

Chemistry Group.

General	48	64	R	5	} 192	} 336	*R	32.5
Inorganic	32	64	O	4				
Qualitative	48	64	R	5	} 64	}		
Quantitative	32-48	64	R	4-5				
Organic	96	128	R	10	96			
Pharm. Organic	48	64	O	5	...	...	..	...
Biochemistry	48	64	O	5	...	...	..	...

Pharmacology Group.

Pharmacology or Materia Medica including Toxicology, Posology	96	32	R	7	} 272	} 96	*R	20
Microbiology	...	...	..	..
Pharmacognosy Macro.	64	64	R	6	} 2.5	}		
Pharmacognosy Micro.	16	64	O	3				
Bioassaying	16	48	O	2.5	...	...	..	...
Insecticides	32	...	O	2	...	...	..	...
Public Health	48	...	R	3	...	...	..	...

Allied Science Group.

Bacteriology	32	64	R	4			R	3
Botany	64	64	R	6	64	96	*R	7
Physiology	48	48	R	4.5	80	...	*R	5
Physics	64	128	O	8	*64	128	R	8
Zoölogy	32	64	O	4			R	4
Elective courses in science	...	...	..	..			R	9-18

Academic Group.

English	96	...	R	6	...	R	12
Modern Language	96	...	O	6	...	R	12
History and Social Science	...	...	..	..		R	6-12
Mathematics	96	...	R	6		R	6
Total Required				111.5			168.5
Total Optional				52.5			15.0

R = required; O = optional; * = required in three-year course (110.5 hrs.).

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

JOHN TENNENT AND SENECA RATTLESNAKE ROOT.*

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"Traded, circumvented and at last betrayed: bereft of every consolation, save that of conscious integrity, and a distant hope derived therefrom: I take this method of submitting myself to the determination of the public, in confidence of

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obtaining a sentence agreeable to its usual candour, and suitable to my own deservings, as they shall occur in the subsequent narrative."

Truly a sad statement, but one to be expected since the author was in jail, awaiting trial for bigamy. It was written by John Tennent, discoverer of the use of Seneca rattlesnake root in the cure of pleurisy, as he sat behind bars in the Old Bailey in London in 1742. Jail was not new to Tennent at this time, but let us take up his life where we have the first notice of him.

He bobbed up in Virginia about the year 1728, purporting to have come from Scotland. In the colony, he engaged in the practice of medicine without, however, being in possession of a medical degree. Apparently, he lived a rather unobtrusive life there until 1736. In that year he published in Williamsburg an "Essay on the Pleurisy," announcing his discovery of the use of Seneca rattlesnake root in the cure of pleurisy, and giving at great length the reasons for his coming to the conclusion of its value in that disease. Up to this time, Seneca rattlesnake root had been known only as an Indian remedy for snake bite, it being a very common practice for Braves to carry some of the powdered root in a pouch at the waist for emergency use. Tennent noticed, as he says, a similarity in the symptoms caused by snake bite and by pleurisy, and was actuated by these observations to make use of the root in his pleuritic cases.

His own words were:

"Again as I have observed before, since we are to infer the sameness of causes from the likeness of effects, there is another reason why it should be done in this case, and that is, that those who have the misfortune to be bit by a rattlesnake, do spit up blood, and cough like pleuritic patients: therefore it is beyond all controversy, that the blood of a pleuritic patient, and that of one bit by a rattlesnake is in the same state or very near it. Upon this certainty of reasoning, I gave the rattlesnake root to several patients in a pleurisy or peripneumony, and its effects were extraordinary: I found it to exceed the volatile salt of vipers, or anything that I ever knew given in that disease: In short it may justly be deemed a *Certain Remedy*."

Tennent also made use of the columns of the *Virginia Gazette*, a weekly of that time, in the furthering of his discovery. This, however, seemed to be too great an affront to the regular physicians of the colony, who proceeded to ridicule his reasoning under a pseudonym in the same paper. This went on for about two years, during which time, Tennent made several trips to London.

On his first, he took the "Dorsetshire," leaving June 26, 1737. Through recommendations from friends in Virginia, he was able to get an interview with Doctors Tho. Pellet, R. Mead and Jo. Monro. These men after hearing his story, recommended him for the degree of Doctor in Physic at the University of Edinburgh. This degree he never received, but we have it in his own words that the worth of the practitioner is of the greater importance.

Tennent seems to have been a little overzealous in putting up a front in London for soon he was involved in debt. He returned to Virginia and petitioned the House of Burgesses for a reward for having made public his discovery. This body's first action was refusal, but later it reconsidered, and Tennent was voted the sum of £100. He had expected at least £1000 and was quite disappointed. Real disappointment came when two of his American creditors, Charles Carter and Messrs. Hanner & King, appealed to the House for the reward and got it.

Tennent then managed to return to London. There he proceeded to become

more deeply involved in debt, and during this time had as his common law wife, Elizabeth Cary. Seeking a way out of his financial difficulties, he appealed to Lord Cathcart for the appointment as Physician General to His Majesties Forces in the West Indies. He recommended himself on the strength of his knowledge of the diseases of the country. He failed in this, and his offer to go as assistant to the Physician General was likewise refused.

Now, Tennent had arrived at a position where he would either have to go to jail or leave England, and it was at this crucial time that a friend, Mr. Christian, suggested to him that he marry a lady of fortune, and thus recover his position. Tennent took to this suggestion gladly. The desired woman was found in Mrs. Hanger, a widow of some circumstance, who possessed among other things, an annuity of £50. The marriage was arranged for and took place at St. James Church on Sunday, November 8, 1741, the service being read by Reverend Mr. Fisher.

Three weeks after the marriage, Tennent was lodged in jail for non-payment of debts. He managed to borrow enough to satisfy his creditors, and so was released. Soon after, he was incarcerated again, and this time after getting out, he made an unsuccessful attempt to sell Mrs. Tennent's annuity. Again arrested, for not paying a debt of £12, and again released, he found upon returning home that his wife had left him, quite probably on the advice of one of her brothers, Mr. Parrat, an attorney-at-law, who couldn't stomach among other things, the attempted sale of his sister's annuity.

Distracted, Tennent fled to Scotland, but Mr. Parrat apparently had not finished with him. The facts of his common law marriage were uncovered, and on June 8, 1742, a warrant was granted for the seizure of Tennent wherever he resided. Consequently, he was brought back, and it was after he had been indicted, and was awaiting trial in his cell in the Old Bailey, that he aired his case in a printed pamphlet.

Here the picture dims, and then it ends, with a simple notice in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of Tennent's death in London, on October 27, 1748.

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HISTORICAL PHARMACY IN MINNESOTA.*

BY FREDERICK J. WULLING.

In its seventy-five years of statehood Minnesota has done very well in the recording of historic matters. The Territorial Pioneers organized themselves long ago and the Minnesota Historical Society came into being in territorial days way back in 1849. Later with state aid a half million dollar building for collecting and preserving authentic records of historic interest and value was erected for the

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