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USE OF MEDICINES IN NORTHERN JUTLAND, DENMARK, IN THE 1790s

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The study is based on a pharmacy prescription book from Aalborg Swan Pharmacy, Jutland, which was kept in the period 1794 – 1806. The book is a form of protocol in which the pharmacy recorded copies of prescriptions brought in for dispensing. The book is the oldest known source of information about the activities of a Danish pharmacy as a supplier of medicines to the local population. The study includes 568 patients and 2,298 prescriptions of which about one-third were for medicines described in “Pharmacopoea Danica 1772”, while the others were individually prescribed medicines, primarily composed by combining the substances and preparations mentioned in the pharmacopoeia. The data of the prescription book and contemporary census papers have made it possible to identify the patients. Besides number, additionally sex, social status and address of the patients have been surveyed. The study shows that mainly well-to-do and well-educated persons and their households used prescribed medicines in case of illness.