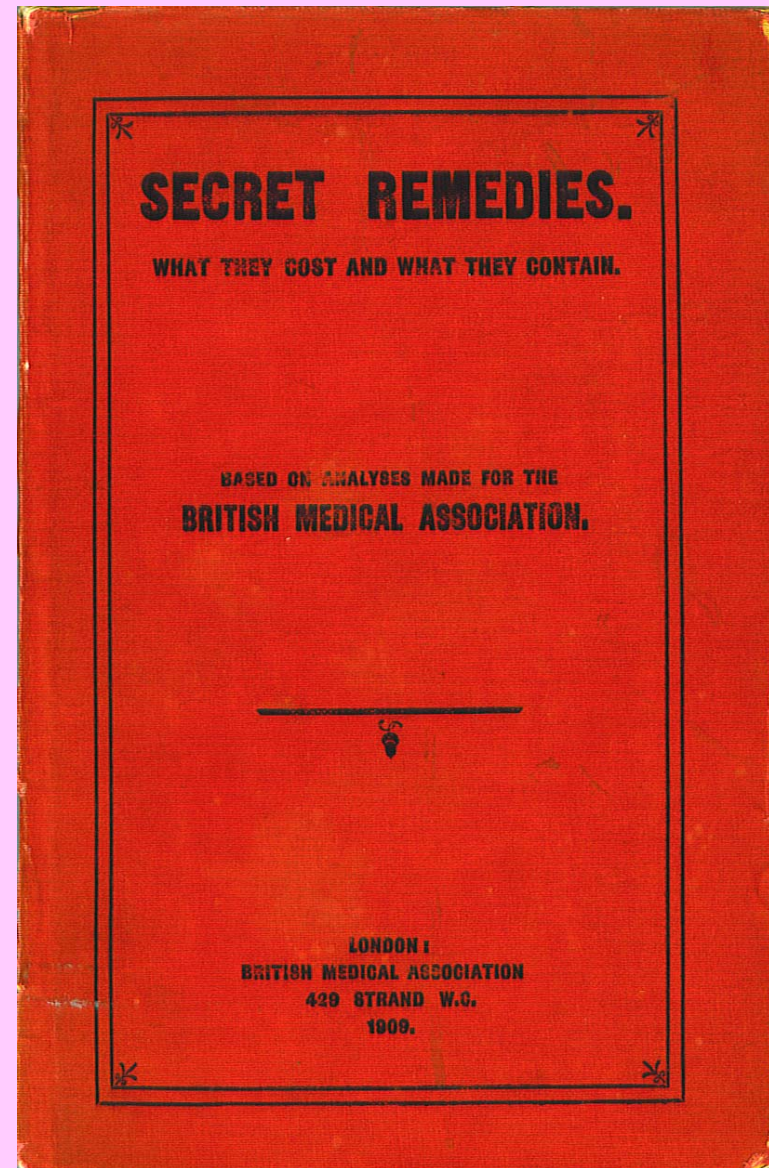


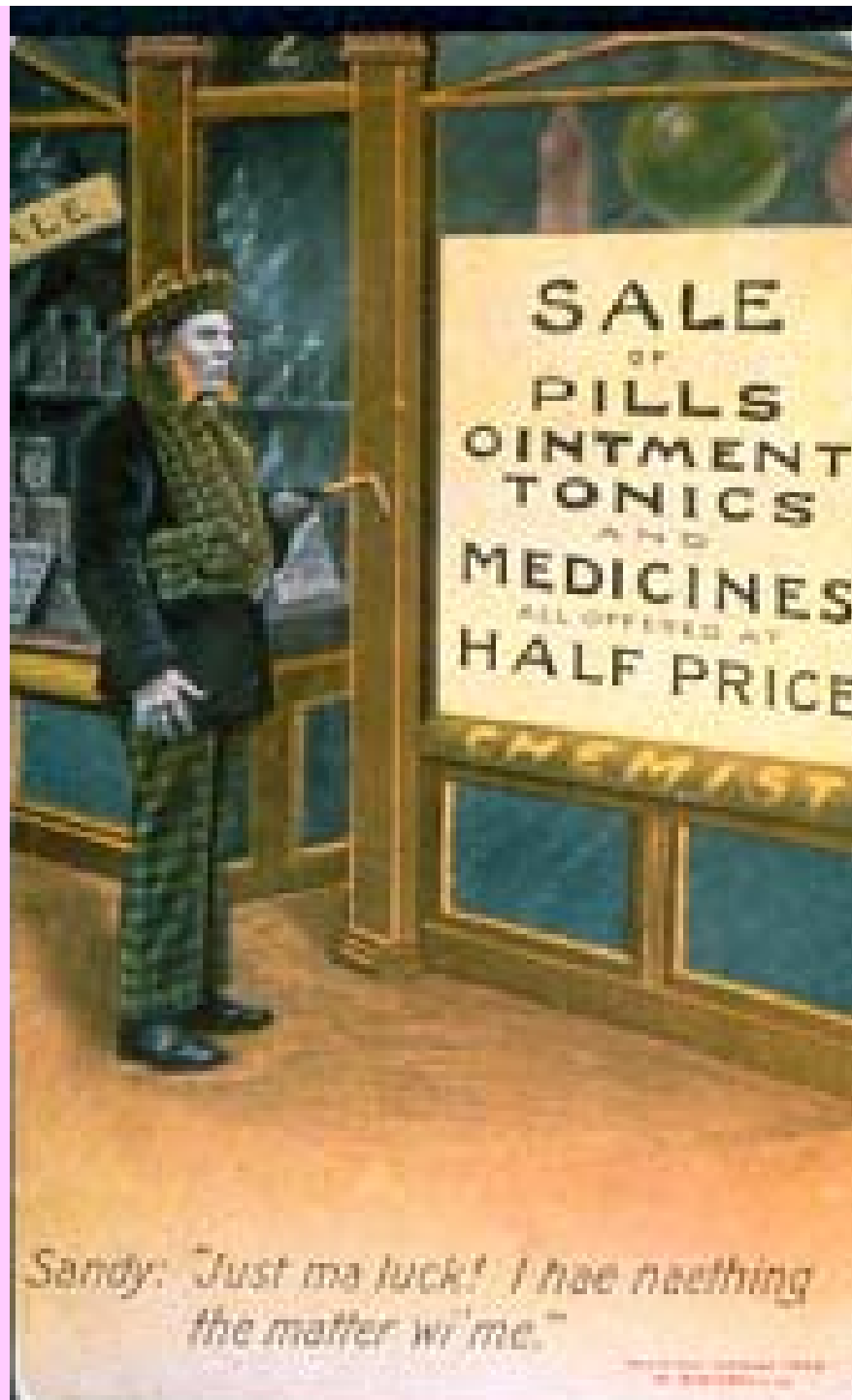
What They Cost and What They Contain



Peter G Homan
FRPharmS, MCPP Emeritus
Honorary Secretary BSHP



Images courtesy of the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society



*Sandy: "Just ma luck! I hae naething
the matter wi' me."*

PHARMACY GENERAL STORE
OF BIRMINGHAM



TABLE SHOWING RATES OF DUTY, NUMBER OF ARTICLES STAMPED
AND APPROXIMATE SUM PAID BY THE PUBLIC IN THE YEAR
ENDING MARCH 31ST, 1908.

Price of Article without stamp.	Stamp.	Number of articles stamped.	Price paid by public.
£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.
0 1 0	0 1½	33,037,202	1,858,342 12 0
0 2 6	0 3	7,565,822	1,040,300 10 0
0 4 0	0 6	1,002,549	225,573 10 6
0 10 0	1 0	122,249	67,236 19 0
1 0 0	2 0	18,445	20,289 10 0
1 10 0	3 0	11,308	18,658 4 0
		41,757,575	3,230,401 5 6

SECRET REMEDIES.

WHAT THEY COST AND WHAT THEY CONTAIN.

BASED ON ANALYSES MADE FOR THE
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

LONDON:
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
429 STRAND W.C.
1909.

It is not, however, only the poorer classes of the community who have a weakness for secret remedies and the ministration of quacks; the well-to-do and the highly-placed will often, when not very ill, take a curious pleasure in experimenting with mysterious compounds.. In them it is perhaps to be traced to a hankering to break safely with orthodoxy; they scrupulously obey the law and the Church and Mrs. Grundy, but will have their fling against medicine. Usually, however, people of these classes take to some system. It used to be electricity or hypnotism or some eccentricity of diet; nowadays it is more often Christian Science.

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CHAPTER I.

CATARRH AND COLD CURES.

THE analyses here given of some of the proprietary articles which the public are induced to buy for the cure of ordinary colds and catarrh furnish a good example of the absurdity of the barefaced pretensions in which nostrum-mongers indulge, for minor ailments are by no means neglected by the makers of nostrums; if the price to be obtained is somewhat lower than in the case of more serious disorders the cost price can be reduced in an equal or greater proportion. Alarming accounts, too, of the evils to be expected if resort be not had to the advertised articles are not wanting. Thus, in the advertisement of one of the articles described below, it is stated that catarrh "invariably creates biliousness, constipation, pleurisy, asthma, bronchitis, catarrhal fever, and consumption"; also that "it is estimated that over 20,000 people died in the United Kingdom last year of consumption caused by catarrh." The remedy put forward for this malignant disease is shown by analysis to consist of a solution of a pinch of common salt with a trace of carbolic acid, the actual cost of the quantity sold for a shilling being one-thirtieth part of a farthing. The probability that many people would regard a slight cold in the head as not requiring a resort to a "specialist in chronic disease in every form" such as the proprietor of this preparation, is turned to account by a disparaging reference to the medical profession. "Catarrh," we are told, "in its chronic form (and the complaints arising from it) is a malady which has not, up to the present time, received that attention and research from the medical faculty

which it deserves. Most practitioners have given it merely a passing thought, or poohed at it as a mere cold which would soon pass off, and perhaps give some light tonic to tone up the stomach." Another of the "remedies" described well illustrates the way in which the public is deluded by such "specialists"; camphor, quinine and ipecacuanha are frequently employed as domestic remedies in the early stages of a cold in the head, and persons who believe in their usefulness can no doubt be induced to buy a "cold cure" which professes to contain them in combination with other drugs, presented in a form convenient and agreeable to be taken; but in the tablets which are represented as consisting of cascara, bromide, quinine, ipecacuanha, camphor and bryonia, analysis did not reveal any appreciable traces of cascara, bromide, quinine, ipecacuanha, or camphor. The principal ingredients actually present were cinchonine, an alkaloid found in the bark from which quinine is prepared but cheaper than quinine, and acetanilide, a chemical better known under the name antifebrin, both in very small doses.

Many proprietary medicines of varied kinds are recommended for colds among a host of other complaints for which they are stated to possess curative powers. Apart, however, from such inclusive recommendations, a considerable number are put forward expressly and primarily for cold and catarrh, and it is a selection of these which is here described.

DR. LANE'S CATARRH CURE.

This is prepared and sold by a Company giving an address in London. The price is 1s. a bottle, containing $2\frac{1}{2}$ fluid ounces.

Much printed matter is supplied with this preparation, and a few extracts are here given:

Catarrh, in its chronic form (and the complaints arising from it), is a malady which has not, up to the present time, received that attention and research from the medical faculty which it deserves. Most practitioners have given it merely a passing thought, or poohed at it as a mere cold which would soon pass off, and perhaps give some light tonic to tone up the stomach. And therein lies the fatal error, for Catarrh is a disease that cannot be trifled with, as millions can only too surely testify.

. . . to let any part or organ of the system become diseased breeds the seeds of a host of other complaints, as all the organs of the body are in sympathy with each other. The cause of this is easily explained in a case of Catarrh . . . It invariably creates Biliousness, Constipation, Pleurisy, Asthma, Bronchitis, Catarrhal Fever, and Consumption.

It is estimated that over 20,000 people died in the United Kingdom last year of Consumption caused by Catarrh.

The speciality of myself and Associate Physicians is chronic disease in every form. Our library was selected to this end, and the Herbal World explored for this purpose—the successful treatment of chronic disease.

We have never seen one out of five hundred of the patients whom we have cured. Most cases can be treated just as well at a distance as if we saw them in person; as our experience enables us to judge correctly from a written description the nature and extent of the disease under which the patient is labouring.

The preparation is described on the wrapper as:

The *Only Reliable* and Effective Preparation for the Permanent and *Radical Cure* of this most dangerous disease.

The directions on the label are:

For Catarrh.—Pour one-half tea-spoonful in the palm of the hand, close one nostril with the finger, and inhale the liquid through the open nostril with sufficient force to carry the spray down into the throat. Inhale another half tea-spoonful through the other nostril in the same way; it is not advisable to swallow the Catarrh Cure—however, it is perfectly harmless if you chance to do so. Use night and morning and in extreme cases three times a day.

Analysis showed the composition of the liquid to be:

Phenol (carbolic acid)	....	....	0.4 part.
Sodium chloride (common salt)	....	....	3.3 parts.
Water to	....	....	100 fluid parts.

The traces of impurities usually present in common salt were also found.

The estimated cost of the ingredients in $2\frac{1}{2}$ fluid ounces is one-thirtieth of a farthing.

VAN VLECK'S CATARRH BALM.

This balm is supplied by an American Company having an address in London. The price charged is 4s. 6d. for a package containing $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

In an accompanying circular it is stated that:

This preparation is perfectly harmless, readily absorbed, and through its healing, soothing action affords immediate relief and quickly cures Catarrh of

CHAPTER II – COUGH MEDICINES



CHAPTER III – CONSUMPTION CURES

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1904 393

For 75 years
The most successful Remedy for

Consumption

also for **COLDS, &
COUGHS,**
**ASTHMA,
BRONCHITIS,**
has been

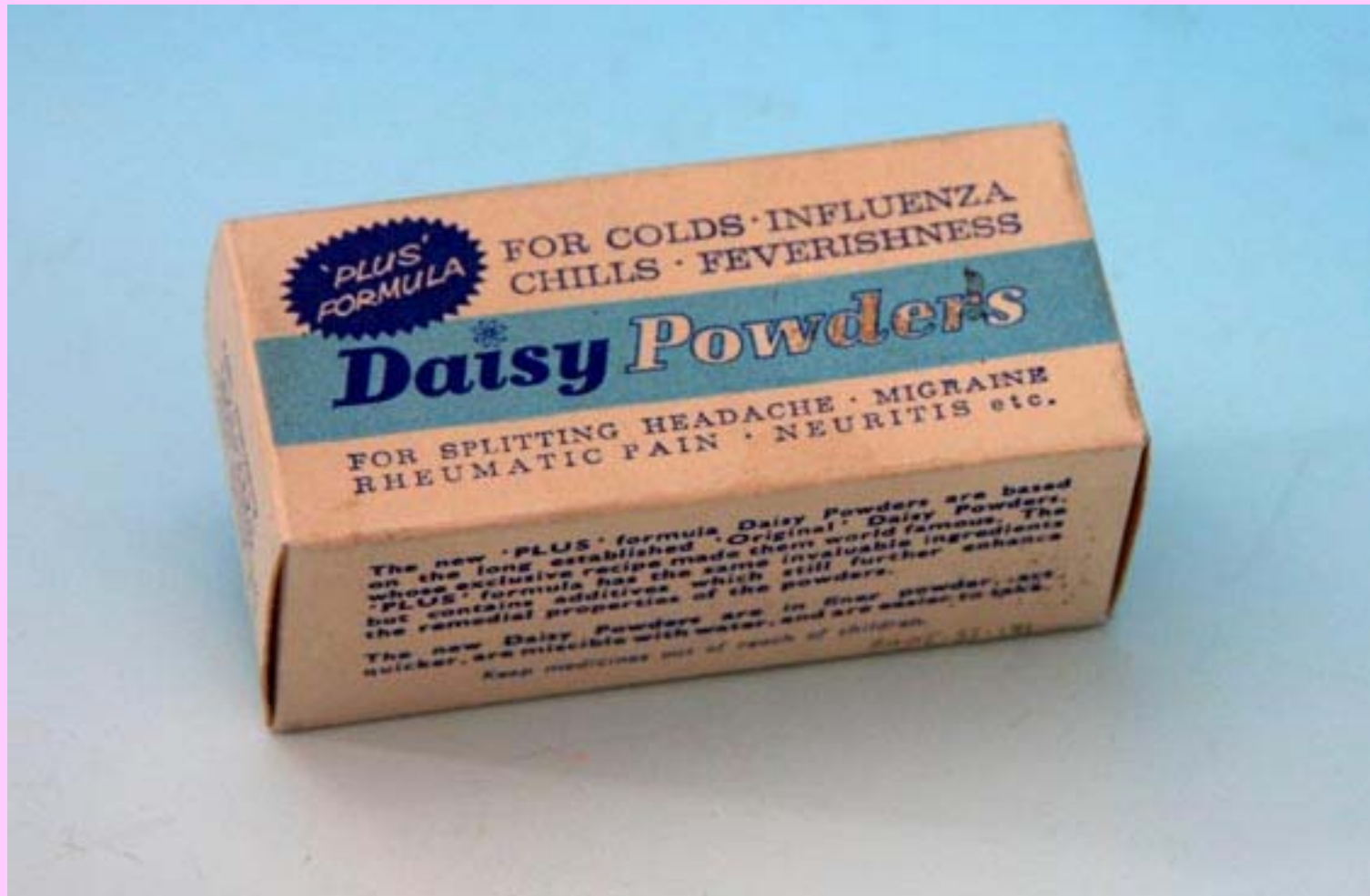
Congreve's Balsamic Elixir.

Sold Everywhere.

Congreve's New Book on Consumption (an entirely New Edition by J. Alexander Brown), 6d., post free from Coombe Lodge, Peckham, London, S.E.

Regd P.H.

CHAPTER IV – HEADACHE POWDERS



CHAPTER V - BLOOD PURIFIERS



CHAPTER VI – REMEDIES FOR GOUT, RHEUMATISM, AND NEURALGIA



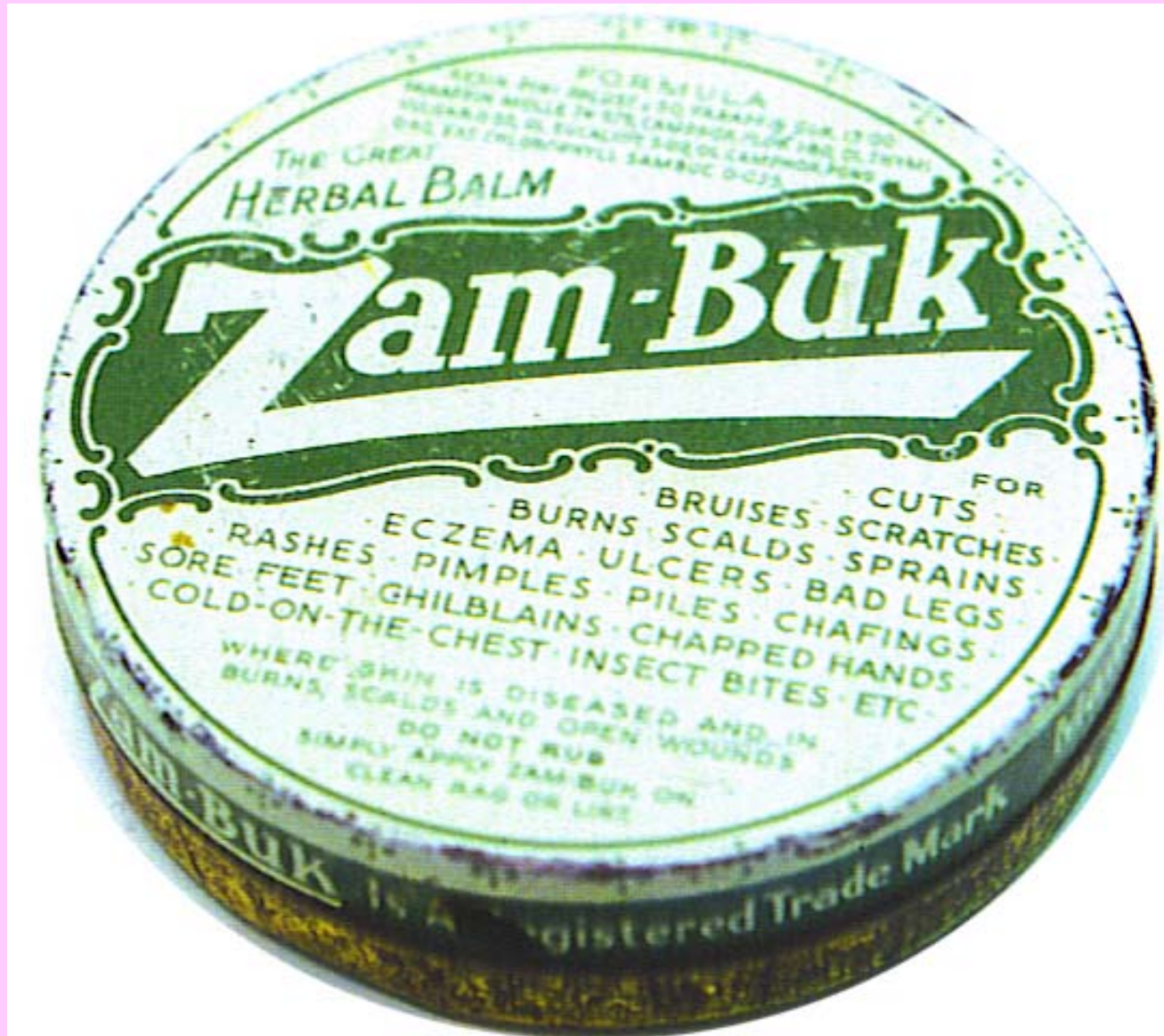
CHAPTER VII – KIDNEY MEDICINES



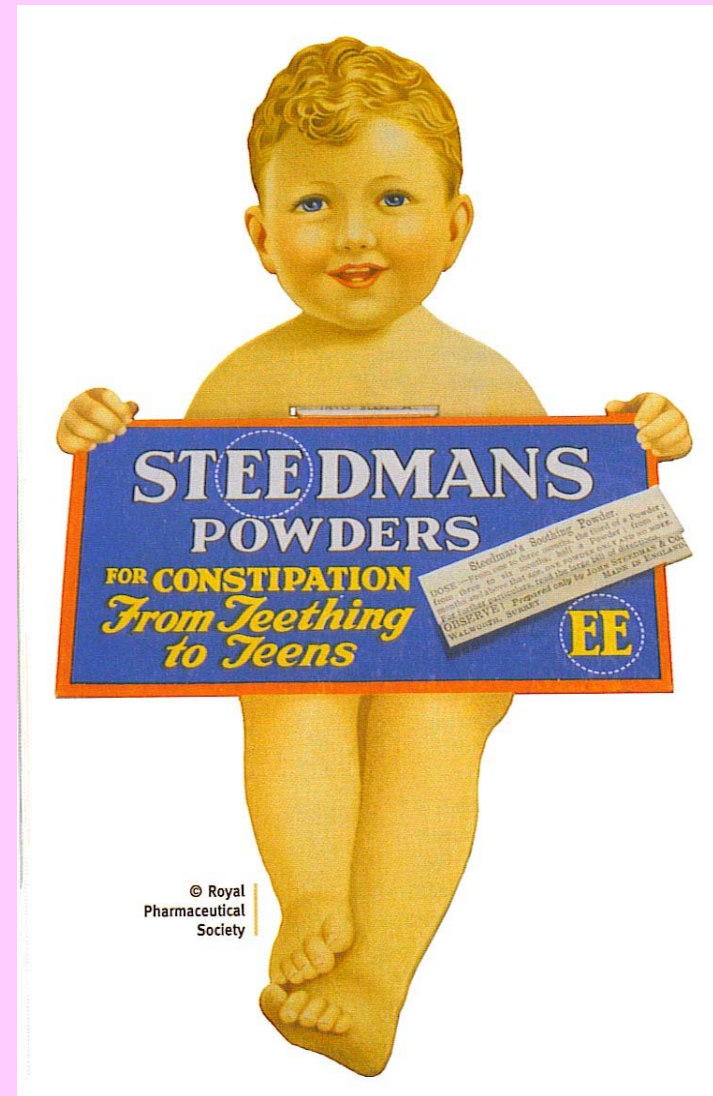
CHAPTER IX – OBESITY CURES



CHAPTER X – SKIN DISEASES



CHAPTER XIV – SOOTHING, TEETHING AND COOLING POWDERS FOR CHILDREN



CHAPTER XV1 – REMEDIES FOR EYE DISEASES



CHAPTER XV11 – REMEDIES FOR PILES



CHAPTER XX – CURE ALLS



SECRET REMEDIES.

WHAT THEY COST AND WHAT THEY CONTAIN.

BASED ON ANALYSES MADE FOR THE
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



LONDON:
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
429 STRAND W.C.
1909.

SECRET REMEDIES.

WHAT THEY COST AND WHAT THEY CONTAIN.

BASED ON ANALYSES MADE FOR THE
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH THOUSAND.

LONDON:
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
429 STRAND W.C.
1909.

PRICE ONE SHILLING NET.

**MORE
SECRET REMEDIES.**

WHAT THEY COST AND WHAT THEY CONTAIN.

BASED ON ANALYSES MADE FOR THE
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

SECRET REMEDIES—SECOND SERIES.

Price 1s. net.

LONDON:
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
429 STRAND, W.C.
1912.

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Enjoy relief from lower back pain!

The Doctor Approved 'Pelvic Back Ease Belt' will –

Banish Lower Back Pain Quickly – Even if You've Suffered for Years!

"I retired a good few years ago, but I still do a bit of consultancy work from home. That's not bad – considering the fact that I will celebrate my 80th birthday next year!

Eighteen months ago, I was having a great deal of trouble with lower back pain. In fact, I could barely walk across the room – or stoop to pick something up without suffering excruciating pain. A friend recommended a highly-regarded (but expensive!) doctor that he had used in the past. I paid for a private consultation, but believe me – it was worth every penny! This doctor suggested that I try the **Pelvic Back Ease Belt** with magnets. I tried it – and I've never looked back. And that's why I am sharing my discovery with you!

The 'Pelvic Back Ease Belt' Transformed My Quality of Life!

The first amazing fact I learned was that back pain does not begin in the back! The pelvic area is where the trouble starts. This part of the body takes all the jolts and stresses from walking or standing – causing inflammation of the nerves. Stabbing pain trav-

els upward from the pelvic area and strikes your back muscles. This is how the doctor explained the problem to me – and that is why he asked me to try the **Pelvic Back Ease Belt**. Many of his patients had experienced almost miraculous results using the belt – and I was eager to try this new and different method in my long battle against lower back pain

Radical improvement within an hour!

I fastened the belt just below my waist and it sat comfortably on my hips. The results were almost instant! Within an hour, I could truthfully say that I was nearly pain-free! Now you couldn't part me from

my **Pelvic Back Ease Belt!** It has given me back freedom of movement I haven't enjoyed for decades! I enjoy walks in the fresh air... I drive long distances... I do the shopping and routine household chores... and I even go bowling... without back pain! Remarkably, the belt is not cumbersome or bulky. Nobody can see it and I actually forget that I'm wearing it. I am so thrilled with the **Pelvic Back Ease Belt** and the benefits it has brought to my life – I wanted to share this news with other sufferers of chronic lower back pain."

These are the words of Mr Cartwright – extracted from a letter he wrote to

our offices. His testimonial is typical of hundreds that we have received from satisfied customers!

No-Risk Money Back Guarantee

We are now offering you the chance to try the belt – including magnets – for a full 8 months. If, after wearing it, you are not thrilled with the results. If it doesn't bring you amazing relief from lower back pain or if you are not completely satisfied for any other reason simply return the belt to us – and we'll refund your payment in full.

The Belt Will Be Your Secret – It's Invisible!

ORDER 2 AND SAVE £17

Lines Open 8am to 9pm Mon-Fri 9am to 8pm Sat-Sun



0871 224 0777

AND ASK FOR DEPT 65B

Send to: Windsor Health, Dept 65B, Emery House, Greatbridge Road, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0AD

- YES** Please send me for a 3 month trial, a 'Pelvic Back Ease Belt' for £19.95 + £3.95 insured p&p on the understanding that I can return it within 3 months for a full refund
- I enclose a cheque/PO for £ payable to Windsor Health
- SAVE £17.00** – TWO 'Pelvic Back Ease Belts' for £26.85 + £3.95 insured p&p
- Please charge my VISA/MASTER/SWITCH/DELTA/MAESTRO:

Please indicate the size and quantity required.

SIZE	QUANTITY
SMALL – Up to 34" waist	
LARGE – 35" waist and over	

START EXP ISSUE SIGNATURE
 TITLE NAME D.O.B.
 ADDRESS COUNTRY (PLEASE PRINT)
 POST CODE
 TELEPHONE
 EMAIL

Delivery normally within one week but please allow up to 28 days. If you do not wish to receive other interesting offers from reputable companies, please tick this box Postage and packaging is non-refundable.

visit www.windsorproducts.com/65B

THANK YOU

My thanks to the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society
for the images used in this presentation

AMPUTATION AVOIDED. THE KNIFE SUPERSEDED.

TRADE MARK.
REGISTERED OVER ALL THE
GLOBE.



TRADE MARK.
REGISTERED OVER ALL THE
GLOBE.

E. BURGESS' LION OINTMENT & PILLS

Cure the worst and most obstinate cases of Ulcers, Abscesses, Cancers, Tumours, Polypi, Carbuncles, Piles, Poisoned Wounds of all kinds (including Dog and Venomous Bites), and every form of Eruption and Skin Disease; also Ulcerated and Cancerous Affections peculiar to Females, without the aid of Lancet or Knife. Numbers have been cured after leaving various London Hospitals as incurable, or curable only by amputation.

The following are specimens of Testimonials received. A list of over sixty, each bearing full name and address, is wrapped round each box.

ERSKINE HOUSE, NEAR TIDAL BASIN, VICTORIA DOCKS: Dec. 31, 1883.

DEAR SIR.—I beg to inform you I have not a spot about me, and I believe you are an instrument in the Almighty's hands to do a world of good for your fellow-creatures. Anyone to have seen me this time twelve months, and see me now, would say it was the greatest miracle ever made in skin disease. I have had spots on me for about forty years, have taken medicine of every description, baths, &c., &c., until November, 1882, and nothing ever could touch it. I was then recommended to use the Lion Ointment and Pills as a certain cure, and I found them the masterpiece of the world. I have consulted great men, and they could not touch it. People must not be afraid of using the Lion Ointment; the more it plinches them the more it is drawing the disease out—only persevere, and the Lion Ointment and Pills will do their work. Now, God bless you in your undertaking.—From yours faithfully,
SILVESTER STONEHOUSE STUART.

ALMA ROAD, next door to EAST HILL HOTEL, WANDSWORTH, late 2 BOLTON ROAD, GROVE PARK, CHRISWICK, MIDDLESEX: February 7, 1883.

DEAR SIR.—I am happy to forward to you the following testimonial of the great value of your Lion Ointment and Pills. Through the ill-treatment of my husband I have been suffering with poisoned blood, and, in consequence, a large abscess formed in my neck, also syphilis affecting my leg. I have, too, been suffering many years from a diseased hip. I consulted several physicians, who said that I should not recover unless I had the bone taken out. Last May, 1882, I was advised to use your Lion Ointment and Pills, by so doing I can scarcely describe the benefit I received in a very short time, and I am happy to tell you that they saved my life, and I am now perfectly cured. Hoping through my case your wonderful Ointment and Pills may get well known for the benefit of my poor fellow-creatures. You are at liberty to refer anyone to me at any time should you wish.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully, ELIZABETH STILLWELL.

To MR. E. BURGESS.

PERSPECT HOUSE, AMERHAM COMMON: June 28, 1881.

SIR.—Please send me by return one box of your Pills. The box of Lion Ointment I sent for is for Erysipelas in the face; do you think it suitable? (Most efficient.) Also send me another box of the Lion Ointment, I have enclosed stamps for the same. I have had Ointment from you before through a friend of mine. I had been suffering from a small tumour in the head for some years, and had the advice of medical men, and all said I must have it taken out; but, on applying your Ointment, in a fortnight it drew it out and made a complete cure of it.—Yours respectfully,
MRS. E. HILL.

To MR. E. BURGESS.

MRS. E. HILL.

ELM LODGE, WIMBLETON PARK, late 26 BALLANTINE STREET, YORK ROAD, WANDSWORTH: January 17, 1881.

DEAR SIR.—Having attended St. Thomas' Hospital for nine months, suffering greatly with a tumour, extending from the back of the ear to the collar bone, affecting the shoulder, and receiving not the least benefit, I was earnestly persuaded to give your Lion Ointment a trial. By so doing I can scarcely describe the benefit I received in a very short time. I am truly thankful to state I am quite well and am able to resume my duties without trouble or inconvenience. I was also attended by several doctors during the five years I have been suffering from the tumour, not having received the slightest benefit. Dear Sir, you are at liberty to publish this, or send anyone to my residence for satisfaction.—I am, Sir, yours most respectfully,
MRS. H. GRIFFIN.

To MR. BURGESS.
(The above was a most serious case. Photographs of the same, unscathed and cured, and the Fungus and Diseased Bone drawn away by the Ointment, can be seen on application at 117 High Holborn, W.C.)

7 SHAFFESBURY PLACE, ALDERGATE STREET, E.C.: May 20, 1882.

SIR.—It gives me great pleasure to add to your numerous testimonials. For four years I suffered with a very bad leg, and attended St. Bartholomew's, the University, and Dalston Hospitals, and various Dispensaries, where they told me it was a cancerous ulcer, incurable, that I must lose my leg. However, being recommended to use your Lion Ointment, I did so, and in three months the cancer was drawn away, and my leg made quite well.—I remain, yours &c.,
LUCY IBBS.

To MR. E. BURGESS.

VERULAM, PORT NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA: March 1, 1881.

DEAR SIR.—I feel it my duty to thank you for the wonderful way in which your Lion Ointment has cured my hand of skin disease, which I had endured for over nine years. When I was residing at St. John's Hill, Wandsworth, I purchased a box of your Ointment, and by the end of the fourth week it had perfectly cured my hand, and I have seen nothing of it since. Previously to applying your Ointment, I had been to my own doctor at Wandsworth with it, and also to several Skin Disease Hospitals in London, but to no avail. They said it could not be cured, and must, therefore, be endured; but, as I said before, your Ointment has cured it. When I cannot move (two months ago), I brought some with me, and my girl did for me, I have found it very useful. I gave some to a gentleman who had his legs covered with Natal sores, and could not walk for them, and it has perfectly cured them. I have been obliged to send home to my friends to send me out some, which I expect shortly to arrive, for, as I said before, it is very useful; in fact, cures everything in which I have tried it. If only you had an agent here, I would recommend it to everybody.—I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.,
SUSAN S. SMITH.

Mr. Burgess.

SUSAN S. SMITH.

Various Cancers, Tumours, Diseased Bones, &c., extracted by the LION OINTMENT AND PILLS; also Photographs of Cases Cured are on view at 117 High Holborn. A guarantee of their virtue.

A good sale for this remedy always follows its introduction by proof of its efficacy. Foreign Houses will do well to order samples through their English agents, also supplies of Bills, PHOTOGRAPHS OF CASES CURED, &c., which ALWAYS ensure a connection.

The Ointment is put up in air-tight, grease-proof boxes, and will keep good any length of time in any climate. The Pills are in stout wooden boxes, and also retain their virtue for years. Prices, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 11s., and 22s. each.

USUAL WHOLESALE TERMS.

E. BURGESS,
117 HIGH HOLBORN, and KINGSGATE ST., LONDON, W.C.
Late WANDSWORTH, S.W.

LARGEST SALES! QUICKEST TURNOVER!

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

BEECHAM'S  PILLS

FOR ALL

Bilious and Nervous Disorders.

Sick Headache, Constipation,

Wind and Pains in Stomach, Impaired Digestion,

Disordered Liver, and Female Ailments.

The Sale now EXCEEDS SIX MILLION BOXES per annum.

Druggists will find BEECHAM'S PILLS the MOST SALEABLE
Patent Medicine in the Market.



Contains 56 Pills.

BEECHAM'S COUGH PILLS

STAND UNRIVALLED FOR

***Coughs, Asthma, Bronchial Affections,
Hoarseness, &c., &c.***

In Boxes, 1s. 1 1/2 d. and 2s. 9 d. each, with full directions.

BEECHAM'S TOOTH PASTE

RECOMMENDS ITSELF.

It is Efficacious, Economical, Cleanses the Teeth, Perfumes the
Breath, and is a Reliable and Pleasant Dentifrice.

In Collapsible Tubes, of all Druggists, ONE SHILLING each.

Home Retailers of BEECHAM'S PILLS desirous of exhibiting Show Cards or
Dummies, and wishful to have a good supply of Handbills (various sizes and colours, with name and address
at foot), Oracles, Puzzles, &c., should apply to the Proprietor—

THOMAS BEECHAM, ST. HELENS, LANCASHIRE.

BEECHAM'S PILLS.

A box of these pills, advertised to be worth a guinea, is sold for 1s. 1½d., and the prime cost of the ingredients of the 56 pills it contains is about half a farthing.

In a circular wrapped round the box it is stated that "these renowned pills are composed entirely of Medicinal Herbs," and cure Constipation, Headache, Dizziness or Swimming in the Head, Wind, Pain, and Spasms at the Stomach, Pains in the Back, Restlessness, Insomnia, Indigestion, Want of Appetite, Fullness after Meals, Vomitings, Sickness of the Stomach, Bilious or Liver Complaints, Sick Headaches, Cold Chills, Flushings of Heat, Lowness of Spirits, and all Nervous Affections, Scurvy and Scorbutic Affections, Pimples and Blotches on the Skin, Bad Legs, Ulcers, Wounds, Maladies of Indiscretion, Kidney and Urinary Disorders, and Menstrual Derangements.

The pills had an average weight of 1¼ grains, and analysis showed them to consist of aloes, ginger, and soap; no other medicinal ingredient was found. The quantities were approximately as follows:

Aloes	....	....	....	....	....	0·5 grain.
Powdered ginger	....	....	....	....	....	0·55 „
Powdered soap	....	....	....	....	....	0·18 „

In one pill.

