Medical Bibliography

THE EDINBURGH PHARMACOPOEIA*

BY

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II. BIBLIOGRAPHY

In preparing this bibliography of the various editions and printings of the Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia, only those works in which the Pharmacopoeia appeared in its entirety and maintained its identity were included. This meant that the great number of dispensatories, conspectuses, and compendiums into which the Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia (along with the London and Dublin Pharmacopoeias) was absorbed have not been included.

The check-list that follows has been compiled from various bibliographies and historical sources, from printed library catalogues, and from correspondence with—or visits to, in a good number—about 150 libraries in the United States and Canada, and over 40 libraries in the British Isles, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Denmark. The assistance of librarians, not a few of whom contributed information and suggestions that would not otherwise have been obtained, was of incalculable value.

Every reference the compiler has found is included in the check-list, with the exception of obvious misprints (e.g. 1674 for 1774, 1856 for 1756). Variant printings of the same edition are included where known; it is possible, however, that other variants may exist. Actual copies of the books have been located of only those items for which a complete title page is given; in only one case has the compiler not seen the book itself. It is thus probable that many of the fragmentary references are to printings that did not exist despite their appearance in the bibliographic literature.

For example, the printed catalogues of both the British Museum and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh list an 1804 printing (Item 39), and that of the latter lists one of 1795 (Item 37). In each case the actual book proved to be the Pharmacopoeia of the Royal Hospital. (Both these items remain on the list because each appears in at least one other source as the Pharmacopoeia of the Royal College.) In addition, both Callisen and Scherer question the existence of the 1786 German translation (Item 65). Finally, none of the Dutch issues for which there is only fragmentary information (Items 12, 13, 17, 27, 29, 64, 66) is to be found listed in the Central Catalogue at the Royal Library at the Hague, which suggested to Dr. D. A. Wittop Koning, who kindly checked that Catalogue for the compiler, that they may not exist.

* The first part of this study was printed in our April issue (p. 123).
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Medical Bibliography

On the other hand, it is likely that several of the incomplete items do exist, and may yet turn up, just as did the few items of which only one or two copies have been found. The 1747 Edinburgh printing (Item 10) in a case in point.

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS*

Only the Library of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh has a complete collection of each of the official editions (excepting that which is called the ‘Revised Ninth’ below) of the Pharmacopoeia. However, discounting the first edition, of which the Edinburgh College has two copies, and the Bodleian Library at Oxford has the only other known copy, the most nearly complete collections of each edition are to be found at the Library of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, both in London. The former holds twenty-three of the forty-two known printings listed below, the latter holds twenty-two of them. The Library of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh holds seventeen. In the United States the Library of the University of Wisconsin holds twenty-one, the National Library of Medicine twenty, and the Lloyd Library and Museum nineteen items. At least fourteen other libraries hold from ten to fifteen of the items. The wide dissemination among libraries is itself something of an indication of the important influence of Edinburgh as a centre of medical learning.

THE EDITION COUNT

The edition count which is given in the check-list calls for special comment since none of the title pages of the Pharmacopoeias officially authorized by the College carried an edition number. The count given in the check-list is based (i) on the internal evidence (a) of the contents, (b) of the prefatory material (which changed with each new edition), and (c) of the fact that the official third, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth editions are so named in their prefaces; and (ii) on the external evidence (a) in the records of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, (b) in the edition count of the Shaw and Lewis translations, and (c) in reviews in contemporary journals. All this was necessary to dispel the confusion on this score in the literature.

Both Callisen and Scherer, for example, though aware of the reports of the existence of a 1699 edition, and of the fact that the 1735 edition referred to itself as the ‘third’, and though Scherer was further aware that the 1783 edition referred to itself as the ‘seventh’, counted back from the eighth edition of 1792, included a seventh edition of 1788 and ended with the 1722 edition as the first. The error probably originated with the German printing of 1742 (Item 8) which erroneously labelled itself the ‘second’ edition, and perhaps was furthered by a misreading, in part at least, of a review of the Pharmacopoeia in the Edinburgh Review and Critical Journal of 1804.7

The continuation of the error hinged on the purported existence of a separate 1788 ‘seventh’ edition. However, the Minute Book of the Royal College of Physicians shows no activity pertaining to the revision of the Pharmacopoeia between 4 February 1783 and 1 February 1791, and not even a printing dated 1788 has been found (Item 35). There thus seems to be no basis for the assumption by Callisen and Scherer

* A list of the library holdings can be obtained by applying to the author.

341
that the 1735 and 1783 editions were incorrectly numbered in their prefatory material.

Similarly, the listing by Kremers and Urdang⁸ of fifteen editions, derived from an 1804 count in the Chemist and Druggist, is erroneous. It is based on the inclusion of two ‘editions’ that probably did not exist: the questionable 1788 and 1804 printings already discussed. Moreover, the Chemist and Druggist lists an 1806 edition which also has not been found. (In addition, it omits the 1841 Edinburgh edition.) In any case, regardless of whether a ‘new’ edition appeared first in 1804 or 1805, and regardless of whether or not one appeared in 1806, all three of these could not have been more than different printings of the same one ‘new’ edition, called the ‘revised ninth’ edition below.

The correct edition count, then, of the official issues by the College, all published in Edinburgh, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>1699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>1722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>1735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>1744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>1756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td>1774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh</td>
<td>1783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth</td>
<td>1792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth</td>
<td>1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised ninth</td>
<td>1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth</td>
<td>1817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleventh (first English)</td>
<td>1839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelfth (second English)</td>
<td>1841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ‘revised ninth’ (1805), which the College, with considerable justification, claimed contained a careful revision,⁹ but which it chose to consider rather a correction of errors that had accidentally crept into the ninth edition,¹⁰ was re-issued in 1807, 1808, 1809, and 1813. The 1807, 1808, and 1809 issues changed a reference to the nona edition in the original 1803 preface to the nova edition. In addition, the 1805, 1809, and 1813 issues each contained a revised list of Fellows of the College that differed from the list of the preceding issue. The substance of each of the Pharmacopoeias in this group, however, was otherwise essentially unaffected, and all can be classed as the same edition.

The edition numbers cited in the check-list refer to the original edition as issued officially by the College. Thus the Venetian issue of 1760 (Item 20) is labelled the second edition, which is to say that it was a re-issue of the edition published by the College in 1722. Similarly, the Göttingen issue of 1742 (Item 8) is labelled the third edition since it is a re-issue of the College’s 1735 edition, even though its title page speaks of itself as the second edition.

THE TITLE-PAGE DEVICE

The ‘Device’ that is referred to in the check-list appeared on the title pages of all the official printings of the first five editions, and was imitated by the pirated London printings and certain of the German issues.

In the first edition, the device was a combination of medical, national, and municipal symbols. It contained a staff and snake in a double ornamented oval frame that suggests the Badge of the Scottish Order of the Thistle.¹¹ Within the ovals was the motto of the Order (and also one of the mottos in the Arms of Scotland¹²): Nemo me impune lacesset. This was capped by a shield containing a representation of Edinburgh Castle, supported by a maiden and a hind, or unicorn, and by the
enscrolled motto *Nisi Dominus Frustra*—all derived from the seal of the City of Edinburgh.\(^{13}\)

The second edition, and all subsequent printings that used the device, dropped the symbols of the City, and changed the staff to a triple thistle plant about the stalk of which a snake was entwined. A double circle frame, suggesting the Star of the Order of the Thistle\(^{14}\) was used, containing the same motto as before. On several printings these circles were encased in a black square with corner ornaments.

The ‘Coat of Arms’ mentioned in the check-list refers to the Arms of Great Britain. It was carried only on certain German printings.

### **A CHECK-LIST OF THE PHARMACOPOEIA OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH**

#### **I. OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL ISSUES IN LATIN**

*First edition.* 24°. 1 unsigned leaf, 1 leaf signed A3, 3 unsigned leaves, A–I\(^{13}\)K (last blank). 5 leaves, 208 p., 10 leaves.

*Second edition.* 12°. 1 unsigned leaf, ¶\(^{6}\)A–R\(^{8}\)S\(^{4}\). 1 leaf, v, 2 leaves, 192 p., 10 leaves.

3. ... Edinburgh, 1728.


David L. Cowen


12°. A–S$^4$T$^4$+4 leaves inserted after A6, the first two of which are signed A2, A3. xi, 8 p., 192 p., 10 leaves. [One copy inserts the four leaves, plus an additional leaf carrying printer’s advertisements, after A1 (title page).]


12. . . Rotterdam, 1752.

13. . . Rotterdam, 1753.


16. . . Hanover, 1756.

17. . . Rotterdam, 1756.

18. . . Edinburgh, 1758.

Fifth edition. 8°. 6 leaves signed with consecutive Arabic numerals, A–K$^8$L$^3$. xii, 146 p., 9 leaves.

Medical Bibliography

Fifth edition. 8°. 6 leaves signed with consecutive Arabic numerals, A K8L8. xii, 146 p., 9 leaves.


Fifth edition. 8°. 6 leaves signed with consecutive Arabic numerals, A–K8L8 (last signed L3 instead of L2). xii, 146 p., 9 leaves.


25. . . . Edinburgh, 1771.


27. . . . Rotterdam, 1774.

Sixth edition, with commentary and word list appended. 8°. *8A–K8. xvi, 146 p., 7 leaves.

29. . . . Rotterdam, 1776.

Sixth edition, preceded by added prefatory material, and followed by Baldinger's 'Additamenta Editoris'. (Baldinger's first edition.) 8°. *8**8T2. 8 leaves, xvi, 292 p.

345
31. . . . Edinburgh, 1778.

32. . . . by Baldinger, Bremen, 1778.


35. . . . Edinburgh, 1788.


37. . . . Edinburgh, 1795.


41. . . . Edinburgh, 1806.


Pharmacopoeia | Collegii Regii | Medicorum | Edinburgensis. | Edinburgi: | Lipsiae, | Apud Johann Benjamin G. Fleischerum. | MDCCCXVI.


The text of the Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia (sometimes a separatum) is found with several combinations of the above title pages, viz., a, b, and c; a and d; b and c. When not a separatum, it is the second portion of a volume usually bearing the following as its first title page:
Also: 2 unsigned leaves, *3, A–I8K4. 2 leaves, iv, 152 p.

347
David L. Cowen


This bears the additional title page:

and is usually found as the second portion of a volume of the Codex of which the London Pharmacopoeia is the first portion and which bears as its first title page one pertaining to that Pharmacopoeia and dated 1821.

Tenth edition. 8°. 6 unsigned leaves, A–H8I8K4. xii, 140 p.


This bears an additional title page, or is contained in a volume bearing the title page:

and containing the half-title:
Codex | Medicamentarius | Europaeus | Vol. I.

Tenth edition. 12°. 1–12° (last blank). 141 p., 1 leaf.

II. OFFICIAL ISSUES IN ENGLISH

The | Pharmacopoeia | Of The | Royal College | Of | Physicians Of Edinburgh. | Edinburgh: | Adam And Charles Black, | And Bell And Bradfute; | And Longman & Co. | London. | MDCCCGXXXIX.

Eleventh (first English) edition. 12°. 9 unsigned leaves, b8A–S8, 1 unsigned leaf, +1 leaf inserted before leaf signed D2. xxiii, 1 leaf, 217 p. + pp. 39*, 40*.

The | Pharmacopoeia | Of The | Royal College | Of | Physicians Of Edinburgh. | Edinburgh: | Adam and Charles Black, | And Bell And Bradfute; | And Longman & Co. | London. | MDCCCXLI.

Twelfth (second English) edition. 12°. a–b8c8A–S8T8 (last blank). xxvi, 1 leaf, 222 p., 1 leaf.
52. [English translation] ... 1721.

53. [English translation] ... 1723.

54. The | Dispensatory | Of The | Royal College | Of | Physicians | In | Edinburgh. | Translated from the Latin, and illustrated | with Notes, | By Peter Shaw, m.d. | London: | Printed for William and John Innys, | at the West-End of St. Paul’s. | M.DCC.XXVII.  


58. [Shaw Translation] ... 1744.

David L. Cowen


61. [Shaw Translation] ... 1752.

62. Pharmacopoeia Edinburgensis: | Or, The | Dispensatory | Of The | Royal College | Of | Physicians | In | Edinburgh. | Translated and improved from the Fourth Edition of | the Latin, and illustrated with Notes, | By Peter Shaw, M.D. | To this Fifth, last and most correct Edition, is now added, a Translation of the Dispensatory for the Use of the | Royal Hospital at Edinburgh; with the Operations, Virtues | and Doses of each Medicine, for the most safe and speedy | Cure of all Diseases incident to the Sick-Poor. | London: | Printed for W. Innys and J. Richardson | in Pater Noster Row. | M DCC LIII. | Translation of fourth edition (Shaw's 'fifth' edition). 8°. A–R\textsuperscript{8}S\textsuperscript{4}, and A\textsuperscript{8}B–H\textsuperscript{8}. 6 leaves, 265 p., 1 leaf, and 2 leaves, 111 p.


64. [Apotheek] ... Rotterdam, 1775.

65. [German translation, by Westrumb] ... 1786.

66. [Edinburgsche apotheek. Amsterdam, bij Lodewyk van Es] ... c. 1788.


68. The | Pharmacopoeias | Of The | London, Edinburgh, and Dublin | Colleges, | Translated Into English; | With | An Appendix, | Containing | A Systematic Arrangement Of The Materia Medica, Tables Of Changed Names, | And A Posological Table. | By John Thomson, M.D. | Edinburgh: | Printed For John Anderson And Co. Edinburgh; And | Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, | London. | Alex Smellie, Printer. | 1815. | On page [89] of which is the following half-title: The | Edinburgh | Pharmacopoeia. | 1813. | Translation of revised ninth edition. 8°. G\textsuperscript{4}H–L\textsuperscript{8}M\textsuperscript{4}N\textsuperscript{8} (N\textsuperscript{4} is half-title of Dublin Pharmacopoeia). pp. [89]–174.
Medical Bibliography


This was included in:


NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See Part I of this study in the April 1957 issue of Medical History, pp. 123–39.
2. Most important were A. C. P. CALLISEN, Medicinisches Schriftsteller-Lexicon (Copenhagen, 1830–45), and N. A. SCHERER, 'Literatura Pharmacopoeiarum Collecta,' in Codex Medicamentarius Europaeus (Leipzig, 1821 etc.), Section 7.
3. Callisen, XXII, 416.
4. Scherer, p. 49.
7. III, 457.
9. Preface dated 1804, in each of the 'revised ninth' printings.
10. Ibid., and Edin. med. surg. J., 1805, i, 487.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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