

PHARMACEUTICAL HAPPENINGS A CENTURY AGO.*

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In accordance with my promise, as former Chairman of the Historical Section, the writer presents the following historical paper on Pharmaceutical History, which he trusts will prove of interest to all pharmacists.

The year 1814 practically ended the career of the Emperor Napoleon I, to whom pharmacy must be always grateful for the establishment of military and hospital pharmacists in his *Grande Armee*. Many, a great many, of the pharmacists, most celebrated in France, began their career as such, in the armies with which Napoleon waged his conflicts.

In this paper the author has divided the subject into three parts:

1. Pharmaceutical Happenings in 1814.
2. Men, especially pharmacists, born in 1814.
3. Those who died in 1814 and whose names should be remembered by pharmacists.

HAPPENINGS IN 1814.

WOLLASTON.

W. H. Wollaston the English physicist and chemist, regarded Dalton's *atoms* as "Equivalents" only.

FRAUNHOFER.

Joseph Fraunhofer, Ph. D., published his memorable work on the solar spectrum, in the Denkschrift of the Muenchener Academie, Band V. 1814-1815. He was the son of a glazier and was born March 6, 1785, at Straubing. He served as apprentice with Weichselburger, the celebrated mirror-maker of Munich. In 1806, he became optician in the mathematical institute of Reichenbach and, in 1809, he became a partner in the establishment. It was here that the work on the solar spectrum was done and that the fixed lines of the spectrum were first determined and were used to measure refraction. Fraunhofer died on June 7, 1826, at Munich.

SATTLER.

In this year the German Chemist, Sattler discovered at Schweinfurt, Bavaria, the celebrated green mineral color named after that place. Chemically, it is a double salt of copper acetate and copper metarsenate, $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_2 + 3\text{Cu}(\text{AsO}_2)_2$.

Besides its original name, *Schweinfurt Gruen*, it is also called *Kaiser*, *Wiener* or *Pariser Gruen*. It was used extensively as a color, but has since gone out of use, being very poisonous due to its arsenic content. The original process of manufacture was kept a factory-secret, until Liebig, and later Braconnot, published the formula and process of manufacture.

In 1814 Louis Nicolas Vauquelin, the celebrated French pharmacist accomplished the separation of the metals of the platinum group.

In the same year Gay-Lussac discovered Chloric Acid, HClO_3 , that great oxi-

* Read by title before the Historical Section at the Detroit meeting.

dizing agent. It is well to remember that Potassium Chlorate KClO_3 was previously discovered by Higgins in 1786.

BORN IN 1814.

FRÉMY.

Edmond Frémy (1814-1894) is a descendant of a family of celebrated French Apothecaries. His grandfather was a pharmacist in Auxerre, who died in 1804 and his father was the celebrated Edmond François Frémy, who together with Courtois, the discoverer of iodine, and Thenard, the discoverer of hydrogen peroxide, worked under the celebrated French pharmacist and chemist Fourcroy.

Edmond Frémy was noted for his investigations on Alpha and Meta Stannous Acid and also the Ferrates. He was the first to prepare Potassium Metantimoniate KSbO_3 or Kali Stibicum, also known under the name of Antimonium Diaphoreticum, prepared by fusing together Antimony and Potassium Nitrate. In 1854 he originated the method of Fluorination, and, in 1869, he first prepared pure anhydrous Hydrofluoric Acid.

Like his father he also became Professor of Chemistry in Paris.

MAYER.

Julius Robert Mayer was born November 25, 1814, in Heilbronn, Germany. In his "wanderlust," he made a voyage to Java on a Dutch ship. Later on he became city physician in his native town.

His numerous works on physics were published in Liebig's Annalen from 1842 to 1851, which also printed his celebrated "Dynamic of the Heaven" in 1848. His most important work, however, was on the "*Mechanical Equivalents of Heat*," published in the same journal in 1851. Julius Robert Mayer's greatest credit however, is in the establishment of the "Law of the Conservation of Energy," and his name will continue to live forever in the science of physics.

Like many other of the illustrious brain workers, Julius Robert Mayer died in an insane asylum in 1858.

SCHACHT.

George Frederick Schacht (1814-1896) was the descendant of a celebrated German family of apothecaries and became one of the best known and most intelligent German Apothecaries in England.

About 1840, he became the owner of a pharmacy in Bristol and later a member of the firm of Giles, Schacht & Co. He was elected Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and during 25 years served as a member of the Pharmaceutical Council. Schacht was very active in professional and scientific pharmacy and also in other literary work.

In 1858 he originated "Plasma," which he brought forth as a substitute for ointments, possessing emollient and demulcent properties without having the disadvantage of being greasy. He published this formula in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1866, page 210, as follows:

Powdered starch	70 grains.
Glycerin	1 fluid ounce.
Heat to 240 degrees F. with constant stirring until union is affected.	

This preparation was adopted into the British Pharmacopœia as *Glycerinum*

Amyli, into the U. S. P. as *Glyceritum Amyli* and into the German and other Pharmacopœias as *Unguentum Glycerini*.

About 1865 he originated Liquor Bismuthi, which was adopted by the British Pharmacopœia in 1867. It has frequently been stated that the official preparation differed from the proprietary article in taste and action, because it was not entirely free from Nitric Acid. In 1885 this solution was then prepared from Bismuth Citrate and Ammonia Water and was made official as *Liquor Bismuthi et Ammonii Citras*.

George Frederick Schacht died in 1896, and with his passing away England, as well as the entire pharmaceutical world, lost one of its most scientific men.

TRAPP.

Julius von Trapp, one of the most, if not the most, celebrated men in Russian pharmacy, was born in 1814 in Mariampol, Poland, as the son of an apothecary who immigrated from Prussia. He was educated at the German gymnasium in Tilsit, Prussia, where he entered Maurach's Apotheke and passed his examination as apprentice in 1836. He studied in St. Petersburg and passed his examination as "Provisor," in 1842. In the following year, he became assistant to the Professor of Pharmacy and Chemistry at the Imperial Academy. In 1848 he obtained the degree of *Magister Pharmaciæ* and passed his State Board Examination. He remained in the service of the government all his life, and was very highly honored, obtaining the following titles: *Hofrat*, in 1852, *Staatsrat and Excellence*, in 1863, and *Geheimrat*, in 1870.

It is said that the starting point of Trapp's political-pharmaceutical career, was the serving of a glass of water to a lady of nobility, on a railroad train, who through this incident became his patroness.

Between the years of 1858 and 1877, he was Professor of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmacognosy and Toxicology at the Medical-Chirurgical Academy of St. Petersburg. He became President of the Pharmaceutical Association of St. Petersburg and was a State Board Examiner for a great many years. It was said that Dr. Trapp in the latter capacity was very fond of "trapping" the candidates.

The University of Kœnigsberg bestowed upon him the Honorary Degree of Doctor, and about 30 scientific societies made him an honorary member.

February 12, 1893, marked the fiftieth anniversary of Trapp's career as an educator. This fiftieth jubilee was celebrated in a very elaborate manner and numerous presents were received from all parts of Russia as well as foreign countries. At the same time, Trapp received a beautiful diploma making him an honorary member of the Russian Academy.

Julius von Trapp was very active in a literary way. He wrote numerous papers and books which are standard works to-day, especially in Russian pharmacy. A great many of his works have also been translated into German. The following is a list of the most important: Hospital Pharmacopœia, 1860; Pharmacopœia Militaris, 1866; Pharmacognosy, 1858 and 1868; Flotten-Pharmacopœia, 1869; Pharmacopœia of the Imperial Court Apotheke, 1871; Toxicology, 1876; Prescription Dispensing, 1877 and 1880.

Besides this, he has been an active member on the Revision Committee of the Pharmacopœia Rossica of 1867, 1870, 1880 and 1891.

The name of Trapp will live forever in pharmacy of Russia, as well as throughout the entire world.

ANKUM.

Christian Hendrik van AnKum (1814-1888) was one of the most celebrated pharmacists in Holland. He was born October 16, 1814, in Dalfsen. In 1828, at the early age of 14 years, he entered the apotheke of Van Giffen in Steenwyk. Here he began his pharmaceutical career and learned the fundamental principles of applied chemistry, in which he later became a true master.

He studied at the University of Groningen, under the celebrated Professors Hall and Stratingh. In 1835, he passed the State Board Examination and became assistant in the laboratory of the University. It was here he accomplished his work on the Iodine content of Cod Liver Oil. He married in 1842 and became the owner of a pharmacy.

He was active in scientific pharmacy and was an honorary member of different pharmaceutical and scientific societies. He was also a member of the Revision Committee of the Pharmacopœia Nederlandica II and III. From 1865 until 1884, he was a member of the Board of Pharmacy in Groningen. AnKum was very modest and even went so far as to decline the chair as Professor of Chemistry at the University. In 1878 he celebrated his golden jubilee or his semi-centennial as pharmacist. On this occasion the King of Netherlands made him "Ritter of the Loewenorden." At the same time the pharmacists throughout Netherlands sent him a substantial silver present, which was delivered by a special delegation.

The name of AnKum together with Haaxman and Opwjrda will forever designate the *coryphees* of pharmacy in the Netherlands.

DIED IN 1814.

THOMPSON.

Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, was born on March 26, 1753, at Rumford, N. H., which place has been re-named Concord. In 1772, he became a school teacher at Bradford, Mass., and then at Rumford, N. H. It is not to the credit of this American that he enlisted in the British army and fought against the Patriots. In 1783 he went to England and there was made a "Sir." In 1785, he went into the service of Karl Theodor, by whom he was made a Count. In 1798 he began his memorable work on "Heat by Mechanical Means," and in 1799 he returned to England. Rumford certainly had the "wanderlust" as in 1802 he went to Paris and, in 1805, married the widow of Lavoisier, that great chemist and founder of the new chemistry. In 1809, he became separated from Madame Lavoisier and then continued again his scientific work.

Count Rumford should also be known to pharmacists, because as early as 1813 he used a method resembling our present percolation for preparing coffee. This is fully described in his Eighteenth Essay in the Repertory of Arts for April and May, 1813.

Count Rumford deserves special credit for being the first to ascertain that liquids

can be boiled by means of steam. He was a very prolific writer and his works are published as "Essays, Political, Economical and Philosophical," in three volumes, London, 1796-1803. His works are also published in French and in German.

In 1796 he endowed the Royal Society of London and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences with a considerable sum for a prize medal for practical and utile inventions.

In 1810 he founded the London Royal Institution.

Sir Benjamin Thompson died August 21, 1814, at Auteuil near Paris. Rumford Hall, the lecture room in the Chemists' Club in New York City, is named after this scientist and is adorned with his bust.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACOPŒIA AND SOME COMMENTS THEREON.

FREDERICK T. GORDON, B. SC.

It will doubtless surprise many of our members to be told that the homœopathic school of medicine has a pharmacopœia which is just as carefully revised and edited, as is the United States Pharmacopœia under the direction of a permanent body, the American Institute of Homœopathy, an association corresponding to the American Medical Association, in its relation to physicians and surgeons of the homœopathic school.

I have had the opportunity lately of observing the homœopathic practice of pharmacy and its study has been so interesting and full of valuable information, that I am sure it will interest others and that a brief history of its origin and development will be appropriate for inclusion in the contributions to Historical Pharmacy from this Section. We know very little of homœopathic pharmacy, as practitioners of allopathic pharmacy, but such knowledge should be a part of our equipment: "*Pharmacistus sum et nil pharmacopœiæ mihi alienum est*" should be our motto. I hope that some member will contribute a history of Eclectic Pharmacy at our next meeting, to round out our archives.

Most of us trained in the allopathic school look somewhat derisively upon the homœopathic materia medica, as nothing but little sugar pellets, or infinitely diluted tinctures or triturations of drugs, but this is a very mistaken idea; the homœopathic pharmacist must be acquainted with many drugs, their constitution and methods of preparing them for medicinal use and the proper form in which they should be prepared. The essence of homœopathic medication being simplicity, the administration of a single drug at one time, the homœopathic pharmacopœia does not contain mixtures such as are given in our pharmacopœia.

All preparations are made from a single drug as tinctures or triturations and then diluted or exhibited as powders, globules, etc., etc. In fact, the homœopathic pharmacopœia is more the materia medica of homœopathic practice than a pharmacopœia such as the U. S. P.; the drugs are described singly, directions are given as to the quantities to be used for making the mother tincture or first trituration