

Texts and Documents

NEW YORK DOCTORS AND LONDON MEDICINES, 1677

by

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LESS than thirteen years after English government supplanted Dutch the townsfolk of New York were being cared for by at least three doctors, Philip Lane, Daniel De Hart¹ and Hans Kierstede.² Two manuscript sources reveal what medicines were in vogue and one manuscript shows that they were imported from London. The documents are certainly among the earliest, if not actually the earliest, evidence concerning remedies employed by physicians in British North America.

Dr. Philip Lane died intestate before 8 May 1677, for on that date the Mayor's Court of New York City ordered that an inventory and appraisal of his estate be made. His widow, Mary, petitioned for letters of administration, which were granted her on 15 August.³ Actually the inventory,⁴ taken on 18 May consisted of two parts. The first, made by Nicholas Bayard⁵ and John Inians,⁶ listed Lane's wearing apparel, a plain gold ring with a Bristol stone, account books and papers and 'one browne stone horse running in ye woods which Capt. Nicolls gave unto ye said Doct. Lane'. Captain Richard Nicolls was the first governor of New York, 1664–1667,⁷ so Dr. Lane must have been in the province by or before 1667. Furthermore, the fact that

¹ Daniel De Hart, surgeon, and his three brothers, Balthazar, Matthias and Jacobus, were early citizens of New Amsterdam. In 1672, upon the death of Balthazar, prominent in shipping, Dr. Daniel De Hart, administrator of his brother's estate, carried on the business. In an assessment made in New York on 10 November 1676, the physician was taxed £3 15s. 0d. on an estate valued at £600. He served as a member of the Common Council of New York City in 1684, and died without issue late in 1689 or early in 1690, leaving all his possessions to his wife Martha (See Edwin F. Hatfield, *History of Elizabeth, New Jersey*, N.Y., Carlton & Lanahan, 1868, pp. 255–56; *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York*, N.Y., Dodd Mead and Co., 1905, I, pp. 30, 50, 157; *Records of New Amsterdam*, N.Y., Knickerbocker Press, 1897, IV, pp. 96, 99, 212, 219 and V, p. 344; *Abstracts of Wills I*, *Collections of the New York Historical Society* for 1892, pp. 30–31, 59–60, 191, 232–33, 306; E. B. O'Callaghan, *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany*, N.Y. II, Albany, Weed, Parsons & Co., 1866, pp. 34, 35, 45, 46, 50, 123, 216, 239.

² Dr. Hans Kierstede (Jnr.), baptized 21 September 1664, in the Dutch Church in New York City, was the son of Dr. Hans Kierstede (born c. 1612 in Magdeburg, Germany; he was in New Amsterdam as early as May, 1638, as a surgeon in the employ of the West India Company; Director Peter Stuyvesant in 1663 wrote of him as the best surgeon in New Amsterdam; his wife, whom he married in 1642, was Sarah Roelofs from Amsterdam, daughter of Roeloff Jansen and Anneke Jans; he died in 1666). Dr. Hans Kierstede, Jr., in 1677 married Jannetje Loockermans, who brought him 100 beaver skins as her marriage portion. In 1674 his estate was rated at 2,000 florins. He died between 20 April 1691 and 1 March 1692, leaving his wife, three sons and two daughters. One of the sons, Hans, became a surgeon, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather (See the excellent article by Howard S. F. Randolph, 'The Kierstede Family', *The New York Genealogical & Biographical Record*, 1934, 65, pp. 224–30).

³ *Abstracts of Wills I*, *Collections of the New York Historical Society*, 1892, p.42.

⁴ The complete inventory is in the Historical Documents Collection, Paul Klapper Library, Queens College, The City University of New York. It was examined by Samuel Leete, gentleman, an alderman and Clerk of the Court of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of New York (see *Abstracts of Wills I*, p. 65). Property belonging to his wife before their marriage was not included in the inventory.

⁵ Nicholas Bayard, a prominent merchant, was later Mayor of New York City (*Burghers and Freeman*, *Collections of the New York Historical Society*, 1885, p.53).

⁶ John Inians is mentioned again as one of a jury impanelled 15 September 1683, to try pirates who in 1682 seized the ship *Cameleon* of London, Nicholas Clough master (*Abstracts of Wills I*, p. 85).

⁷ See *Dictionary of National Biography*, xli, p.53.

the governor presented a horse to the doctor suggests the probability that Lane had been induced to come to New York to care for the health of the English soldiers and civilians in the new colony.

The inventory drawn up by Bayard and Inians included a few items pertaining to Lane's profession: some basins, barber's towels, five lancets, valued at ten shillings, one plate salutory, one chirurgian box shagreen, with silver instruments therein containing 8 ounces in all, valued at £3, and 'nine small Books treating of Physick,' appraised at 10 shillings. A reasonable conjecture is that one of the small volumes was the *Pharmacopoeia Londinensis*⁸ and that another was the *Pharmacopoeia Londinensis: or the London Dispensatory* of Nicholas Culpeper.⁹

The second part of the inventory was a special list made and appraised by Doctors De Hart and Kierstede. The two most valuable objects were a case with combs and razors tipped with silver, valued at £2 10s., and a barber's case with combs and plain razors, valued at £1 10s. Except for these items, three quarters of a gross of galley pots and vials (value 9s.) and other pots and bottles (value 5s. 6d.), the special inventory consisted of the following medicines:*

1. two pounds of syrupus rosaceus solutivus, or syrup of roses solutive, valued at 5s. 4d. This liquor, made from damask rose leaves, sweetened with sugar, 'looseneth the belly, and gently bringeth out choller and flegm, but leaves a binding quality behind it'.
2. two pounds of mel rosatum commune, or common honey of roses (value 4s.), prepared from red roses and honey, was recommended, as was mel rosatum colatum, or honey of roses strained, for diseases of the mouth.
3. two pounds of syrupus de spina cervina, or syrup of purging thorn (value 6s.), made from juice of berries of purging thorn, 'gathered in September', sweetened with sugar and perfumed with mastic, cinnamon, nutmegs and aniseed, was highly commended by Tragus and Pena against dropsy but Culpeper warned: 'I know nothing of it by experience, and I am confident the Colledg when they writ it knew as little, and therefore I hold it modestly to let it alone, as an upstart Medicine appointed to try experiences upon poor mens bodies, and if it kill them, their friends by Law cannot question a Collegian.'
4. two pounds of syrupus infusionis Caryophyllorum, or syrup of clove-gilliflowers (value 5s.), prepared from clove gilliflowers and sugar, was described as 'a fine temperate syrup,' which strengthens the heart, liver and stomach, refreshes the vital spirits, and is a good cordial in fevers. 'You can,' wrote Culpeper, 'hardly err in taking it, it is so harmless a syrup.'

* Information on the preparations is taken from the works of Culpeper.

⁸ This was first published 7 May 1618; a corrected edition appeared on 7 December, a second edition in 1650 and a third edition in 1677 (A. C. Wootton, *Chronicles of Pharmacy*, London: Macmillan & Co., 1910, II, p. 60.).

⁹ Nicholas Culpeper (1616–1654), the son of a Surrey parson, was apprenticed to an apothecary in Great St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. He served as a soldier, lived during his married life at Red Lion Street, Spitalfields, and claimed to have been the only doctor in London at the time who gave free advice to the poor. His translation of the *Pharmacopoeia* (1649) met with great success and went through various editions (A. C. Wootton, *op. cit.*, I pp. 251–55; Burton Chance 'Nicholas Culpeper gent', *Ann. Med. Hist.*, 1931, 3, 394–403; F. N. L. Poynter, 'Nicholas Culpeper and his Books', *J. Hist. Med.*, 1962, 17, 152–67.)

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5. four pounds of aqua cinnamoni fortis, or cinnamon water (value 8*s.*), was distilled from an infusion of cinnamon in Spanish wine, sweetened with sugar. Its virtues were the same as those of cinnamon. It strengthens the stomach, helps digestion, causes a sweet breath, resists poison, provokes urine and the terms, causes speedy delivery to women in travail, helps coughs and defluxions of humors upon the lungs, dropsies and difficulty of urine, while in ointments it takes away red pimples.
 6. four pounds and four ounces of aqua theriacalis, or treacle water (value 10*s.*). This liquor was distilled from juice of green walnuts, rue, carduus, marigolds, barom, roots of green petasill [pestilence-wort] and burs, angelica and masterwort, leaves of scordium, old Venice and Mithridate treacle, canary wine, vinegar and lemon juice. It caused sweating and was recommended against the plague, poisons and the French pox.
 7. one pound of aqua caelestis (value 4*s.*). This strong water was distilled from an imposing compound containing cinnamon, ginger, white, red and yellow sanders, cloves, galanga, nutmegs, mace, cubebs, cardamons, zedoary, seeds of nigella, anise, sweet fennel, wild parsnips and basil, roots of angelica, avens, calamus aromaticus, liquorice, valerian the less, leaves of clary, thyme, marjoram, flowers of roses, sage, rosemary, betony, stoechas, bugloss and borage and citron pills, all of which was infused twelve days in spirit of wine. The College directed addition of powders of diamber, diamoson dulce, aromaticum rosatum, diamagaridon frigidum, diarhodon, abbatis, powder of electuary de gemmis, yellow sanders, musk, ambergris and clear julip of roses. It comforts and cherishes the heart, revives drooping spirits, prevails against the plague and all malignant fevers, preserves the senses and restores such as are consumptious. Culpeper, however, warned against dosage of more than a dram, adding that this and other strong waters were not safely given by themselves in fevers but only mixed with other convenient cordials.
 8. two pounds of aqua mirabilis (value 4*s.*), a water made from cloves, galanga, cubebs, mace, cardamoms and nutmegs, infused with juice of sullendine, spirit of wine and white wine. It heats cold stomachs, preserves from apoplexies and restores lost speech.
 9. fifteen ounces of spiritus croci, or tincture of saffron (value 11*s.*), a mixture of saffron and treacle water. A spoonful taken every morning strengthens the heart and keeps off melancholy vapours.
 10. two pounds of theriaca Londinensis, or London treacle (value 6*s.* 8*d.*), a 'pretty Cordial,' made from hartshorn, seeds of citrons, sorrel, roony [rone, rowan] basil, scordium, coralliana, roots of angelica, tormentil, peony, leaves of dittany, bayberries, juniper berries, flowers of rosemary, marigolds, clove gillflowers, tops of St. John's wort, nutmegs, saffron, roots of gentian, zedoary, ginger, mace, myrrh, leaves of scabious, devil's bit, carduus, cloves, opium, Malaga wine and honey, was prescribed against poison and pestilence and to strengthen cold stomachs and aid digestion.
 11. three pounds and four ounces of Mithridate¹⁰ (value 19*s.*). This electuary,
- ¹⁰ See Gilbert Watson, *Theriac and Mithridatum*, London, The Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1966.

named after the King of Pontus who had supposedly immunized himself against poisons, was recommended against poisons and bites of venomous beasts and was likewise used to provoke sweat and appetite, to rid the body of humours, to help the cholick, watrings of the stomach, ulcers of the body and bladder, consumptions and weakness of the limbs. Culpeper, though approving the use against poison and in the case of such as had done themselves wrong 'by taking filthy Medicine', commented: '. . . divers Authors have spent more time about this and Venice Treacle (both of them being terrible messes of altogether) in reducing them to Classes, than ever they did in saying their prayers'.

12. three pounds and four ounces of diascordium (value 9*s.*), compounded of cinnamon, cassia lignea, scordium, dittany of Crete, tormentil, bistort, galbanum, gum arabic, opium, sorrel seeds, gentian, bole armeniac, earth of Lemnos, long pepper, ginger, clarified honey, sugar of roses and Canary wine, provokes the terms, hastens labour of women, and stops fluxes. As opium was one ingredient, the claim that the medicine provoked sleep does not seem without foundation.
13. four ounces of extract rudi (value 13*s.*) and another ounce (appraised at 2*s.* 6*d.*). The extract (or pills) of rudius was made from agaric, coloquintida, Scammony, roots of black hellebore, turbith, aloes Succotrina [Socotrine] cinnamon, mace and cloves. This 'purger of all humours' was usually given with mercurius dulcis, or sweet white precipitate, against the French pox.
14. four ounces of mercurius dulcis (value 8*s.*), either sublimated or precipitated, was employed, as mentioned above, in treatment of venereal disease.
15. three and a half ounces of pilulae cochiae (value 5*s.*). These pills were made in two forms, the greater and the less. The greater were compounded of species hiera piera [hiera picra], troch [troche] alhandal, discrydium, turbith, stechas [stoechas] and spirit of stechas [stoechas]; the less was made of aloes, scammony, colocynthus, syrup of wormwood and purging thorn. Both varieties were prescribed as purgatives.
16. two and a half ounces of Confectio alkermes cum mosch (value 8*s.*), a cordial compounded from juice of rennet apples, rosewater, raw silk, kermes, sugar, ambergris, yellow santal, lapis lazuli, pearls, musk and gold leaf, to which sometimes cinnamon and aloes were added. It was praised as a mighty strengthener of the heart, restorer of those in consumptions, and a resister of pestilences and poisons. It might be given in fevers but Culpeper warned, 'not too much of it at a time, lest it prove too hot for the body, and too heavy for the purse'.
17. one and a half ounces of turbish mineralis, turpethum minerale, or the mineral turbith (value 6*s.*) and 40 'gra' of turbis mineralis (value 3*s.*), a yellow powder, made from quicksilver, spirit of nitre and oil of sulphur, was a strong purgative. Culpeper stated that it cured the pox, gonorrhoea, leprosy, itch, gout, sciatica, jaundice and dropsy and that it was good against poison, agues, malign fevers, old sores, fistulas and rebellious ulcers.
18. two pounds of 'emplast Parcells', Emplastrum Oppedeloch Paracelsi, or

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Paracelsus his Oppodeldoch Plaster (value 6s.). The plaster was made of galbanum opopanax, ammoniacum and bdellium, digested in vinegar, with the addition of litharge in powder, wax, dissolved gums, oil of bays, crocus martis, mummy prepared loadstone, magistery of white and red coral, lapis calaminaris, myrrh, olibanum, mastic round birthwort, amber, turpentine, camphor and saffron. It was extolled as curing all wounds, hindering proud flesh in ulcers, and as being excellent against all aches, pains, sprains, bruises and weakness of any member.

19. two pounds of emplastrum oxycroceum, or emplaster of vinegar and saffron (value 6s.). Its ingredients were saffron, ship pitch, colophony, yellow wax, turpentine, galb num, ammoniacum, myrrh, olibanum and mastic. Culpeper stated that it cures tumours, cleanses, draws, heals, dries and skins wounds, old sores, ulcers, broken bones, fractures and dislocations. It was also recommended against bruises, weakness, coldness, numbness, old aches, pains, stiffness and weakness of the back.
20. one pound of emplastrum diacalciteos (formerly called dicipalma 'because they ordered it to be stirred with a spatula made of Palm-wood') or emplaster of calcitis or burnt vitriol (value 2s. 4d.). It was made of hog's grease, old olive oil, beaten and sifted litharge of gold, and vitriol, and was prescribed to heal bruises, sores and ulcers, to dry and skin them, and to heal green wounds. Nurses, according to Culpeper, commonly applied it to their breasts to dry up the milk.
21. one pound of unguentum apostolorum, or ointment of the apostles (value 1s. 6d.), prepared from turpentine, yellow wax, rosin, ammoniacum, long birthwort roots, olibanum, bdellium, myrrh, galbanum, opopanax, verdigris, oil and enough vinegar to dissolve the gums, was used to consume corrupt and dead flesh, to soften hard flesh, to restore it where wanting and to cleanse wounds, ulcers and fistulas.
22. three quarters of a pound of syrupus de althea, or syrup of marshmallows (value 2s. 6d.). It was concocted from roots of althea, grass and asparagus, from cleansed liquorice, stoned raisins, tops of marshmallows, leaves of mallows, pellitory, burnet, saxifrage, plantain, white and black maidenhair. An infusion was boiled, pressed, and made into a syrup with sugar. The preparation was recommended to provoke urine, clean passages, break and expel stone, to heal dysentery and cholic.

The second source of knowledge concerning medicines is a copy of certain documents recorded 28 September 1681, in Will Liber 19B¹¹ of the Surrogate's Court of New York City at the request of a sailor named Jeremy Tothill. One of the documents thus copied was a certificate of Timothy Brigge, notary public in London, to the effect that Joyce Rusden, of the City of Westminster, widow and administratrix of Moses Rusden,¹² late of Westminster, apothecary, deceased, produced William Hall,

¹¹ This MS. volume is in the Historical Documents Collection, Paul Klapper Library, Queens College, The City University of New York. The records in question are found on pages 33–35.

¹² Moses Rusden was in all probability the grandson of Thomas Rusden, described in 1640 as late of Wallingford in the county of Berks, mercer, whose son Matthew was at that time apprenticed

of or near the City of London, Mariner. Hall swore that in 1677 he was boatswain of the ship *Providence* of London, Andrew Bowne then commander, at that time in London and bound for New York, and that when the ship reached its destination there was delivered to Dr. Daniel De Hart a box of apothecary's wares consigned to him.

Included were invoices, one evidently Dr. De Hart's order, dated 9 May 1677, for medicines desired from Rusden, and the other, Rusden's list, dated 7 August 1677, of medical supplies delivered to the *Providence* for transport to De Hart in New York. There are small discrepancies between the two lists, as is immediately obvious, especially in regard to quantity.

The notary's certificate further stated that Joyce Rusden appointed Jeremy Tothill her attorney to receive from Dr. De Hart the money due her on account of the box of apothecary's wares sent to the doctor by her late husband.

Also recorded in the Will Liber was a statement, signed 1 September 1677, by Andrew Bowne, master of the ship *Providence*, then in the River Thames, bound for

to a London apothecary named Bisco and four years later to a Mrs. Graves (Guildhall Library MS. 8200/1, folios 391, 427). In any event, Moses Rusden (or Rushten), son of John Rushten, of Wallingford in the County of Berks, mercer, was apprenticed in October 1659, for eight years to a London apothecary named Stephen Skynner (Guildhall Library MS. 8200/2, folio 51). On 1 October 1667, when he had served his apprenticeship, he was made free and given a spoon (Guildhall Library MS. 8200/2, folio 110 verso). If Matthew his uncle, was trained as an apothecary, it would doubtless explain Moses' choice of a profession. For some time he lived next door to the Sugar Loaf (the Sign of the Sugar Loaf is mentioned, for example, in the Will of Mr. John Land, dated 26 April 1697—See D. Foster, *Inns, Taverns, Alehouses, Coffee Houses, etc., in & around London*, MS., in the Westminster Public Library, vol. 62, p. 80) in Salisbury Court and it is probably when he was there that he married (his wife was named Joyce) and probably had at least one child, a son called John after the paternal grandfather.

By 1 September 1677, he had removed to Bowling Alley, over against the Sign of the King's Arms (this inn, according to D. Foster, cited above, vol. 37, pp. 230–31 was located in College Street, Westminster, and College Street adjoins Bowling Alley at a point where Bowling Alley becomes Dean's Yard) in Westminster. His name is not found in the poor rates for 1676 and 1677, so he must have moved to Westminster after the rates were made up for 1677 but in any event before 1 September of 1677. His name does appear as living in Bowling Alley West in 1678, in 1679 and in 1680 (MS. Poor Rates, E295, folio 58, E296, folio 53 and E297, folio 55 in the Westminster Public Library). His widow, however, must have paid the rate in 1680, for Moses Rusden was buried at St. Margaret's in Westminster on 29 September 1679 (St. Margaret's Register of Burials, 1664–1681, 29 Sept 1679, MS. in St. Margaret's Church), and the churchwarden's accounts (E60, folio 6, MS. in Westminster Public Library) record under the week beginning 23 September 1679, the following charges for the funeral of Moses Rusden, 2s. 6d. ground, 3s. knell, and 3s. cloth, a total of 8s. 6d. On 16 October 1679, the widow, Joyce, was appointed administratrix of her late husband's estate (Westminster Account Book & Calendar, No. 6, 1667–79, folio 143, MS. in the Westminster Public Library).

While Moses was living in Bowling Alley, a son, Samuel, by Joyce, was baptized on 15 February 1677/8 (Baptismal Records, 1664–1681, MS. in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster). There may have been other children, and almost certainly an older child, John. In any event Widow Joyce Rusden lived on in the house in Bowling Alley West, where her name appears every year in the Poor Rates from 1682 (Poor Rate Duplicate, E297, folio 55, MS. in Westminster Public Library; records for 1681 are lacking) up to and including a rate made 17 June 1714 (Poor Rate E331, folio 121, in Westminster Public Library). Between 17 June 1714, however, and 15 December 1714, when an additional rate was made (Poor Rate E332, folio 124, in Westminster Public Library), Joyce must have removed, perhaps to live with one of her children.

It seems extremely likely that the John Rusden who appears in 1696 in the poor rates as living in Bowling Alley West near Widow Rusden (Poor Rate E311, folio 26, MS. in Westminster Public Library) and later as Captain John Rusden (Poor Rates E331, folio 121 and E333, folio 124) was a son, born before 1677, when Moses and his wife moved to Westminster from Salisbury Court.

Although there were a number of recent works by English authors on venereal disease, Rusden apparently ignored Dr. De Hart's request, doubtless thinking it a matter for a bookseller, not an apothecary.

n. H.

Purser of the said Ship hath Affirmed to three Bills
 of Loading all of this Tenor and Date, the one of which
 three Bills being Accomplished the other two to stand
 void Thus so God send the Good Ship to her desired
 Port in Safety Chm. Dated in London Sept. the first
 one thousand six hundred Seventy seven.
 Contents & unknown to me
 Andrew Doyne.

M	Magisterium Caralorum	-----	5
	Spiritus Cornu Cervi	-----	5
	Spiritus Asterum	-----	4
	Oil Guaiacum	-----	5
	Oil Chariophilor	-----	2
	Oil Sassafras	-----	10
	Spiritus Vini	-----	1
	Metheridat Dumorat	-----	2
	Dia phord	-----	2
	Syrabus alismos	-----	10
	Confectio Siamerit	-----	2
	Aqua Theriacalis	-----	2
	Aqua Stephani	-----	2
	Aqua Electis	-----	2
	Aqua Mammom Vri smemradent	-----	2
	Aqua Rerungens	-----	2
	Spiritus Sals	-----	2
	Mell Rosaz	-----	10
	Confectio Mermos	-----	3
	Land annim opiat paracotli	-----	3
	Rexina Jalappi	-----	1
	Rexina Britannica	-----	1
	Mord Rensiom	-----	10
	Radix Galappi	-----	2
	Chapobanum	-----	2
	Mitha	-----	2

Original Will Liber 19B, Historical Documents Collection, Queens College, New York, p. 34.

		35	u	8	5
Charophyllor	3ss		00	05	00
of Currim 3vj	3ij		00	04	06
Spir. Corti	6 3ij		00	09	00
Balsum Natura	3iii		00	04	00
Theijge 3vj	6ij 3ij		00	14	05
Methu date Damon	6ij 30		00	13	09
Diaspora	6 3ij		00	07	09
Syr Alkermes	6ij 30		00	17	06
Cyseti Spanum ch	6ij 3ij		00	12	00
Elq. Theriacalis	6ij		00	06	09
Elq. Stephan	6ij		00	06	09
Elq. Elettis	6ij		00	13	04
Elq. Cinamom	6ij		00	09	00
Elq. Restringens ad gon	6ij		00	06	09
Spir Bals	6ij 30		00	10	00
marked 6 3ij 30	6ij 3ij		00	04	03
D.H.N. 1 6 3ij 30	6ij 3ij		00	10	06
x Landian opiat Paracelis	6ij 3ij		01	16	00
Rexin Jalapy	6ij 30		00	12	00
Rexin Grammon	6ij 30		00	09	00
Rad Jalapy	6ij 30		00	10	09
Rhabarbar	6ij 30		00	14	00
Myrh	6ij 30		00	04	06
Elloz	6ij 30		00	09	00
Castor	6ij 30		00	12	00
Chia Artid	6ij 30		00	02	00
Bensom reu Chia Dulcis	6ij 30		00	03	06
Liquor	6ij 30		00	03	00
pul Liquor	6ij 30		00	02	09
pul Liquor ch opt	6ij 30		00	02	00
Lign. Vite	6ij 30		00	02	00
ort Lign. Vite	6ij 30		00	04	00
Unid Chir	6ij 30		00	03	06
Sptan Corleor	6ij 30		00	12	00
Extrat Lusi	6ij 30		01	10	00
Oil magistral	6ij 30		00	05	00
12 bott. 10 pots & gl.	6ij 30		00	04	06
Berte					

Original Will Liber 19B, Historical Documents Collection, Queens College, New York, p. 35.

35 1/4

Five Pounds Tolls	---	---	---	00-12-6
Box and Cord	---	---	---	00-03-0
				<hr/>
				20-02-3

The Cokett Bright and Charge	---	---	---	00-12-9
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				20 = 14 = 0

From Live in the Beepingalley In Westminster over
 Against the Signe of the Kings Arms.

Wth Wth Rusdell.

Appraisal of Medicines at y^e house of Do^r Phillip
 Lane deceased by y^e order of y^e Worshipfull
 Micho Dorney & May^r Ser

Syrup Rosar Soluis	£ 2	5	4
Moll Rosar	2	4	
Syrup Do spina feruina	2	6	
Syrup Gariophyllor	2	5	
Aqua Gum ammoni fortis	4	8	
Aqua Sthoriacalib	4	4	03
Aqua Colobis	1	4	
Aqua Mirabilib	2	4	
Spirit Lucci		15	03
Choniac Londini	2	6	8
Mollioidat	3	4	03
Diaschordicam	3	4	03
Extract Rudy		4	03
Moruen Dulcis		4	03
Pill Lachia		3	1/2 03
Confect Altheorinis	Sum March 2	1/2 03	
Confect Minoralis		1	1/2 03
and barbers fees with corn by and played Reasons		1	10
3/4 grs of Gally potts & Vials			9
Bells and bottles			5
Emplas Paracette	£ 2		6
Emplas Spontibrium	2		6
Emplas Diapalor & Demario	£ 1		2
Conbis Minoralis		40	grs
Vingent Apostolor	£ 1		1
Syrup Althea	£ 1		2
one Lase with Corbis and Aug 20 17			12
with Silver			10
			9

Sum of £ 18 14 8

This done by us and Appraised this 19 of May
 anno 1677 in New York Daniell Scherck
 Extract Rudy 1 63 at 2 1/2 03 Hanso Kierstede
 This acc^t amounts in all to y^e Sum of 12-9-9 Sterling money
 which amounts in this Country pay at 50 p^{ts} & advanced
 the Sum of £ 18-14-8

Appraisal of estate of Dr. Philip Lane, Historical Documents Collection, Queens College, New York.

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New York, that a box of apothecary's wares had been consigned to him to be delivered to the physician in New York.

Dr. De Hart's order of 9 May 1677, was obviously his first to the London chemist, as is shown by the text of the following letter directed to Moses Rusden, apothecary, next door to the Sugar Loaf in Salisbury Court,¹³ London:

My Harty Desire to you that you Lett me have of yo^r Best and Fresh medicines. I hope it shall Engage me to send Every yeare For Sume of yo^r. remaine Here with yo^r. Unknowne

Reall Friend to Serve

Daniell De Haert

Sir Present my Service to Mr. Spencer Piggott¹⁴ Apothecary if you know or Heare of any treatesses Lately or Newly Come Forth of the Lewis Venerea Pray Lett me have one or if their are Sundry Authors Lett me have two of the Best If they are English Authors and no Mountebanks which I Leave to yo^r. Judicious Judgm^t.

Postscript

New Yorke the 9th of May An^o. 1677 D De Harte

The invoice of wares, prepared 7 August 1677, by Rusden, who itemized quantity and cost, was accompanied by a postscript to the effect that he now lived in the Bowling Alley in Westminster over against the Sign of the King's Arms. Rusden added some bottles, pots and glass to the invoice but scratched out the charge for them, though he did include five pewter pots, box and cord and cocket, freight and charge to the total invoice of £20 15s. Of the medicines, ten were also included among Dr. Philip Lane's supplies, namely mel rosatum, syrupus de spina cervina, aqua cinnamoni, aqua theriacalis, aqua caelestis, spiritus croci, Mithridate, diascordium, extractum rudi and confectio alkermes. Furthermore, the 'ol Caryophyllor' was similar to Dr. Lane's syrupus infusionis Caryophyllorum, both of which, according to Culpeper, resist the pestilence, strengthen the heart, liver and stomach, and provoke lust.

The remaining medicines shipped to Dr. De Hart were as follows:

1. Magisterium Carallorum, a white precipitate of coral dissolved in spirit of radicate vinegar, with a little spirit of tartar added. It was said to comfort and strengthen the heart, resist poison and stop dysentery and haemorrhages.
2. Spiritus castorei, or spirit of castoreum, was distilled from fresh castoreum, lavender flowers, tops of sage and rosemary, cinnamon, mace, cloves and spirit of wine. It was recommended that it be given with other medicines

¹³ Salisbury Court, now Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, was west of St. Bride's Church (Henry B. Wheatley, *London Past and Present*, London: John Murray, 1891, p. 202.)

¹⁴ The Spencer Piggott, apothecary, was beyond doubt the first gardener in charge of the Chelsea Physic Garden, who was dismissed 16 December 1677, for overcharging (C. Wall, H. C. Cameron and C. A. Underwood, *A History of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London*, I; 1617–1815, London, Oxford University Press, 1963, p. 164). Henry Field, *Memoirs of the Botanic Garden at Chelsea*, London: Gilbert and Rivington, 1878, p. 13, wrote: 'The name of the first gardener employed by the Society appears to have been Piggott, of whom however nothing more is known.' Will Liber 19B in New York shows that Piggott's first name was Spencer and that he was an apothecary. Still more about him is recorded. He was the son of Baptist Piggott of Ashford in the County of Kent, gentleman, and in February 1647, he was apprenticed for eight years, from 20 January last, to Peter Browne, apothecary of London (Guildhall Library MS. 8200/1, folio 467 verso). On 26 October 1655, having completed his apprenticeship, been examined and referred to the College of Physicians, he was made free and given a spoon (Guildhall Library MS. 8200/2, folio 31 verso). Again, he is mentioned on 26 May 1666, when there was to be a call upon the livery (Guildhall Library MS. 8200/2, folio 102). It would seem too he was acquainted with Moses Rusden and, at least through correspondence, if not personally, with Dr. Daniel De Hart.

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against poisons and bites of venomous beasts, while it was also prescribed to cause speedy delivery to women in travail, to cast out afterbirth, and to help fits of the mother, lethargies and convulsions. When mixed with white wine and dropped into the ears it might help deafness if stopping was the cause of it.

3. *oleum succini veri*. This oil of yellow amber was believed to help violent coughs, consumption of the lungs, scabs, itch, leprosy and difficulty of urine. It makes teeth white when rubbed with it, helps baldness, 'and trimly decks the Head with Hairs.'
4. *balsum naturae* was probably balm of Gilead or Syrian balsam, a gold-coloured oleo-resin, much esteemed as an antiseptic and vulnerary.
5. *theriaca Andromachi*, or Venice treacle, an electuary compounded of troches of squills, vipers, pepper, opium, magma, red roses, orris, liquorice, scordium, cinnamon, agaric, turpentine, gum arabic, ginger, nutmegs, cubebs and other items. In addition to resisting poison, it was considered good for headaches, apoplexy, asthma, coughs, jaundice, stone, fevers, dropsy and leprosy.
6. *aqua hammeck*, or *confectio hamech*, was a purgative used in treatment of itch and recommended by Avicenna for expulsion of supposed vicious humours from the body.
7. *aqua Stephani*, or Dr. Stephen's water, was made from cinnamon, ginger, galanga, cloves, nutmegs, grains of paradise, seeds of anise, fennel, caraway, thyme, mint, sage, pennroyal, pellitory of the wall, rosemary, flowers of red roses, camomile, origanum and lavender, all infused in Gascoign wine, from which the strong water was drawn. It was prescribed to help women in labour, provoke the terms, and bring away the after-birth.
8. *aqua restrigens ad gon.* was probably the *decoctum ad gonorrhoeam virulentem*, made from stone crop, seeds of quinces, rue, agnus castus, plantain, roots of tormentil, flowers of mullein and red roses, juice of lemons and water of hollyhock flowers. It was given morning or night, four or five spoonfuls at a time, and might also be used as a purge.
9. *spiritus salis* was recommended for exciting appetite, correcting the bile, curing gangrene and dissolving stone.
10. *laudian opiat Paracells* was Paracelsus's laudanum, a preparation of opium and sometimes opium itself.
11. *resin jalapy*, or *resina jalappi*, like
12. *rad. jalapy*, or *roots jalapy*, was a purgative drug obtained from the roots of *exogonium purga* or some other convolvulaceous plants. The roots, best in powdered form, were considered good in all kinds of dropsies.
13. *rhabarbar*, *rhabarbarum*, or *rhubarb*, was recommended by Alexander of Tralles as an astringent. As Culpeper put it, 'it purgeth but gently', leaving a binding quality behind it.
14. *myrh*, *myrrh*, a tincture made from this gum resin. Culpeper described it as good for roughness of throat and windpipe, rheumatic distillations upon the lungs and pains in the sides. It stops fluxes, provokes the terms, and brings away both birth and after-birth. Besides helping against quartan ague, pestilence and poison, Culpeper called it 'a singular remedy for a stinking breath.'

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In addition to these virtues, it fastened loose teeth and stayed the shedding of hair.

15. aloes, described by Culpeper as 'a good Cordial, a rich Perfume, a great strengthener of the Stomach', was recommended to purge, to provoke the terms, to kill worms, and to heal and cleanse wounds.
16. castoreum, contained in the gland of beaver. Its use in spirit of castoreum has been described above.
17. asa. fetid, or asafoetida, a concreted resinous gum procured in Central Asia from the Narthex asafoetida and allied umbelliferous plants, was much used as an anti-spasmodic. According to Culpeper, it represses (when smelled) the fits of the mother, it eases pain of toothache, provokes appetite, helps digestion, provokes lust and expels wind.
18. bensoin, ceu asa dulcis, yellow rosin, recommended for stopping coughs and asthma and helping in consumptions. If powder of the gum was dissolved in spirit of wine and distilled, the resulting crystals, or 'flowers of Benjamin,' were considered good against the French pox.
19. } liquiritiae, or licorice. Its powdered extract, Culpeper stated, was a specific
20. } in most diseases of the lungs and windpipe and good for ulcers of lungs,
21. } kidneys, bladder and ureters. It was used as a purging physic and the powder, applied to the eye, was supposed to help the pin and web.
22. } lignum vitae. Its bark came from India and was prescribed for the French pox,
23. } gout and dropsy. Its oil was used against the French pox, epilepsy and toothache.
24. Virid aries, viridis aeris, or verdigris was made by hanging a copper plate over fumes of wine and then brushing off the crocus with a hare's foot. Either pure or as a tincture it was prescribed for cleansing and purifying sores, ulcers and fistulas.
25. spear cochlear, spiritus aqua cochleorum, distilled from the flesh of snails in May or October was called 'excellent' against consumptions. It was used also as a cosmetic. Liquor cochleorum, which dropped from snails, cut in pieces and salted, then put in a Hippocras bag, was used for anointing in gout and for removing corns and warts.
26. pil magistrall. The term *magistralis* (see *Lexicon Medicum* of Hieronymus Fiorati, published at Venice, Typis Modesti Fentii, 1795, II, p. 110) was used of medicines not already on sale but rather extemporary or compounded specially. Very likely the pills in question were made up by Rusden according to his own formula.

It should be noted that a medicine apparently ordered by Dr. De Hart but not sent him was oleum de capparibus, or oil of capers. It was prepared from bark of caper roots, bark of tamaris, leaves of the same, seeds of agnus castus, ceterach or spleenwort, Cyperus roots, rue, oil of ripe olives, white wine and white wine vinegar, the whole steeped and boiled. Culpeper recommended it for spleen hardness and pains thereof and diseases coming of stoppings there. He directed: 'Bath the breast and afflicted side with it hot by the fire, and if you please to add in like weight of oyntment

of the opening juices to it, it will be the better, then if you apply a Virginia Tobacco leaf to the place, you shall find it an incomparable Remedy'.

The two New York documents of 1677 show to a considerable degree the medicines used by practitioners of the day. There can be little doubt that apothecary's supplies were ordered, as in the case of Dr. De Hart, from London. Indeed, if satisfied, he indicated that he would order every year. How De Hart hit upon the name of Moses Rusden is not known. Could it be that he had heard of Rusden through Spencer Piggott, to whom he sent greetings?

AN EARLY ACCOUNT OF AORTIC INCOMPETENCE
BY THOMAS CUMING (1798–1887)

by

D. EVAN BEDFORD

THE HISTORY of aortic incompetence has been adequately recorded, notably by Major (1932), Bramwell (1933), Rolleston (1940), Flaxman (1939), Irvine (1957), and more recently by Mulcahy (1962). The anatomical lesion was described by Cowper (1705), Morgagni (1761), Hodgson (1815), and Bertin (1824), but the clinical features could not be generally appreciated prior to the advent of auscultation which enabled the diagnosis to be made during life. Nevertheless, Vieussens (1715) had already described the collapsing pulse very vividly, over a century before Hodgkin (1829) and Corrigan (1832) described the visible arterial pulsation and aortic murmurs. Hope (1831), in the first edition of his book, described the jerking pulse but did not correlate it with aortic incompetence until later, and after Corrigan's paper of 1832, though he claimed priority in subsequent editions of his book.

In acquiring Adams' original paper on Adams-Stokes Syndrome in Vol. 4 of the *Dublin Hospital Reports*, Vol. 3 also came into my possession, though I did not glance through it until much later when I was astonished to find a remarkable account of a case of aortic incompetence by Thomas Cuming (1822), describing the vibrating pulse, the visible arterial pulsation, anginal pain and left heart failure. He correlated these observations with the incompetent aortic valves found at post-mortem. There is no reference to this case in any of the historical papers cited, and Dr. Mulcahy, an Irish authority on Corrigan, was unaware of it. It seems therefore worthwhile to add some account of Cuming and his paper to the history of aortic incompetence.

Thomas Cuming was an Ulsterman born in Armagh in 1798, and died there in his ninetieth year in 1887. Originally intended for the church, he became more attracted to medicine which he studied in Edinburgh, graduating M.D. in 1818. He then continued his medical studies in Dublin where in due course he became Physician to the Dublin General Dispensary, the Wellesley Fever Hospital, Assistant Physician to the Institution for Diseases of Children, Pitt Street, and lecturer at the Richmond