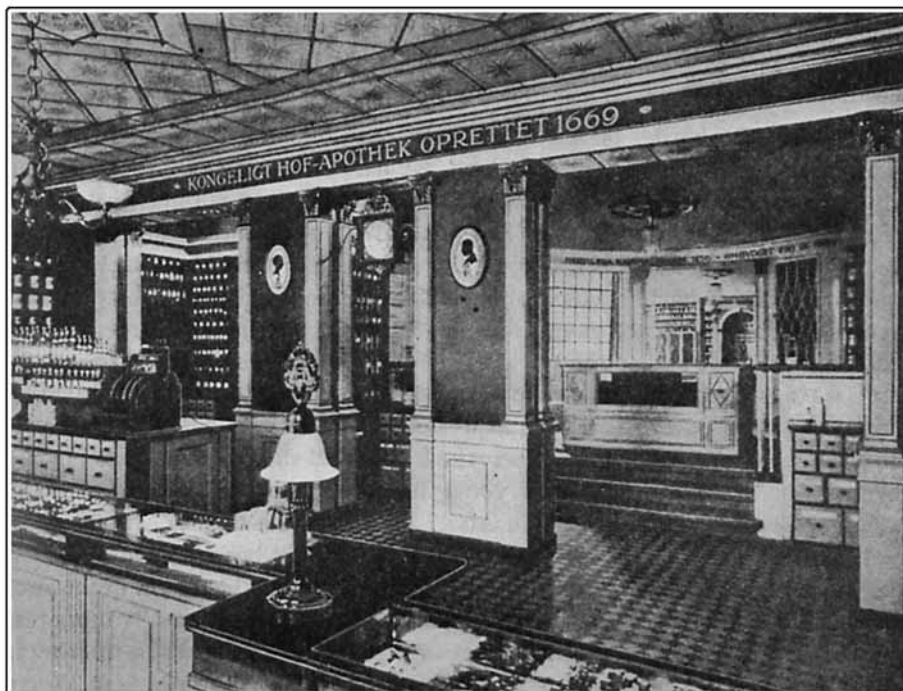


DENMARK PHARMACY.*

BY WILLIAM MAIR F.C.S.

A continuous history of two hundred and sixty years is the remarkable record of the Royal Court Pharmacy, still the first and best in Copenhagen. In May 1668, Johan Gottfried Becker was appointed Royal Court or Travel Pharmacist and he received the then annual salary of 200 rix-dollars. The following year he was licensed to open a pharmacy in the City, the "Elephantapotheket," the name it bears to this day. It remained where it was established from 1669 to 1850 when it was removed to its present location in the Kingsway. This was in the proprietor-



Interior Royal Court Pharmacy—Copenhagen.

ship of one Lauritz Oernstrup, but for 175 years before that it had remained in unbroken succession through five generations in the Becker family (1669-1845). During the long period of 231 years "Det Kongelige Hofapothek" has had the purveyance of medicine to the Royal Danish Court, which honor it continues to enjoy. These facts are taken and translated from a sumptuous folio volume published on the occasion of the 250th anniversary in 1919. As has been recorded elsewhere in these articles the documentation of the Danish pharmacutists has been exceedingly well done. The then proprietor—Mr. Hans Christian Helweg-Mikkelson (1914-1930)—bought the business and property for 525,000 kroner. When the present proprietor—Apotheker Holger Baadslünd—took over the pharmacy in April 1930, he paid about double that sum. Mr. Baadslünd, born in

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Copenhagen, 1889, was appointed Court pharmacist on January 29, 1930, and his "privelegium" granted March 28th of the present year. Round three sides of the shop above the wall fittings are inscribed the names of all the proprietors and the dates of their occupancy from 1669 to 1930. Portrait medallions of the present King and Queen of Denmark adorn the walls. A lamp standing on the counter is surmounted by a crown and the initials H. A. (Hof Apoteket) finely wrought in bronze. The shallow and narrow counter cases carry tooth brushes and a few dentifrices and some English toilet soaps: there is no perfumery and no other display. A large business is done in supplying and renewing ships' medicine chests. There is a well-equipped pharmaceutical laboratory, and all through the quiet atmosphere of a large and highly responsible practice.

THE TWO SONS OF A DANISH APOTHECARY.*

BY EDWARD KREMERS.

Opposite the harbor of Kiel, the naval base of Germany, and between two larger Danish islands, there lies the long but narrow Langland. It is but four to eight Km. wide and 50 Km. long, hence its name; its area is but 275 square Km. According to recent statistics, it has a population of only 19,541 inhabitants. The only city on the island is Rudkjoebing, which at the same time boasted of 3447 inhabitants, and a harbor which about 150 vessels regarded as their home port. Yet this insignificant place gave to Denmark one of her greatest statesmen of the nineteenth century, and to the world one of her famous scientists. What is more, these two men were brothers, who first saw the light of day in the home of an apothecary. The love of truth as expressed in nature and nature's laws was instilled into their minds by their father, the love for all that is true and noble having previously been implanted in their young hearts by their mother. Such at least is the story told by Hans Christian Andersen in his tale of the "Two Brothers."

Hans Christian, the older of the two brothers, was born August 14, 1777, in Rudkjoebing. At the age of eleven he was set to work by his father in the apothecary shop, where "he developed a taste for the natural sciences." Apparently, to make up for the instructional deficiency in so small a place, he was sent away from home when eighteen years of age to receive instruction in the classics. For proficiency in these studies he received academic honors in 1796. In 1798 he received the medical prize of the University of Copenhagen and in 1799 he was awarded the doctor's degree in philosophy. Thus, while his father set him to work in his apothecary shop at an early age, this apprenticeship was not allowed to interfere with a liberal education in the classics and an equally broad introduction into the study of the natural sciences. One has but to look over the list of his publications to see that he never allowed his speciality to dwarf him intellectually.

In 1800 he acted as manager of the Manthe apothecary shop in Copenhagen, and at the same time delivered his first lectures in chemistry before the Academy of Surgery. After this he made his first trip to the continent, where he remained several years visiting the greater part of Germany, also France and Holland. He returned to Denmark in 1804. Somewhat later he was appointed to the professorship in physics at the University of Copenhagen. In 1824 he founded the Danish

* *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, 7 (1918), 620-625.