

Texts and Documents

DAY BOOK OF THE COURT APOTHECARY IN THE TIME OF WILLIAM AND MARY, 1691

by

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The book, of some 500 long pages, 40 x 15 cm., is apparently in its original leather binding and is lettered in gold on a dark brown leather panel on the spine: DAY BOOK/OF THE COURT/APOTHECARY/TIME OF/WILLIAM & MARY/DATE 1691. The period covered by the entries is from April 1691 to 25 May 1693, just over two years. There are at least six prescriptions on each page though some pages have as many as ten. The prescriptions are no doubt copied from the "bills" of various medical men, some of them court physicians of the period. The entries are in various hands, occasionally in the hand of an unmistakably ageing person. Throughout the Latin is good and the entries are readable, except where a few pages have been torn. Besides prescriptions there are entries of supplies to a few physicians and surgeons, in addition to supplies ordered by customers for personal or household use.

I. THE COURT APOTHECARY

There is no positive indication of ownership. A number of names are scrawled upon the covering page, otherwise blank, and these may have been written when the book had been compiled or later. The writing appears to be in imitation of the writing in the book itself.

There is little doubt—though absolute proof is wanting—that this day book was one maintained by James Chase, a royal apothecary, grandson of Stephen, and son of John Chase. Stephen Chase had been apothecary to Charles I, his son John was apothecary to Charles II. John Chase¹ was also Master of the Society of Apothecaries of London for two years, 1664–66.

James Chase, who had been appointed second apothecary to James II in 1685, was appointed Apothecary to the Person (King William) in 1689. Then in May 1690, the king decided to cut down the expenses of the royal Household and drastic reductions

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¹ John Chase, whilst apothecary to Charles II, secured from that monarch the grant of a reversion of his own appointment as royal apothecary in favour of his son, James. The original grant of 1666, embellished in colour, is exhibited on the staircase of the Hall of the Society of Apothecaries—see Leslie G. Matthews, *The Royal Apothecaries*, London, Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1967, Plate 10.

Texts and Documents

were made. The number of apothecaries (then two, James Chase and a Dutchman, Abraham Rottermond, apothecary to the Household²) was reduced to one, James Chase. Whilst apothecary to King William, James Chase had a salary of £500 a year, and this was to include the cost of medicines supplied to the king. Payments were often held up and Chase had to submit petition after petition to get his debts paid, usually several years in arrear.

James's grandfather, Stephen Chase, while acting as apothecary to Charles I, had an apothecary shop in Covent Garden, London.³ This shop was probably carried on by his son John during the time that he was apothecary to Charles II and to James II. It is also highly probable that this shop was maintained by James Chase because from 1692, in order to carry out his official duties at the Court, he rented lodgings in Whitehall, not far away, at £50 a year, charging the rental to the account of the Lord Chamberlain. Chase evidently gave up his shop in 1702, for in a list of members of the Society of Apothecaries practising in and about the City of London in September of that year, his name was marked, with some others "Left off their trade." According to the day book, two persons living near the shop in Covent Garden were supplied with medicines—Mrs. Ward's daughter, a widow "over the way" and Mr. Floyd in Maiden Lane, close to Covent Garden.

To add to the information about the life of James Chase, before dealing with the day book, he was for many years a member of the Court of the Society of Apothecaries (the governing body), serving as Master in 1688–89, the year of the Glorious Revolution.⁴ This senior position would undoubtedly have brought him to the notice of the king. Until 1712 he was a subscriber to the Apothecaries' Society's Elaboratory Fund and at one time a member of the committee. In 1701 he was elected one of the two Members of Parliament for Marlow, Buckinghamshire, near his home, and he was re-elected for periods up to 1710, a curious position for one of the monarch's servants. For a time Chase also acted as one of the Commissioners of the Sick and Wounded, retiring from this appointment in 1707.⁵

On the death of King William, Chase entered the service of Queen Anne, and he continued as a royal apothecary to George I up to 1718. He died on 23 June 1721, aged seventy-two, and was buried at Little Marlow.⁶ His close interest in Marlow induced him to acquire Losemere Manor, a large property in Little Marlow, in the grounds of which he had a residence built called Westhorpe House. This was a large square Georgian building in classical style with an imposing porch, standing in a park of approximately 120 hectares. On his death in 1721 his widow held the estate

² Rottermond often accompanied King William on his visits to Flanders and he was with him there for part of 1690 and 1691. He was later appointed an apothecary to the King. Nothing seems to be recorded of him after 1702.

³ S.P. 539, Pt. i, Public Record Office, London.

⁴ On relinquishing this office he presented the Society with a silver monteith and a salver, both of which are still in the Society's possession. C. R. B. Barrett, *The history of the Society of Apothecaries of London*. London, Elliot Stock, 1905, p. 111.

⁵ *Cal. Treas. Bks. 1714–15*, 434.

⁶ Little Marlow Church contains a memorial to James Chase. Westhorpe House is of moderate size and purely architectural, the fluted pilasters carry a gable with concave sides and segmental top. Nikolaus Pevsner, *The buildings of Britain—Buckinghamshire*, Harmondsworth, Penguin Books, 1960, p. 192.

Texts and Documents

of Westhorpe, with other properties left to her in and about Marlow, for her life. At her death in 1736, Dr. Stephen Chase, a physician and a son of James's cousin, Stephen, came into possession. After 1791 it passed out of the family.⁷

II. THE DAY BOOK

i. The Customers

There are many prescriptions for titled persons associated with the Court of King William and Queen Mary, many of them holding high offices of State, others in less exalted positions. Amongst the former are names such as Lady Ashby, Sir Ralph Box, Sir Thomas Bloodsworth, Sir Herbert and Lady Croft, Lord Dartmouth, Lord and Lady Dorset, Lady Glascock, Lord Goldolphin, Lady Jeffries, Lady Hamilton, Lord Lovelace, Lord Montague, Lord and Lady Mulgrave, Lady Northampton, Lord Peterborough, Lord Portland, Lady Puliston, Lady Elizabeth Russell, Lady Mary Sackville, Lady Sparr, Lady Starr, and Lord Sussex.⁸

In attendance on the Court or occupying administrative posts in the Departments of State and to whom medicines were supplied were Mde. Cason (a former member of Princess Mary's staff), Benjamin Colinge (Keeper of the Council Chamber and an Usher in the House of Lords), Charles Chetwynd (Surveyor of Green Wax, later Auditor of Wales), Thomas Fox (Cashier of the Customs), Mr. Hall (at the Treasury Chamber in Whitehall), Baptist May (Keeper of the Privy Purse), Edward Noell (Solicitor of Excise and of Hearthmoney), James Smithsby (supplier to or connected with the Great Wardrobe), and William Gwilym (one of the Commissioners for Superstitious Lands).

Our Apothecary's association with Marlow no doubt accounts for several prescriptions in the book for persons then living there or in the neighbourhood. Possibly some were relatives by marriage or were acquaintances, For example, medicines were supplied to Mr. Samuel Chase and Mrs. Right, the apothecary's kinswoman, and to Mr. Richard Young and Mr. Robert Chiswell's daughter, both of Marlow, to Mr. Lane of Hambledon, Mrs. Hayward of Hedzar (Hedsor), and Mrs. Blunt of Mapledurham, all three living in the neighbourhood of Marlow.

Among the royal servants who received supplies of one kind or another were Dr. Croft "the King's Indian Gown Maker", Mrs. Dove, "the King's Laundress", Mr. Lane, the gaoler (written "Mr. Lain the galer"), and Mr. Winder, "the King's periwig maker".

The physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries noted in the book include Dr. Froomein [*sic*],⁹ one of the king's physicians, Mr. Gilbert, a surgeon, and Mr. Redish, an apothecary.

⁷ James Chase's will is P.C.C. 1721 "Buckingham", fo. 126. The Chase family had for long held properties in Buckinghamshire. About 1638 Ralph Chase obtained an interest in Harleyford Manor, Great Marlow. In 1634 he gave a cup and standing paten to All Saints Church there: these are dated 1629. Dr. Stephen Chase bought Radnage Manor, near Stokenchurch, a manor which had been given by Charles II to one of his mistresses who later sold it. Stephen also acquired by marriage to Philla Bristow, his first wife, a large part of Great Brickhill. (*Victoria County History, Bucks*, vol. 3, p. 82.)

⁸ Further information about some of these patients is given in Appendix 1.

⁹ Referred to in *Cal. Treas. Papers, 1693-98, 1425*, as Dr. Fromyn. The spelling of his name Froomein is that which appears in the day book.

ii. The Prescribers

There is no indication of the names of the prescribers. Possibly Dr. Froomein was one. There is no mention of Dr. John Hutton, at that time the king's chief physician. The prescriptions are written in excellent Latin and the directions are given with skill. Were they sometimes dictated orally to the apothecary who filled in the details? No distinction is made in the prescriptions in the quality of ingredients of medicine for master, mistress or servant. Presumably the accounts for servants or for the occasional treatment of a poor person at the request of a customer were paid by the master of the household or by the customer who asked for the poor person to be treated.

Venesection at that period was the function of the apothecary or of a surgeon. Evidently our apothecary did not do that operation himself for where "venesection" is noted against a patient's name the entries are usually marked either "W.C." (possibly an apothecary employed in the shop, for the name "William Coffin" is scrawled with many others on the fly-leaf of the book, and there are prescriptions for "William's aunt"), or "A. Amer.". This was an abbreviation for Arthur Emerson, a well-known apothecary of the period.¹⁰

iii. The Prescriptions

The number of prescriptions entered during each month is fairly constant: about twenty pages monthly are used for approximately six entries each day. At times the entries for patients were numerous, for the physicians who attended them were not satisfied with one or two medicines at a visit. Often there were four or five items on a single occasion. Some of the patients' names are repeated during almost the whole of the two years in which the book was in use. Lord Sussex is an outstanding example. In April 1691 no less than thirty-one prescriptions were dispensed for him, there were twenty-five in the following month, and about the same number in June, and so it continued more or less to May 1693, an entry on almost every page against his name. Waters, juleps, draughts, and lozenges constituted the majority of his medicaments. He obviously suffered from toothache: there are many instances where an opiate was supplied, in 2-drachm or $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. quantities. Opiates were the standby for other customers suffering from toothache. During the two-year period Lord Sussex must have drunk gallons and gallons of the Queen of Hungary's Water, a spiritous compound of rosemary. This seems to have alternated with Aqua Pestilentia or Aqua Epidemica, and occasionally Elixir Proprietatis. The directions for use for some of his lordship's mixtures¹¹ allowed frequent dosage—"A spoonful when feeling run down, night or day, *ad libitum*". How often the patient, under continuous medication, must have needed a mild stimulant! His physician or the

¹⁰ Arthur Emerson was an apothecary of good standing in the Society of Apothecaries. He was one of many who signed the address of Congratulations from the Society to King William III "on his escape from assassination by a Papist conspiracy", 1696. He remained on the roll of Apothecaries until at least 1713.

¹¹ Although draughts in single doses and juleps were the fluid medicines customarily prescribed at the end of the seventeenth century and were continued until the nineteenth century, here and there in the day book mixtures are dispensed along with infusions, the latter being supplied in flasks (*lagenae*). See J. K. Crellin and J. R. Scott, 'Fluid medicines, prescription reform and posology', *Med. Hist.*, 1970, 14: 132-153.

Texts and Documents

apothecary, evidently was well aware of the patient's taste, for many preparations include clove syrup as a flavouring agent. For a period in March 1693 Lord Dorset received an enema every day, each containing different ingredients. Many other patients were under continuous medication for months.

All the entries in the day book are marked "Post", indicating that there was a subsequent posting of the charge for the medicines in a ledger account and we may well believe that accounts often went unpaid for a long period. New customers have as entry "Init." to show that a new page was to be opened for a new account. Some of the names in the book seem to have been written by apprentices who relied upon their ears to spell the names of the customers and this is particularly the case with those of foreign descent.

As indicated above, in addition to the entries of prescriptions dispensed, there are supplies to physicians, surgeons, and customers of items ordered for personal or household use. Our apothecary, or his assistants—entries are in several hands—was careful to see that even the smallest out-of-pocket expenses were charged, e.g. 1*d.* or 2*d.* for sending packets by post, 3*d.* for basket, 1*s.* for coach hire when medicines were sent by porters. Now and then small sums were paid out for persons who used the apothecary as their temporary banker. A fitted medicine cabinet for Madame Colinge was a special expense: it cost 7*s.* with twelve bottles and six pewter pots, a quantity of spirit of human skull, plaster, scales, and weights.

It will be recalled that the first *official* London Pharmacopoeia, issued with the full responsibility of the College of Physicians of London, was that of December 1618. There were revisions about every thirty years. As there was a new edition in 1677, it may be presumed that by 1691 when the first entry appears in the day book that this 1677 edition provided the formulae for most of the preparations prescribed. The long-established composite preparations such as the Theriaci, e.g. Ther. Andromachi, Mithridatium and the like, containing some 50 or more ingredients, still held the field. The various excretae and parts of animals, human skull, and urine, were still thought to be efficacious: thus we find many prescriptions for them in the book, including earthworms, millipedes, vipers' fat, etc. All these were in addition to the herbs, simples, gums, ointments, pills, and plasters. Semi-precious stones were an integral part of many prescriptions, and pearls were much used. Curiously, there is only one mention of the use of leeches during the two years: this suggests that bleeding the patient was the more frequently adopted course during this period.¹² The chief unusual medicaments most often recorded in the day book are described in Appendix II.

iv. Supplies to King William

As supplier of perfumes and sweet waters, earlier called "odiferous materials", to the Court, our apothecary's book has many entries for Pulv. Odorat. (perfumed powder) supplied for the king's use, either directly to Dr. Froomein, to Mrs. College,

¹² Leeches were used for treating facial swellings. A letter sent by Queen Mary to King William during the summer of 1690 when the king was in Ireland refers to a compliment paid to her by the Queen Dowager, Catherine of Braganza, on Queen Mary's better appearance and adds: "Yesterday I had leeches set behind my ear which has done but little good and one of my eyes being again sore, I am fain to write this at so many times." (*C.S.P.Dom.* 1690-91, 36.)

Texts and Documents

the king's laundress, to the "Pages of the Back Stairs", to Mr. Drake "by order of the Master [of the Household]", or to Mr. Bryson "for the King". Normally this powder, in 1 lb. or 2 lb. crimson taffeta bags,¹³ was charged at 16*d.* per lb. but a special powder at 20*d.* per lb. was labelled "cum. Essent. Nova"; presumably it had a special perfume that attracted the king's notice. There are many such entries over the two years. On one occasion 18 lb. in all—some of each kind—had to be sent to Dr. Froomein for dispatch to the king, then in Holland. This was packed in a box for transport and even the cost of the cord for tying up the box was charged—4*d.* Some of the perfumed powder supplied went to the king's periwig maker at the Three Black Posts in Leicester Fields, London; new wigs would be perfumed, some went for quilting, and some for the Court robes. A quantity of "Powder for the King's Hands when he washes" was made up with starch and green oil of almonds, and perfumed with musk. William III was obviously extremely particular about his person. A porter had to be called to deliver this to the pages when the king was resident at Kensington Palace. Among other entries for the king are three "Purses for the offering of Myrrh, Frankincense and Gold", the traditional offering by the king at Epiphany, and made by King William on 6 January 1693. In February of that year one ounce of best myrrh was supplied to the king.

Others near to the king liked to have supplies of the perfumed powder. Admiral Russell, for example, had some of each kind, the cheaper and the more expensive. Whether he mixed the two to give the impression he used "only the best" is not known. In 1692 he had gone out and burnt the French Fleet from the Hague. He was later created Earl of Orford.¹⁴

SUMMARY

The compilation of the day book described can without doubt be ascribed to James Chase himself and his assistants. It is the only surviving account in the form of a day book by a royal apothecary so far recorded. From 1685 to 1718 James Chase was royal apothecary to James II, to King William III and Queen Mary, to Queen Anne, and to King George I. Its entries provide evidence of the medical and pharmaceutical practice of the period 1691–93 and show the scope of a royal apothecary's professional work in relation to royalty and the Court.

APPENDIX I

NOTES ON SOME OF THE PERSONS FOR WHOM MEDICINES WERE DISPENSED AS RECORDED IN THE DAY BOOK

Note: in some instances absolute identification is not possible but the *Calendar of State Papers* and the *Calendar of Treasury Books* and of *Treasury Papers* mention most of the persons whose identity has provisionally been established. Many of

¹³ The custom of supplying powder for linen and for the king's wigs in crimson taffeta bags had been the practice for about thirty years. From 1661 there was an annual delivery from the Great Wardrobe to John Chase, then Apothecary to Charles II, of twenty-four yards of crimson taffeta, fine holland, and crimson galloons for making bags to contain the sweet powder for the royal linen and for table linen, etc. (See Matthews, *op. cit.*, note 1 above, ref. 103, p. 130.)

¹⁴ *Cal. Treas. Papers, 1697*, 15.

Texts and Documents

these received medicines for weeks or months on end. Details of many titled persons for whom medicines were prescribed are to be found in the *Dictionary of national biography*.

I. PATIENTS HOLDING HIGH OFFICE OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE COURT OR IN ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS

Charles, Earl of Dorset. He was Chamberlain of the Household from December 1690. In this position he had some scores of appointments in his hands. He became Earl of Dorset and Middlesex in November 1691 and was a Lord of the Council in 1693. (*C.S.P. Dom. May 1690–Oct. 1691*, 189.)

Mulgrave, Earl of. Owner of “Distress Park”, near Lisburn, Ireland. His protest to Queen Mary about a distress for rent by armed officers resulted in satisfaction and an appointment as one of a number of suitable persons to deal with affairs in Ireland, then “in an ill posture” followed. (*C.S.P. Dom. May 1690–Oct. 1691*, 244). He recommended a Standing Committee for the Plantations in Ireland (*C.S.P. Dom. 1691–2*, 543.)

Mulgrave, Lady, also a patient, in common with many other ladies at that time (April 1692) was informed of an impending royal birth: this was done to stop stories of the possible imposition of an heir by King William and Queen Mary to secure perpetuation on the British throne. (*C.S.P. Dom. 1691–2*, 263–4.)

Thomas, Earl of Sussex. He petitioned in April 1691 for arrears of £28,000 due from the Crown on his wife’s marriage settlement. He ought to have been paid £2,000 quarterly—the matter was referred to the Treasury. (*C.S.P. Dom. May 1690–Oct. 1691*, 311.)

Fox, Thomas. Receiver General and Cashier of Customs. Appointed 12 February 1688–89. He is always noted in the day Book as “Esq.”. He died *c.* 11 September 1691. (*Cal. Treas. Bks. 1689–92—Book 9.1.*)

Gwillym, William. Appointed by warrant in September 1689 to be one of the Commissioners for Superstitious Lands, i.e. lands expropriated from Jesuits for the benefit of the Crown. (*Cal. Treas. Bks. 1689–92—Book 9.1.*)

May, Baptist. One of the most colourful figures of the late seventeenth century. Keeper of the Privy Purse to Charles II, and appointed to the same post by William III. He had been responsible to Charles II for holding the Healing Gold, the touch-pieces given by the king, and he had to render an account at Charles’s death in 1685. (*Cal. Treas. Bks. 8.3. 36. No. 271.*) He was known as “BAB. MAY” and is commemorated by Babmaes Street in London. He was a noted collector of pictures, and R. B. Beckett (*The Connoisseur*, August 1950, pp. 32–38) describes and illustrates many of the choice paintings of Baptist May and reproduces two portraits of him. Many of his pictures are in public galleries.

Noel [or Noell], Edward. Registrar or Secretary to the Commissioners of Excise and Solicitor to the Excise and for Hearthmoney. He was connected with others in Trusts relating to the insurance of Crown property against fire. (*Cal. Treas. Bks. 1689–92*, 8.3.1858.)

Staggings, Nicklas. Doctor of Music and Master of the King’s Music. Salary £200 a year. (*Cal. Treas. Bks. 1689–92*, 93, 1108.)

Wharton, Goodwin. He was sufficiently distinguished to have his full name recorded

Texts and Documents

in the Day Book. A Mr. Wharton [? the same] was Comptroller of the Royal Household, a Privy Councillor, and much concerned in the king's affairs. (*C.S.P. Dom. May 1690–Oct. 1691*, 51, 211.)

II. PATIENTS CONNECTED WITH THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

Allen, Henry. A Henry Allen is recorded as one of the King's Messengers-in-Ordinary. (*C.S.P. Dom. May 1690–Oct. 1691*, 397.)

Cason, Madame. A Mistress Cason (or Casson) had been in Princess Mary's suite on 30 April 1686. She was one of several ladies who were to attend on the Princess of Orange at The Hague. (*Cal. Treas. Bks.* 8.3.717.) A Thomas Cason, who may have been her husband, succeeded in his petition in 1691 to the Commissioners of Tin Farthings for the post of Secretary and Accomptant. (*Cal. Treas. Bks.* 1689–92, 1329.)

Cane, Mrs. Possibly the wife of Mr. Cane, the King's Closet Keeper. He accompanied the King to Holland in 1691–92. (*C.S.P. Dom. May 1690–Oct. 1691*, 182.)

College, Mrs. Semptress to the King. On 25 May 1691 she petitioned for £154 in arrears, this amount being due to her for lodgings at Hampton Court and for riding charges in attending the king into Ireland. (Was she the first recorded semptress on horseback?) (*Cal. Treas. Bks.* 1689–92, 1172.)

Chetwynd, Mrs. A John Chetwynd, possibly her husband, was Yeoman of the Horse to Charles II in 1685 and he bought horses for the Queen Dowager. (*Cal. Treas. Bks.* 8.3.646.)

Coling, Benjamin. His name and that of Mde. Coling are always spelled with a final *e* in the day book. Coling was a Yeoman Usher of the House of Lords and he became one of the Keepers of the Council Chamber, being allowed 2s. 6d. a day. This post he held until September 1692. (*Cal. Treas. Bks.* 1698–92, 1804.)

Smithsby, Mr. and Mrs. Both had medicines over a long period. A James Smithsby received £469 9s., for cloth for the service of the Great Wardrobe on June 21, 1687.

APPENDIX II

MEDICAMENTS RECORDED IN THE DAY BOOK

The reference books consulted are abbreviated thus:

Gray. S. F. Gray, *Supplement to the Pharmacopoeia*, ed. by T. Redwood, London, Longman, 1848, 2nd ed.

L.P. *London Pharmacopoeia*.

Salmon. William Salmon, *Pharmacopoeia Londinensis Or, the New London Dispensatory*, London, 1691, 4th ed.

Wootton. A. C. Wootton, *Chronicles of Pharmacy*, London, Macmillan, 1810, 2 vols.

Quincy. John Quincy, *Pharmacopoeia Officinalis & Extemporanea*, London, 1733, 9th ed.

1. *Balsam Lucatelli* (or Locatelli). Locatelli's Balsam. This contained yellow wax in Canary wine, olive oil, turpentine, and either dragon's blood or red sandalwood to colour it. (Gray p. 613.)

2. *Bezoarticum minerale*. Buttyr of antimony, heated with spirit of nitre and ultimately reduced to powder in a crucible; then mixed with spirits of wine. (L.P. 1677.)

3. *Boluses*. Soft pastes, such as electuaries, stiffened so that they could be moulded into a large pill. Prescriptions called for these to be made with Venice treacle and liquid laudanum.

4. *Confections*. Soft pastes. The prescribed dose was an amount equal in size to a chestnut. Those prescribed were Conf. Alchermes, Hamech, Hyacinth, and Thure (Frankincense).

5. *Draughts*. Liquid medicines, often two kinds prescribed for a patient in doses of two or three fluid ounces, all to be taken at one time. Each dose of a draught was supplied in a separate container.

6. *Elixirs*. Not many of these were prescribed, though Elixir Proprietatis Paracelsus (Paracelsus's own elixir) was the most frequent. This was made with myrrh, aloes, and saffron digested with rectified spirit; this was decanted, more spirit added and finally distilled. This preparation was new to the L.P. 1677. Salmon comments "If this medicine be made as the College have prescribed, 'twill scarcely be worth a rush." (Salmon, p. 511a).

7. *Earthworms*. (*Lumbricæ*) The slime, or cast, was prescribed, mixed with sugar.

8. *Electuaries*. Thick pastes with several ingredients. The directions were usually that as much be taken as the size of a nutmeg or a walnut.

9. *Fomentation Edpetila*. Not identified.

10. *Hartshorn*. Though often prescribed as Spirits of Hartshorn it was more often supplied in the form of raspings, as much as 1 lb. at a time. No directions were entered in the day book and the patient must have been told how to use them. If burnt, they would have given off ammonia; if in a fine powder, it could have been taken with wine or water. It is recorded in the Court Minute Book of the Society of Apothecaries (Bo.1, fo.366) that footmen brought harts' horn to the Society's Hall for rasping.

11. *Human skull* (*Cran. human.*). Half an ounce of this was prescribed for Sir Henry Croft in July 1691 when he was in dire straits, to judge by the increasing number of prescriptions for him. He seems to have made a partial recovery though he was still having medicines when the book was completed in May 1693.

12. *Ivory*. This was supplied in the form of raspings from the tusks or teeth of elephants. The L.P. 1677 recommended that both ivory and hartshorn be burnt in a crucible and the ashes made into lozenges with rosewater. Our apothecary was often supplying as much as half a pound of ivory raspings at a time. Salmon says: "Being burnt, the ivory is called Spondium. Has all the virtues of ivory. Strengthens . . . helps pain at the stomach and is good against plague. Dose 1 drachm in need, in honeyed water". (Salmon p. 208b).

13. *Inf. Metall*. Not identified.

14. *Juleps*. These were diluted sweetened mixtures. A julep containing red coral was dispensed for Lord Dorset. Juleps were sometimes made by diluting a syrup, e.g. Julep Rosatum, L.P. 1677. By 1848 Redwood could write of Juleps: "A term synonymous with mixtures". (Gray p. 740).

15. *Laudanum Lond*. This was probably Sydenham's Laudanum, described by Wootton as "the first liquid preparation generally designated Laudanum". (Wootton II, p. 144). Thomas Sydenham, the physician, devised a formula of opium, saffron,

Texts and Documents

cinnamon, cloves, and Canary wine. The L.P. 1677 Preparation of Opium was made with opium extracted in spirits of wine, with saffron, compound tincture of amber, and ambergris evaporated on a water bath to a paste. This was close to the laudanum of Joseph Michaelis, c. 1644. An official pill containing opium was called *Nepenthe Opiata* (L.P. 1677). An opiate (in pots of $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. to 1 oz.) was supplied to many customers by the Court Apothecary and was labelled "for the teeth", evidently to minimize the pain of toothache.

16. *Mechoacanna*. This was the so-called "Rhubarb of Peru", and was obtained from *Ipomea mechoacanna* Linn. (Mexico), a convolvulus. Slightly purgative in action. (Gray p. 388).

17. *Manna*. This term was applied to saccharine exudations from various trees, such as the Camel's Thorn of Syria and from a species of Arabian tamarisk. (Gray pp. 253, 286). H. G. Greenish, *Materia Medica*, 3rd ed. London, Churchill, 1920, p. 521, gives the origin of manna as from the stem of the manna ash, *Fraxinus ornus*, Linn., Southern Europe. It was the dried juice resulting from incision of the bark and was in whitish pieces. Used as a mild laxative. In the day book it was noted as used in enemas.

18. *Millipedes, vivos*. Live millipedes were ordered, sixty to be bruised in 6 oz. of white wine which was then to be strained, and spirit of maidenhair and tincture of saffron added. One spoonful was to be taken in case of difficult breathing.

19. *Mithridate*. One of the polypharmacy formulae with some sixty ingredients (L.P. 1677). It has its origin in the first century A.D., and is attributed to Mithridates, King of Pontus. This was prescribed in one-drachm doses and in one case, to be spread upon leather and used as a plaster.

20. *Ointments*. These were many and varied. Two calling for notice are Ung. Nervinum Comp., a rosemary ointment with juniper and bay, prescribed for nerves and sinuses. A formula for this was in the L.P. 1677. A similar ointment was in the *Pharm. Borusicca*, 1847. The other is Ung. Martiale for which the formula in the 1677 L.P. included clover (ocimi). This was a modification of the earlier formula for Ung. Martialum of Nicolas Myrepsi which called for sixty-one herbs, seeds, and gums with bears' grease and hens' grease, etc. This ointment, according to Salmon (pp. 765a, 766b), "was prevalent against all Cold Diseases whatsoever".

21. *Peruvian Bark* (Jesuit's Bark). The bark of *Cinchona officinalis*, given in fevers. Bitter but containing quinine (Gray p. 324).

22. *Pills*. Larger than a century later. The number prescribed varied from four, six, or eight up to 120. Sometimes ordered with a draught of Rhenish wine. *Pil. Hysteric* was given as a purgative. Salmon (p. 695a) has a formula for *Pil. Hystericæ Horstii* containing herbs with Rob of Elder made into a mass, the dose being 30 grains. *Pil. Mathei* (Mathew's Pill) was also prescribed. This was a proprietary pill, devised by Dr. Starkey, an English physician during the seventeenth century. Mathew used one formula given to him by Starkey and Starkey used another for his pill. Both contained opium and yellow Castile soap (Wootton, II, pp. 153–154). A *Pil. Saponacea* became official in the L.P. 1746 and a formula was continued into the L.P. 1836.

23. *Polypodium*. What was supplied is not stated: the item is marked "Quære" in

the day book. It could have been either *Polypodium dryopteris* (small oak fern) or *P. quercinum*, the common polypodium of the oak. Slightly purgative. (Gray, p. 533.)

24. *Pleres Archoniticon*. A formula derived from Nicolas Praepositi. This was a powder made of spices, herbs, and gums, with coral, musk, and camphor. With sugar and peppermint water it was made into lozenges for Mr. Gilbert, the surgeon. "Designed as a remedy against sadness and melancholy . . .". (Salmon, pp. 643b, 644a.)

25. *Pulv. Haly*. Pulvis Haly was included in the L.P. 1618 and contained seeds of white poppy, burnt ivory, gums, liquorice, and sugar. It was a formula derived from Ali Ibn Al Abbas (d. 994), a Persian physician known for his excellent textbook on medicine. In the L.P. 1677 White Amber was added to the formula.

26. *Plasters*. These were ordered to be spread upon leather, half a skin being used on some occasions or a whole goat skin (pellis hedin tota exteni), the Domini Elliott plaster being so ordered twice for Lord Godolphin. Small plasters were supplied four at a time. Those chiefly prescribed were:

a. *Caesar's plaster*. Emp. Doctor Caesaris was included in the L.P. 1618 and was also in the L.P. 1677. The formula contained roses, coral, bone, waxes, pitch, and resin.

b. *Cephalic*. In the L.P. 1618, and in the L.P. 1677 this plaster was made with myrrh, pitch, gums, bean powder, etc. Malaga wine was used to dissolve the myrrh. This plaster was to be made in a warmed mortar.

c. *Emp. Domini Elliott*.—not identified.

d. *Plaster for Clavis*. This was to be spread upon a goat skin.

e. *Melilot*. Named after its chief ingredient, the flowers of *Melilotis officinalis*, to which were added about twenty herbs, seeds, powders, gums, suet, etc. There were two varieties—the simple and the compound (L.P. 1677).

f. *Stomachicum*. A formula derived from Mesuë was in the L.P. 1618. That in the L.P. 1677 was simpler but highly perfumed with oil of nard, lavender, and cloves.

g. *Sticticum*. The basis was lead and galbanum plasters, with canella and frankincense. A pound of this was supplied to Richard Young of Marlow. No directions for use were entered in the day book and it is possible that Young was an apothecary. Salmon (p. 790a) describes it as a plaster against punctures, pricks, and wounds.

h. *Vesicul*. As dispensed by our apothecary this contained Tacamahacca (q.v.). Salmon (p. 794a) gives two formulae: (1) Mynsicht's Blistering Plaster, of which the important ingredients were cantharides, ginger and long pepper; and (2) Schroder's Blistering Plaster, also having cantharides as its principal ingredient.

27. *Pearls (Margaritae)*. These were so often part of a prescription that it is to be regretted that no charge is indicated in the day book when pearls were an ingredient in the medicine. Pearls and semi-precious stones formed part of the composite confections of the L.P. 1618. Their use in medicine continued at least until 1746. In the L.P. 1677 no less than twenty-seven semi-precious stones, including two kinds of coral, were listed as entering into one or more official preparations. Pearls were understood to strengthen and comfort the heart (Salmon p. 428b). Pearls were often powdered in a steel or iron mortar and levigated upon a marble slab with rosewater until in a fine powder when they could be made into little balls. When compounded

Texts and Documents

with other ingredients, the pearls were first powdered or dissolved. Pearls in the form of half an ounce of powder were prescribed for Lord Dorset, and a special lozenge was made for him containing pearls, confection of alkermes, spirit of lavender, and oil of cinnamon. The lozenges were to weigh one drachm each and to be taken every four hours or *ad libitum*.

28. *Syrups*. Many of these were ordered, usually for flavouring, such as cloves or violets. A ground ivy syrup required fourteen roots, fourteen herbs, and four seeds, a highly complex formula, official in the L.P. 1677, as *Syr Ivae Arthriticae*.

29. *Tachamahacca*. A number of different trees were supposed to yield a gum, resin or balsam which produced the tachamahacca used so extensively in the seventeenth century and in the early eighteenth century. The tachamahacca of commerce was either from Curaçao and South America (*Fagara octonaria*, Linn., or *Amyria ambrosiana*), or the *Populus balsamifera*, the Caroline poplar of North America or Siberia. The buds were gathered and their resinous excretion was brought to Europe. It was said to be diuretic and antiscorbutic (Salmon p. 175a, Gray pp. 237, 248, 472). Salmon also states that it was a new-found gum from New Spain. It was mentioned by Monardes and by John Frampton in *Joyfull newes out of the Newe found world*, 1577. It was dispensed by our apothecary as a stomachic.

30. *Tea*. There are three entries for Lord Dorset of "Ingredients pro Thea". What was supplied is not stated except that it was put into paper folders, six supplied at a time.

31. *Theriaca (treacles)*. There were three important Theriaca in the pharmacopoeia. As the name implies they were semi-solid preparations. The most noted were Ther. Andromachus (Ther. Venetii), and Ther. Londinensis. They were used against poisoning and the plague and were to be found in all formularies from the fifteenth century onwards. Treacle-mongers (or triaclers) were known in York and in London in the fifteenth century. All the official formulae contained at least fifty ingredients and some many more. Drug Jars, even into the eighteenth century, often bore abbreviated names of the Theriaca upon the labels.

32. *Tinctura Sacrae*—not identified.

33. *Tobacco*. Often prescribed as an enema. Pigs Tails Tobacco was supplied in $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. lots for Madame Cole. As no directions were given, there is no information about its use. Tobacco was customarily used as an infusion.

34. *Urina hom. San. (The urine of a healthy man)*. This was prescribed only once. It was for Miss Elizabeth Lewis who was a patient for almost two years, and for whom heavy medication was continuously ordered. To twelve ounces of the urine there was added half an ounce of Venetian treacle made into an emulsion with egg, hiera picra one and a half drachms, and oil of chamomile one ounce. For use as an enema.

35. *Waters*. During the latter half of the seventeenth century and the succeeding two centuries, medicinal waters from almost every source were greatly in favour. They were obtainable either or prescription, by visiting the source, or from apothecaries and mineral water bottle stores. Our apothecary was well stocked with the more usual varieties needed in the late seventeenth century. Eleven waters have been noted in the day book:

a. *Barley water*. This was flavoured with cloves.

Texts and Documents

- b. *Cinnamon water*. This was usually given with spirit of sulphur.
- c. *Epidemica* (sometimes written "Epidemia"). A formula for this was in the L.P. 1677. Roots, leaves, and herbs were digested in spring water and rectified spirit on a water-bath for three days, then distilled. This was the London plague water. (Salmon pp. 442b, 443a.)
- d. *Epsom water*. Known from about 1620. It was in use from the mid-seventeenth century. Its properties were first described and the salt extracted in 1695 by Dr. Nehemiah Grew, F.R.S. (1628–1711). Grew patented his process in 1698.
- e. *Lactis*. This was sent out in 1 lb. bottles. There is no indication whether it was the Alexiterial Milk Water of the pharmacopoeia and which was made by distilling handfuls of half-a-dozen herbs in four gallons of milk. John Quincy said of this: "In the opinion of many the ingredients are very ill chosen". (Quincy, p. 368.)
- f. *Paralyticus*. Not identified.
- g. *Pestilentia*. A variant of Epidemica water. Often prescribed in 2 lb. bottles at a time.
- h. *Queen of Hungary's water*. A formula for this attributed to A.D. 1215, and is said to have been written by a Queen Elizabeth of Hungary. The tops and flowers of rosemary were macerated and afterwards distilled in strong aqua vitae. The dose then recommended was a teaspoonful once a week. (Wootton, I, pp. 296–298). What in fact was supplied was a strong tincture of rosemary flowers. "The Queen of Hungary's Water [is] so much esteemed and cry'd up all the world over". (Salmon, p. 119a.)
- i. *Streatham water*. Often supplied. Streatham water was noted by John Aubrey in his *Natural history and antiquities of Surrey*, London, 1673. It was discovered when horses floundered in a quagmire in 1660, the springs causing the quagmire being found to have a medicinal value. The water came into general use before 1686 and was very new to medicine when prescribed and supplied as noted in the daybook. It seems to have been used as an emetic and against intestinal worms. The water fell out of favour and the well closed about 1800. A new well, opened later, never achieved the reputation of the first well.
- j. *Treacle water*. Made from the juices of walnut, lemon rue, and other herbs, with old Venice treacle, Canary wine, etc. All digested and distilled. Aqua Thericalis was in the L.P. 1677.
- k. *Walnut Compound water*. Prescribed as a vomitorium. The L.P. 1677 formula required green walnuts, radish roots, and seeds, with green leaves of Ajarabacca; all to be macerated in white wine vinegar and the liquor to be drawn off in a glass still.
- l. There were two unusual waters specially prepared for important customers:
- i. for Mme. Noell. One-pound lots of twenty kinds of herbs and roots, with 2 lb. of rosemary, etc., were macerated in three gallons of white wine and one gallon of Canary wine. All to be distilled, the final two gallons of finished preparation were to be sent out in a glass bottle.
 - ii. For William Gwilym. A drink made of orange juice, lemon juice, orange peel, and juniper, macerated in white wine, strained and sweetened. To be labelled "Ye Specified Antiscorbutick Drink".