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AN ANTIDIABETIC REMEDY: URANADO PESQUI WINE

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The discovery of Uraninite in the mineral Pitchblende, by the German chemist Martin Heinrich Klaproth in 1789, had important medical repercussions. This discovery in 1841 allowed scientists to make a uranium nitrate which was used for the prevention and treatment of diabetes. Uranado Pesqui was one of the medications produced by the Spanish pharmaceutical industry, specifically the Pesqui Laboratories, and was used as an antidiabetic and restorative treatment due to its composition, uranium nitrate and Calisaya bark respectively. This industry was established in Guipuzcoa. Uranado Pesqui Wine was manufactured from 1897 and was available as proprietary medicine on the Spanish market between 1920 and 1967 and was also exported in large quantities to Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Turkey and Egypt during the 1940's and 50's.

The label and leaflet were designed aesthetically. This had three motives: firstly to draw the attention of prospective clients, secondly to inform them about how to distinguish possible counterfeits and lastly, instructions on how to administer it to the sick.

Despite the fact that Uranium nitrate had been disregarded as a treatment in France due to its radioactive side effects in the last quarter of the 19th century, Uranite Pesqui wine remained on the market until 1967.