drug House in New York City, still in existence to-day. To record its history for future reference is the object of my paper.

In 1781, Effingham Lawrence established himself in New York as a drug merchant. His place of business was located at 227 Queen St., now Pearl St. He was directly descended from William Lawrence of Flushing, L. I., who was fined, in 1666, for being somewhat too independent in his views to suit Richard Nicolls, the English Governor to whom New Netherlands had capitulated in 1764.

In 1794, John B. Lawrence and Jacob Schieffelin bought the business from Effingham Lawrence, the firm being changed to Lawrence & Schieffelin. John B. Lawrence was a younger brother of Effingham and Jacob Schieffelin was their brother-in-law, having married Hannah, their sister. The firm was located at 195 Pearl St., opposite what was then called the "Fly Market" at the foot of Maiden Lane, in the ancient Dutch House, built in 1626.

In 1799, on October 18th, John B. Lawrence withdrew from the firm and the business was continued under the name Jacob Schieffelin. According to the *Dissolution Notice* Schieffelin sold both at wholesale and at retail.

In 1804, Jacob Schieffelin, 193 Pearl St., N. Y., published "A Catalog of Drugs, Medicines and Chemicals Sold Wholesale and Retail," printed by William A. Davis, 39 William St. This, on August 6, 1806 was "Examined and Approved by The New York Druggists' Association, Henry J. Schieffelin, Secretary." Here is the proof that as early as 1806 there existed a "New York Druggists' Association."

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

To bring this fact to light is worth the trouble which the author has taken in this research! (See PROCEEDINGS A. PH. A., Vol. 55, p. 600 (1907)—“Remarks by Wm. Jay Schieffelin.”)

In 1805, on January 1st, Jacob Schieffelin admitted to the business his son Henry Hamilton, a graduate of Columbia College (1801) and a lawyer. The firm was changed to Jacob Schieffelin & Son, 193 Pearl St. and several other warehouses. Their transactions were now conducted on a larger scale.

In 1814, Jacob Schieffelin retired from the firm, which was now composed of his three sons, Henry Hamilton, Effingham and Jacob, Jr., under the name of H. H. Schieffelin & Co. H. H. Schieffelin was very active in the organization of the New York College of Pharmacy and, in 1829, was elected *Vice-President*, and *President* in 1831 and 1832.

In 1835, after the great fire, the location was changed to Maiden Lane. In 1841, new and larger quarters at 104-106 John St. Here, in 1851, the pharmaceutical career began of that veteran pharmacist, 89 years old, and *Honorary President* of the A. PH. A., William L. DuBois, in Catskill, who according to my records owns the oldest drug store in New York State, established in 1795.

In 1848 the firm purchased the stock and drug business of Hoadley, Phelps & Co.

In 1849, Henry Hamilton Schieffelin retired from the business and four of his sons—Samuel Bradhurst, Sidney Augustus, James Lawrence and Bradhurst entered the firm—conducting it under the name Schieffelin Bros. & Co. These brothers constituted the third generation of the Schieffelin family.

In 1854, Samuel B. Schieffelin erected the six-story building at 170-172 William St., corner of Beekman St., which is still occupied (1927).

In 1859, William H. Schieffelin, the son of Samuel Bradhurst Schieffelin, being the fourth generation of the Schieffelin family, was admitted to partnership.

In 1860, when American petroleum was discovered, the firm at once established an office in Titusville, Pa., and was the first to bring petroleum into New York as an article of commerce.

In 1865, the four Schieffelin brothers retired, and the firm was conducted under the name of W. H. Schieffelin & Co. with William H. Schieffelin as a representative of the family.

In 1875, the firm bought the stock and absorbed the wholesale drug house A. B. Sands & Co., located at the N. W. Cor. Fulton and William Sts.

In 1882, a manufacturing laboratory was established in Front St. near Corlears Hook.

In 1890, William J. Schieffelin, son of William H. Schieffelin, being the fifth generation of the Schieffelin family, was admitted to partnership. He graduated from the School of Mines, Columbia University, in 1887 and continued his studies under the celebrated Prof. Baeyer in Munich, where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1889.

During 1894 extensive laboratory buildings for the production of fine chemical and pharmaceutical preparations were erected at Southern Boulevard, St. Ann's Ave. & 132nd St., in the Bronx.

In commemoration of the centenary of the firm, in 1894, a historical sketch of 56 pages with fine illustrations was published, “One Hundred Years of Business Life 1794-1894, W. H. Schieffelin & Co., New York.” It is divided into three

parts: I, History; II, Exhibits from the Archives; III, Appendix—*One Hundred Years of Chemistry and Pharmacy*. The motto of this publication is

"Respice, Adspice, Prospice"

"Look back, Look at, Look forward."

This booklet is out of print, but through the courtesy of Mr. J. M. Gray of the firm, who furnished me with still further particulars, I was enabled to examine it.

In 1895, William H. Schieffelin having died during this year, the present title of the firm was adopted, namely Schieffelin & Co. In 1903, the firm became incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, the partners becoming directors of the Company. In 1906, William Jay Schieffelin, Sr. was elected to the office of *President* of the firm.

In 1917, the wholesale drug house Bruen, Ritchey & Co., 214 Fulton St., was adsorbed.

In 1919, William Jay Schieffelin, Jr., the son of William Jay Schieffelin, being the sixth generation of the Schieffelin family, was made a director and *Treasurer* of the corporation.

In 1921, the firm Britt, Loeffler & Weil, 269 Canal St., was taken over.

In 1922, William Jay Schieffelin, Sr., resigned as *President* and was made *Chairman* of the Board of Directors. His son William Jay Schieffelin, Jr., became his successor as *President*.

In 1923, W. Millspaugh, 34 Cliff St., discontinued business, and the inventory of his stock was purchased by Schieffelin & Co. In 1925, when Lehn & Fink discontinued the general drug business, the inventory of their stock was purchased.

#### CONCLUSION.

Such is the story, or better said, the authentic history, of the Oldest Wholesale Drug House in New York City, a record of which the American business life and pharmacy especially can be justly proud.

Seven changes in the composition and name of the firm occurred from its establishment in 1794 up-to-date (1927) which are as follows: 1794-1799 Lawrence & Schieffelin; 1799-1805 Jacob Schieffelin; 1805-1814 Jacob Schieffelin & Son; 1814-1849 H. H. Schieffelin & Co.; 1849-1865 Schieffelin Bros. & Co.; 1865-1895 W. H. Schieffelin & Co.; 1895 to date Schieffelin & Co.

During all this time only five changes in location have taken place, namely—1794-1799 at 195 Pearl St.; 1799-1835 at 193 Pearl St.; 1835-1841 at Maiden Lane; 1841-1854 at 104-106 John St.; 1854 to date at 170-172 Beekman St.

#### NANKING STARTS TO END OPIUM USE BY 1932.

The Nanking authorities have announced a program which has as a purpose the prohibition of opium smoking in China. The scheme is to place such a high tax on the drug that within a few years the use of it will have been stamped out. The Government control is suggested in the plan which is to be put in force on the first of January. The

provisions have been placed in the hands of what is known as the Opium Prohibition Bureau, under the Minister of Finance. A tax of 70% on opium is to obtain for the first year; 100% for the second year and 200% for the third year. It is said that the greatest difficulty will be in stopping the cultivation of the poppy.

Nanking also intends to stop the importation of other narcotics, except for medicinal purposes.