

OLDTIME AND MODERN DRUGSTORES COMPARED

Dr. Edward Kremers of Wisconsin Pharmacy College Writes Interesting Article.

Contrast between the ancient apothecary shop and the modern drug store is well brought out by a recent article, "The Apothecary Shop of the Castle Issogne," by Dr. Edward Kremers of the Wisconsin College of Pharmacy.

Students interested in the fine modern displays exhibited in connection with Pharmacy Week have found the article especially interesting. It follows:

Behind the raised desk sits a physician who is figuring.

During the middle ages the physician was also apothecary, hence his presence in the apothecary shop is to be expected. The flowing robe with the cap that covers the ears are his characteristic costume, such as may repeatedly be seen in miniatures of the fifteenth century also in wood cuts of the sixteenth century. To the right of the physician the assistant weighs out a medicament or spice for the lady who has just stepped into the booth. The boxes which rest on the counter next to the assistant contain such articles as are more frequently demanded for mouth and stomach. To the right an old man in ragged garb is occupied with comminuting something hard in a mortar with a mighty pestle.

In the rear, on heavy shelving, are numerous pharmaceutical containers, the gothic labels of which reveal their content. On the lower shelf are found all sorts of medicinal waters, such as aqua melisse and aqua absinthii which are known even today. The upper shelves reveal painted pots and cans with a variety of contents.

From the arched ceiling there are suspended a number of articles only a few of which can be identified with difficulty; also others that we no longer seek in an apothecary shop, such as long candles, round decorated cakes, sugared bread, etc. in harmony with these are the contents of boxes: dates and candied fruits exhibited on the small desk to the right. These were much liked as delicacies during the middle ages and are today a specialty of Italian confectioners. The round and oval wooden boxes are lined with white paper with fringed borders, like the boxes imported at the present time from Italy, with candied, semitropical fruits.

On the highest shelves of the rear

wall are numerous closed boxes from under the covers of which the same kind of fringed paper projects and which presumably contain the same delicacies. It becomes apparent that the apothecary shops of that period did not take a back seat to our own with regard to the multiplicity of objects with which they wanted to make a living.

That they were as high priced as those of today may possibly be inferred from the appreciable size of the coin which the purchaser, with a surprised expression, offers to the assistant.

Minot, N. D.—Two trainmen were killed and a third critically injured in an explosion of the boiler on a Great Northern railway locomotive on a west bound freight train last night at Roach.

New York—Commutation to ten years of the twenty-year sentence imposed on fifty-three members of the Industrial Workers of the World, convicted of violating the espionage act at the Chicago trials of 1918, was urged upon President Harding in a resolution adopted at the annual convention of the national civic federation Tuesday.

St. Paul, Minn.—James A. Lindsay, former treasurer of the South St. Paul stockyards company, was sentenced to from one to ten years in the state prison today following his plea of guilty to grand larceny. He was alleged to have misappropriated \$100,000.

Winston-salem, N. C.—Bailey Brothers, Inc., tobacco manufacturers yesterday announced a 20 per cent increase in wages of 200 employees.

Paris—Edith De Nantes is the first play to be withdrawn from the boards in the government's clean up of the Paris playhouses. The management of the production said the authorities took no action to stop it, but the play was suddenly cancelled last evening.

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PHARMACY DRUG PLANT GARDEN FURNISHES MANY CRUDE DRUGS

(Continued From Page One.)

seeds are surrounded by a corky material and by soaking them in dilute hydrochloric acid for a few hours the time for germination may be hurried by several weeks. Calabar beans require normally two years to germinate but by filling the hard shell surrounding it the time may be shortened to a few weeks.

Among the plants which it has been determined may be raised successfully by the ordinary gardener in the middlewest, are the mints, peppermint, and spearmint; digitalis, hanbane, purgative rhubarb, hydrastis, lavender, Indian hemp, and stramonium.

Dr. Platt of the Harvard Medical School conducted an exhaustive research on digitalis from different sections of the country and in his report he divided the kinds from different parts of U. S. into three groups. At the head of group number one he placed the digitalis from Nebraska.

Aside from being a novel project the garden is a distinctive addition to the campus landscape.

The difficulties to the successful cultivation on the campus are many and varied. The purgative rhubarb is stolen nearly every year by persons who are evidently ignorant of its medicinal properties. Small boys pull up the stalks which carry the labels, sail their boats in the pool, and throw their dogs in for a swim. This kills out many of the water plants and destroys by tramping on them many other plants. During the World War when the Students' Army Training Corp was using Nebraska hall for barracks, the embryo se-

diers used the belladonna and digitalis plants to hang their blankets on to dry. This killed most of the plants.

The garden has attracted nationwide attention, several articles have appeared together with pictures of the garden in several popular scientific publications such as the "Popular Mechanic," and "The Scientific American."

Photographs are taken by the students of individual plants as they are growing. All the work incident to the photographs such as printing, developing, and enlarging is done at the college. These photographs as well as the crude drugs, are preserved and used to show the development of the drug from the time it is first planted until it is put on the market as a commercial product.

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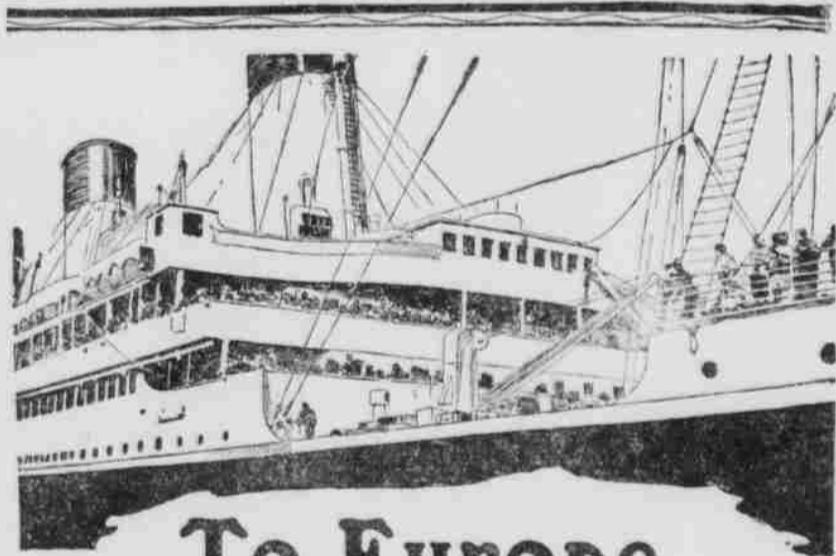
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