

toline grounds. In 1874 Mr. C. M. Wright and his son, Frank F. Wright, as the firm of C. M. Wright & Son, opened a drug store in the new building at the corner of Fulton street and Verona Place. This store, on account of being fitted up so elegantly with plate glass windows, black walnut fixtures, marble floor, French plate glass showcases, etc., became known as the "Palace Drug Store." This, by the way, was the first store in Brooklyn which later had such a luxury as a metal ceiling. In 1876 the store went into the possession of Dr. Watts, and Mr. C. M. Wright opened the store at Gates and Reid avenues in 1877, which in 1879 became the property of his son, Frank F. Wright, who is now at Brooklyn and Atlantic avenues.

After the death of Dr. Watts the "Palace Drug Store" became the property of Thomas Jones, an English "pharmaceutical chemist," who also owned the drug store at Fulton street and Classon avenue and at Bedford and Gates avenues. After Mr. Jones' death the store changed hands several times, until it came into possession of Otto Raubenheimer, the Chairman of the Historical Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association and former President of the New York Branch, who turned it into an ethical pharmacy, with a sign in one of the show windows: "No Cigars, No Candy, No Ice Cream, No Soda Water, But I Do Sell Pure Drugs and Medicines."

There is a dear old lady living near my store who was brought as a bride to a new drug store just being opened by her proud young husband at Myrtle avenue and Fleet Place about February 1, 1851—sixty-one years ago, and she still owns the business. She is Mrs. R. G. Rutherford. Although now past four score, she attends quite regularly the meetings of the N. Y. State Association, where she is greatly esteemed. She has told me that in the old days there were detached houses with garden plots all about. Now it is largely a negro population in old rookeries.

There are many more long established stores of excellent repute in Brooklyn, but the subject grows on one when starting in to write about it and has already outgrown reasonable limits. Perhaps another year we may take it up again.

EARLY MINNESOTA PHARMACY¹

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. S. W. MELENDY, ONE OF THE PIONEER MINNEAPOLIS PHARMACISTS. F. J. WULLING, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Mr. Melendy came from Dane county, Wisconsin, to Minneapolis in the spring of 1871. The population of Minneapolis at that time was about 13,000. His first position was that of clerk with the firm of Lyman & Williams, wholesale and retail, located in Center Block near Second street, the heart of the business district at that time. He was with them from the spring of 1871 until 1873, when he went into the retail business with Mr. George R. Lyman

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under the firm name of Melendy & Lyman. They were located under the Nicollet hotel on Washington avenue. They remained there until 1877, when they moved to 241 Nicollet avenue and with others inaugurated the trend of business up Nicollet. Fifteen years later the firm moved to 421 Nicollet. In 1874 Mr. Melendy and family moved to what was then near the suburbs of Minneapolis at 37 Seventh Street South, where they resided until May, 1904. About one and a half years after moving to 421 Nicollet avenue, the firm Melendy & Lyman went out of business by selling out stock, fixtures, etc.

Among the first drug stores in Minneapolis were those owned by the following: Gray Bros., Hennepin avenue below 2nd street, now carried on by Horace Gray, son of T. K. Gray, in the same location as that occupied by the firm in 1855; George Huhn, on Hennepin avenue below 2nd street, later moved to Nicollet avenue, just below 2nd street; Savory & Johnson, corner of Washington and Hennepin avenues, before that under the Nicollet hotel on Washington avenue; James Murrison, Merchants block on Washington avenue, corner of 2nd avenue south (then Helen street); Webster Benner, in the Cataract House, corner of 6th avenue south and Washington avenue; James Slemmons, on Nicollet avenue below Washington; Thomas Gardiner, one of the old-timers, on Nicollet, now on Hennepin near 8th street; Lyman & Williams, wholesale and retail, in Center block, running through from Hennepin to Nicollet avenues—the original firm name of the latter was Lyman & Tucker. Mr. Nelson Williams bought out Mr. Henry Tucker; later Geo. R. Lyman bought out Mr. Williams; later Mr. T. W. Lyman entered into partnership with Geo. R. Lyman under the firm name of Lyman Brothers. About 1876, Mr. J. C. Eliel came from Chicago, Ill., and bought into the firm and the firm became known as the Lyman-Eliel Drug Co., and recently was absorbed by the Minneapolis Drug Co.—Crossman & Plumer, corner 2nd street and Nicollet avenue; Hofflin & Thompson, corner Washington and 1st avenue south, at a little later date.

State Association. A local association was organized in St. Paul by the St. Paul pharmacists in 1883. Minneapolis also organized a local association at about this time. St. Paul was the larger city at that time, and it was the St. Paul pharmacists who first conceived the idea of organizing a state association. A meeting was held and Mr. Sweeney was elected president. A delegation was sent to Mr. Melendy to ask him whether he would accept the position of first vice-president. This he did. Mr. H. G. Webster was third vice-president, and Mr. S. L. Crocker, of Fairbault, second vice-president. Mr. Stierle was treasurer and W. S. Getty, secretary. The association was organized October 16, 1883, over Lambie & Bethune's drug store, corner 3rd and Wabasha streets, St. Paul, and the constitution and by-laws adopted at that time. A local druggists' association of Minneapolis sent a delegation to the local association at St. Paul and a conference was held. A state meeting was called to discuss the subject of a state law regulating the practice of pharmacy. Mr. Melendy suggested that this proposed state law emanate from the state association. This first meeting was held in 1885 in the Board of Trade rooms, St. Paul. A committee was appointed, at the first meeting, to introduce a pharmacy regulatory law—the law was passed by the legislature at the first introduction.

Board of Pharmacy. At the 1885 special meeting, March 7, of the state association, a committee was appointed to select fifteen names out of which five were chosen to constitute the State Board of Pharmacy. The names of the five selected by the association were submitted to the governor of the state, and were appointed by the governor to serve on the Board of Pharmacy, respectively, from one to five years.

College of Pharmacy. In 1886 Mr. Melendy, in his presidential address, advocated the establishment of a college of pharmacy in connection with the University of Minnesota. The matter was placed in the hands of a College of Pharmacy Committee, appointed at the 1886 meeting of the association. The Legislative Committee of the state association assisted all they could in getting the appropriation of \$5000 for the College of Pharmacy in 1891. President Northrop also assisted very materially in obtaining the appropriation. The committee, among whom were Messrs. Melendy and Webster, of Minneapolis, and Messrs. Frost and J. P. Allen, of St. Paul, held several conferences with President Northrop, of the University of Minnesota, and ex-Governor Pillsbury, a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota. At one time, in order to see President Northrop, the committee attended chapel exercises and had seats on the stage—conference with President Northrop afterward. President Northrop was very anxious to have a college of pharmacy organized. The basis of Mr. Melendy's reputation as the father of the College of Pharmacy rests largely with the work he did with ex-Governor Pillsbury with a view toward establishing the college. Mr. Melendy and Mr. H. G. Webster kept after things, never letting up, until they accomplished their purpose.

Mr. T. F. Stark, of Minneapolis, also was instrumental in establishing the college and worked hard with the rest. The following named men were among the early workers in whatever appertained to the College of Pharmacy prior and subsequently to 1883: Crocker, of Fairbault; Max Wirth, Duluth; Henning, Stillwater; Dr. C. Weschke, of New Ulm; H. G. Webster, R. A. Becker, of St. Paul; W. C. Calbraith, G. A. Gotwald, D. D. Lambie, S. R. McMasters, B. Zimmerman, A. P. Wilkes, A. J. Wampler, S. H. Reeves, R. O. Sweeney, Karl Simmons, of St. Paul; J. R. Hofflin, Geo. Huhn, W. K. Hicks, T. F. Stark, of Minneapolis; G. Hargesheimer, of Rochester; J. R. Jones, of Mankato; W. D. King, of Stillwater; Dr. J. C. R. Kellam, of Heron Lake.

Practice of Pharmacy in Minneapolis Before the Law Went into Effect. The drug business in the early seventies had the reputation of being a money maker. Many put money into drugs only because it was thought there was great profit in them. This led to low standards in pharmacy and stimulated those who were pharmacists to act in regard to the passage of the law. In New York and several eastern states they were passing laws and those who could not get into business in the East came West. All patent medicines sold for the price marked on the container. There was no haggling or dickering over prices at that time, and customers paid whatever prices were asked for sundries, etc. No department stores at that time. Prescription business was fair, but many physicians carried saddle-bags and furnished their own medicines. Not many proprietaries or patents were prescribed at that time by physicians. Not much soda water

was dispensed and mineral waters were sold by the bottle. Some druggists carried cigars, but not all. Mr. Melendy did not. Caswell & Hazzard, of New York, furnished Mr. Melendy all elixirs, and Thayer & Tilden furnished him with such fluidextracts as he did not prepare himself. Messrs. Melendy & Lyman was one of the first firms to put in a line of Squibb's standardized fluidextracts. The first Squibb's Fluidextract of Belladonna that Mr. Melendy dispensed was in a prescription of Dr. C. G. Goodrich for the Reverend Sample, of the Westminster Presbyterian church. The prescription called for F. E. Belladonna in a three-ounce mixture. It was dispensed on Saturday, the Rev. Sample taking a dose Saturday evening and another Sunday morning. By the time the Reverend was ready to read the Bible at the morning service, the effect of the belladonna upon the eye had become sufficiently pronounced to make it impossible for him to read the scriptural passages. This was one of the earliest testimonials for Squibb's standard fluidextracts. It appears that neither the physician nor the patient expected any such effect from the belladonna.

CAPSULE FOR TESTING GASTRIC ACIDITY.

Opitz has been much pleased with the accuracy and reliability of the information derived from congo and litmus paper enclosed in an oval rubber capsule about 1.5 cm. long by 0.5 cm. wide, studded with perforations and made in two parts which screw together. A silk thread is fastened to one end of the capsule, and a nickel ring is enclosed with the two scraps of paper to add weight. To prevent any interference from the saliva, the capsule is loosely wrapped in a wafer and is placed far back on the tongue so that it is swallowed at the first movement of deglutition. After a given time it is drawn out by the string, unscrewed, and the change of tint in the test papers compared with a color scale. By this means it is possible to estimate the amount of free hydrochloric acid in the stomach at a given moment after the test breakfast, although of course this simple method will never take the place of the more accurate determination by means of the stomach tube.—*Journ. A. M. A., Vol. LX, p. 634.*