

will do it without some organization such as has been suggested? This furnishes the stimulus which is all too often needed to galvanize individual initiative into full action.

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“PATENT MEDICINES.”\*

BY J. HAMPTON HOCH.

Down the street the flaming neon sign casts its ruddy lure—“Cut-Rate Patent Medicines.” Cut-rate they may be, but are they patent medicines? Nostrums of proprietary origin having registered and protected names are called “patent medicines” but, in the legal sense of the word, a patent medicine is one whose composition or method of preparation or both has been patented and is not a secret because these facts appear in the patent specifications and become public property at the end of seventeen years. The distinction between a patent and a proprietary medicine, as these terms are generally used to-day, was non-existent three hundred years ago when preparations of this type originated.

Back in 17th century England, a year before Charles I ascended the throne, the “Arcanum Goddardianum,” more familiarly called Goddard’s Drops, was patented. This first patent medicine acquired such a wide reputation as a specific for epilepsy that Charles II, thinking to benefit humanity by making the formula accessible, purchased the secret of its preparation from Dr. Goddard for 1500 pounds. And therefore it was also called “King Charles’ Drops” or simply the “King’s Drops” or, later, “Royal English Drops” and “English Drops.” Spirit of human skull and opium, for these were the ingredients, sound revolting even for such a dread affliction as the “falling sickness,” but, then, strong stomachs had our fathers of old.

The fact that Jonathan Goddard obtained a purchaser with a copious pocket undoubtedly stimulated the appearance of the many nostrums and proprietaries which followed this first one. Advertisements in the press reveal the wide distribution of trades which adopted proprietary remedies as side-lines—stationers, book-sellers, tinsmiths, hosiers—all bent on selling this “sovereign cure” or “effectual remedy” and that “established medicine” which is to be had “no where else.” And frequently the public was warned against imitators.

The English settlers who migrated to these shores demanded those remedies with which they were familiar in the old country and it was not long before the news-sheets of America advertised the same preparations in the same way; all of which probably made the “cover to cover” reader feel quite as if he were back in England.

Among the better known proprietaries of the 17th century which were advertised in the early newspapers of the Southern Colonies and set forth in glowing terms to the credulous reader we find Anderson’s Scots’ Pills, Dutch Drops, Daffy’s Elixir, Lockyer’s Pills and Stoughton’s Elixir.

ANDERSON’S PILLS.

The originator of this proprietary was a Scotch physician, Dr. Patrick Anderson, who claimed to have obtained the formula in Venice. The actual formula has been disputed for a long

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time, but contained Barbadoes aloe as its main constituent along with jalap and oil of anise. Various published formulas note soap, ivory black, colocynth, gamboge, black hellebore, potassium subcarbonate, and syrup of buckthorn as excipients or additional constituents. The pills were 3 or 4 grains in weight and sold for 1 shilling the box.

After Anderson's death his daughter made and sold the pills, subsequently passing to Thomas Weir of Edinburgh the right of manufacture. Weir obtained a patent on them in 1687. In the early part of the next century Mrs. Isabella English (or English), then the proprietress, explained how the genuine product was to be recognized. "The true Pills have their Boxes seal'd on the Top (in black Wax) with a Lion Rampant, and 3 Mallets Argent, Dr. Anderson's Head betwixt I.I. with his Name round it, and Isabella English underneath, the Shield in a Scroll."

#### DUTCH DROPS.

This proprietary, first made in Haarlem in 1672, had as its basis the residue left in the distillation of oil of turpentine. To this red, viscid and resinous matter (called Balsam of Turpentine) was added spirit of nitrous ether, tincture of guaiac and small portions of oil of amber and oil of cloves.

Two and a half centuries have rolled over the sands of time without obliterating this preparation, which is certainly noteworthy for its longevity. Dutch Drops were originally sold for half a guinea a bottle and are said to have netted the proprietors handsome returns.

#### DAFFY'S ELIXIR.

This compound like all the more popular proprietaries was widely counterfeited and there are several formulas for its preparation. Anthony Daffy, "Student in Physick," was probably the originator; and in a pamphlet of 1673, "Elixir Salutis: the choise drink of health or Health-Bringing Drink," he lauds his "Secret" as "far beyond any Medicament yet known." Following Daffy's death (1750), his widow continued the business. Later, Mrs. Mary Swinton, "niece and executrix of Anthony Daffy and wife of Dr. Peter Swinton, who has prepared and in her name sold. . . the true Daffy's Elixir," charged 6 shillings for a pint bottle. The Swinton formula called for Jalap, 3 lb.; Senna, 2 oz.; Coriander Seed, Aniseed, Liquorice Root and Elecampane, of each 4 oz.; Spirit of Wine and Water, of each a gallon. The Tinctura Sennæ Compositæ of the British Pharmacopœia is a lineal descendent of this old proprietary.

#### LOCKYER'S PILLS.

The vainglorious Lionel Lockyer used his tomb to advertise his "most Excellent Pills called 'Pillulæ Radijs Solis Extractæ.'" The magniloquent epitaph in the Cathedral of St. Saviour, Southwark, reads:

"Here Lockyer lies interr'd enough his name  
Speakes one, hath few competitors in fame  
A name soe Greate soe Generale may scorne  
Inscriptions w'h doe vulgar tombs adorne;  
A diminution 'tis to write in verse  
His eulogies, w'h most mens' mouths rehearse.  
His virtues and his PILLS are soe well known  
That envy can't confine them under stone,  
But they'l survive his dust and not expire,  
Till all things else at th' universall fire,  
This verse is lost: his Pill embalmes him safe  
To future times with out an Epitaph."

Although disclaiming the use of "turpeth minerale," "the sulphur of antimony" or "crude mercury" in his pills, Lockyer did not divulge its composition or method of preparation. The dose of this "Universall Medicine" seems to have been somewhat flexible since four were "a good ordinary Dose, the which contains some six Grains." Each tin of pills was "Lapt up in Papers" and bore the signatures of the proprietors "and Sealed at one end with the Doctor's Coat of Arms, being Three Boars Heads." A four-shilling box contained "above One hundred Pills (sometimes

more and sometimes less, according as they are in bigness);" for two shillings one received "about Fifty in the Half-Box." Accuracy and pharmaceutic elegance were evidently not a *sine qua non*.

An early 18th century dispensatory which purports to give the basis of Lockyer's Pill directs "Panacea of Antimony, 4 parts; Opium, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  parts; Extract of black Hellebore, 3 parts."

These pills were vaunted as a cure-all in the broadest sense of the term, *viz.*

"Falling-Sickness, Frenzy, Vertigo, Rheums or Defluxions, Head-ach of all Kinds, Convulsion-Fits, Difficulty of Breathing, Stoppage of the Stomach, Cough, Tisick, Inflammation of the Lungs, Consumption, Want of Appetite, bad Digestion, Pain in the Stomach, Worms of all Kinds, Colick, Inflammations and Obstructions of the Liver, Corruption, Putrefaction of the Blood, Jaundies, Black and Yellow; Dropsie or Tympany, Hard Swellings, Pain and Inflammations of the Spleen, Overflowing of the Gall, Trembling of the Heart, Swoonings, Stoppage and Scalding of Urine, Bloody-Flux, Gravel and Stone in the Reins and Bladder, Rickets, King's Evil, Tumours and Hard Swellings, and Ulcers on the Body, Leprosie, Scurvy, Scab, Itch, the Gonorrhoea or Running of the Reins, the Pox, the Gout, Violent and Hectick Fevers, Agues, Green-Sickness, Fits of the Mother, Stoppage of Terms, restores Radical Moisture, cleanses and strengthens the Spermatick Vessels, increases and animates the Seed in both Sexes, fortifies the Womb, preserves the Embryo, strengthens the Child, prevents Miscarriage, restores the lost Delight of Nature, and absolutely cures all Barrenness curable by Medicine; Antidote against all Contagious Airs and Infectious Diseases, and perfectly resists all Foulness and Infection in the Act of Generation, mundifies and cleanses the Skin, restores and increases Beauty, makes Old Age Comely and Beautiful and the Countenance of all to be Cheerful and Sanguine."

#### STOUGHTON'S ELIXIR STOMACHICUM.

"Poplicola" writing in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for August 1748, says, "By nostrums I mean such medicines as are kept a secret for the use of the proprietors, though advertised for the benefit of the public." Then, indeed, Richard Stoughton's preparation certainly qualifies; for he was cunning enough not to be too exact in his patent specifications (thereby keeping his secret) and his "bitters" were not lacking in the public notices.

The patent grant from Queen Anne to "our trusty and well-beloved Richard Stoughton, Apothecary" is dated 1712, but the "Unicorn, in Southwark" saw many bottles of "Stoughton's Drops" or "Stoughton's Cordial Elixir" sold at 1 shilling, years before the patent was issued. Perhaps the only reason for obtaining a patent was to warn off the bolder counterfeiters.

Many other "patents," some of greater and some of less renown, are to be found mentioned in the columns of the early news-sheets of the American Colonies: Godfrey's Cordial, Freeman's Elixir, Squire's Elixir, Bateman's Drops, Turlington's Balsam of Life, James' Powder, Hooper's Pills, Schwanberg's Liquid Shell, Dr. Ward's White Drops, Misaubius' Pills, Eaton's Styptic.

Time has seen most of these preparations interred in the therapeutic graveyard, but here and there one has survived, if in a somewhat modified form, and has won through to a wider field of usefulness in our official standards.

#### WISCONSIN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association will hold a one-day meeting at the Park Hotel, Madison, February 27th. The purpose of this meeting is to do important legislative work and to have a business session to take up such other matters as may be important. Legislative subjects which will be discussed are:

1. The proposed Wisconsin Fair Trade Act, commonly called the Junior Capper-Kelly Bill.
2. Suggested changes in pharmacy laws.
3. Retention of medicinal liquor permit.
4. Peddlers' Ordinance for local communities.
5. State narcotic legislation as requested by United States Commissioner of Narcotics.