

## FLUECKIGERIANA.\*

BY EDWARD KREMERS.

## IV. LLOYD'S CONFERENCE WITH FLUECKIGER IN NEW YORK.†

As stated in a note on letters written by Professor Flueckiger to Dr. Frederick Hoffmann, 1891 to 1894,<sup>1</sup> the Strassburg professor after his retirement from the then Kaiser Wilhelm's Universitaet had intended to devote the remaining years of his life to a history of the "Drogenkunde." Preliminary work toward this end soon made him realize that an important, if not a large, part of the information sought had to be gained in America. It was for this reason that he at last accepted the oft-repeated invitation of his friend, Dr. E. R. Squibb, to come to this country as his guest. Such he became during the months of June, July, August and September of 1894.<sup>2</sup>

Once in this country it was inevitable that he should want to see the historical material on American materia medica collected by Lloyd and, what was even more, have a conference with the collector who, more than any one else, had thus far contributed toward a *Pharmacographia Americana*.<sup>3</sup> Flueckiger's advanced years and consequent indisposition, aggravated by an extremely hot spell, prevented the drug historian of Bern from undertaking the fatiguing trip to Cincinnati. Professor Lloyd then did the next best thing possible: he sent cases of books to Squibb's laboratory where Flueckiger could look them over at his leisure. More than that, at the invitation of Dr. Hoffmann he came to New York<sup>4</sup> where he and Professor Flueckiger met to talk over the subject in which both were so greatly interested.

Unfortunately, Professor Flueckiger's untimely death put an end to the plans formulated by the father of modern pharmacognosy and the author of "Drugs and Medicines of North America." Unfortunate as was this failure of coöperation in the history of drugs, the attempt should be properly recorded. Since no better record exists than a letter by Professor Lloyd, it is, herewith, published for the benefit of future students of American drugs and American pharmacy.

Inasmuch as the original study was undertaken for the purpose of securing contributions to a chapter in the life of Dr. E. R. Squibb, the letters by Professor Lloyd contain references to Dr. Squibb which are likewise of interest to the future

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\* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929.

† Nos. I, II and III have previously been published in the *N. Y. Apotheke Zeitung*: I. Briefe Flueckiger's an Hoffmann, 45 (1924), 110, 122. II. Aus dem Tagebuch Augusta Flueckiger's, 49 (1928), 57. III. Flueckiger's Amerika Briefe an Tschirch, 49 (1929), 142, 155; also, 50 (1929), 1 and 15.

<sup>1</sup> *N. Y. Apoth. Ztg.*, 45 (1924), 110.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 49, 57; see also Flueckiger's American letters to Tschirch, do. 49, pages 142 and 155; also do. 50, 1 and 15.

<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately the correspondence between Flueckiger and Lloyd has not been preserved, at least no letters have been found thus far either in Strassburg or Cincinnati, though a careful search for them has been made at the writer's request.

<sup>4</sup> Under date of June 27th, Professor Flueckiger's daughter recorded in her diary that they had dined with Dr. and Mrs. Hoffmann at 112th St. and that at their home they had met Professor Lloyd. This note, therefore, establishes the exact date of Professor Lloyd's visit with Professor Flueckiger.

biographer of this early pharmaceutical manufacturer and consequently to the historian of American pharmacy.

Herewith follows the greater part of a letter written by Lloyd under date of December 22, 1922:

"In the year 1894 I received a letter from Dr. Fred. Hoffmann, stating that Professor Flueckiger was arranging to visit America and hoped to be able to make the trip to Cincinnati and spend some time in the Lloyd Library. I replied to the effect that it would please me, could the arrangement be made, and in accordance therewith the plan was to have him spend as much time as he could spare with me.

"On his arrival in New York he became the guest of Dr. Edward R. Squibb of Brooklyn, making his home his headquarters during his New York stay. Unfortunately, one of the most severe heat spells we have ever known in America struck our country soon after his arrival. Dr. Flueckiger was not strong. To him the journey to Cincinnati seemed a mighty task and reluctantly he was forced to abandon it.

"Then he wrote<sup>3</sup> to me stating his real object in visiting Cincinnati, which was to study *Americana* as found in the Lloyd Library and to converse with me regarding the problems of America's materia medica and medicinal plants. He asked me if I could not forward to him in Brooklyn books that bore on this subject in order that he might in a cursory manner consider the subject as a whole.

"I packed up for him several large boxes containing several hundred volumes bearing on the early record of the American materia medica and medicinal plants, sending them by express to him in care of Dr. Squibb at his home.

"Within a very short time, I got a letter of invitation from Dr. Hoffmann, asking me to come to New York, meet Dr. Flueckiger and talk over the subjects he had in mind. Dr. Hoffmann invited me to make my stay in New York at his home, which invitation I very gladly accepted, starting immediately for New York.<sup>4</sup>

"In the visits (I do not know just how many I had) the meetings with Dr. Flueckiger were at Dr. Hoffmann's home or at the office of the *Rundschau*, which he then edited. Subjects of interest and importance were talked over, and at the suggestion, I might even say request of Dr. Flueckiger who expressed his inability to accomplish the work he had designed unless I coöperated with him, an arrangement was made by which the American drugs and medicines were to be presented in a manner similar to that of the 'Pharmacographia,' and which when prepared would be published under the name of Flueckiger and Lloyd instead of Flueckiger and Hanbury as was the 'Pharmacographia.' This was a very great honor to me, a mighty surprise, but notwithstanding my timidity in accepting such a responsibility, under the advice of Dr. Hoffmann I did so.

"The arrangement was to the effect that I should write the historical record of the drugs used in American medicine and those introduced and established, especially by the Eclectic School of Medicine, with which school Dr. Flueckiger seemed, to my surprise, to be well acquainted.

"The heat wave, however, struck New York as well as the Middle West, and Dr. Flueckiger, if I remember correctly, cut his visit short, embarking very soon after my trip to New York for his home.<sup>1</sup>

"Immediately I started to work on the subject we had in mind. Before anything material had been accomplished, Professor Flueckiger died, thus putting an end to the arrangement, much to my disappointment.

"Into the hands of Professor Schaer who followed Flueckiger in the University came the documents that had passed between us, and Professor Schaer published in Germany at least two of the articles from my pen. They were titled—"The California Manna"<sup>2</sup> and "The Destruction of Tobacco in Virginia by Act of General Assembly, January 6, 1639, under Sir Francis Wyatt, Governor."<sup>3</sup> Of these I have a reprint of "The California Manna"<sup>4</sup> and Miss Wycoff has made for you a copy of the other, both of which are enclosed herewith."

The occasion of Flueckiger's visit caused the *Pharmaceutical Era* to direct attention to the Lloyd collection at Cincinnati under the caption "A valuable and unique library." (Oct. 1894.)

That Lloyd had been cooperating with Flueckiger even before this, has already become apparent from a statement made by the latter in a letter to Hoffmann dated December 1, 1891.

Although the correspondence has been lost, as previously stated, Professor Lloyd kindly supplied additional information in a letter dated January 17, 1924, from which the following paragraphs may be quoted:

"I remember well the incidents connected therewith, one being a desire of Flueckiger to study the Hydrastis problem directly from a plant grown by himself, the other being the study of Senega concerning which I had written several articles and in which I endeavored to discreetly controvert the opinion Professor Maisch had taken to the effect that *Polygala Boykinnii* was the false Senega that had recently entered commerce. The only specimen of *Polygala Boykinnii* that Professor Maisch had at his command or that he had received was a single specimen that had come to him from the South, whereas the "Spurious Senega" or "Large Senega" that entered commerce came from Minnesota, mainly supplied by a drug grinding firm who united with me in establishing the fact I have mentioned. Professor Maisch did not take kindly to this correction that was made in a very genteel manner, as I thought, and attempted to controvert the same in an article published in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, to which article I did not reply because the facts were all on my side and need not be discussed. This controversy to-

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<sup>1</sup> From both the diary of Miss Flueckiger and Flueckiger's American letters to Tschirch, it becomes apparent that Lloyd confounded the excursions which the Flueckiger family took with their host, Dr. Squibb, to cooler regions with his return to Europe much later.

<sup>2</sup> As stated by Prof. Lloyd, the first of these contributions was published in Germany, viz. in the *Ber. deut. Pharm. Ges.*, 7, page 245. (Reported June 3, 1897.) The English reprint to which he refers was one from the *Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 69 (July 1897).

<sup>3</sup> This copy has been filed with Professor Lloyd's letter.

<sup>4</sup> *Comp. N. Y. Apoth. Ztg.*, 45 (1924), 110.

gether with the description of Senega known in commerce as "Large Senega" interested Flueckiger very much and hence his request for Senega.

"In connection therewith I will state I sent him Senega from every section of America, beginning in the East where Senega was first introduced, thence following throughout America the trend of its commercial progress, ending with the large Senega of Wisconsin and Minnesota, supplied by Mr. Huber,<sup>1</sup> the owner of the drug grinding establishment mentioned. I did not send him a specimen of *Polygala Boykinnii* for the reason that I could not obtain one.

"In my opinion you will find this entire Senega problem thrashed out to your satisfaction in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and the *American Journal of Pharmacy* at about the period mentioned."

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### PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES.\*

BY WILLIAM J. HUSA.\*\*

The great convenience of washed and corked prescription bottles packed with corrugated cardboard, as compared with the unwashed, uncorked bottles packed in straw, as was the case a quarter of a century ago, might lead one to believe that this problem has been completely solved. It might appear that at the prescription counter no attention need be paid to prescription bottles except to make an occasional notation on the order book.

However, in spite of the careful control that is presumed to go along with large scale production, it will pay the pharmacist to carefully scrutinize the prescription bottles used in his store. In the first place, the bottles are not always clean enough for use; sometimes there is a smoky film and sometimes the bottles appear as though there is mold on the inside, due probably to the crystallization of mineral salts. Difficulties due to alkalinity, such as the precipitation of alkaloids from solutions of alkaloidal salts, etc., are still found all too frequently. In many cases the precipitation or other change occurs after the prescription has left the store and the pharmacist may not be aware of it. In some cases the trouble is prevented by merely washing the bottle before use; from this it would appear that the glass does not develop alkalinity in presence of water at ordinary temperature, but that the alkali in the bottle is probably formed by hydrolysis of the silicates composing the glass at elevated temperatures in presence of steam while the bottles are being dried subsequent to washing. An easy test for this alkalinity is to fill two or three bottles from each case with hot water to which a few drops of phenolphthalein T. S. has been added; if a coloration does not appear the bottle is satisfactory for use. My experience has been that the manufacturers are always willing to replace such defective bottles. The pharmacist should safeguard his patrons and the reputation of his store by proper attention to the quality of the prescription bottles used.

There are other points in connection with prescription bottles which might prof-

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<sup>1</sup> The Mr. Huber mentioned was, no doubt, Mr. J. C. Huber, senior member of Huber and Fuhrmann, drug sellers, Fond du Lac., Wisc.

\* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929.

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