

DUTCH EDITIONS OF ENGLISH PHARMACOPOEIAS

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AFTER the fall of Antwerp in 1578, the centre of world commerce, including trade in drugs, moved to Amsterdam, in the Northern Netherlands, and as the enormous increase in sea-borne trading brought to that port many foreign ships and crews, it became important for the Amsterdam pharmacists "to provide the natives of such places, coming from so many quarters, with the remedies to which they are accustomed, and which otherwise will be obtained by them only with difficulty." The quotation is from the Dutch translation of the *Pharmacopœia Collegii Regalis Medicorum Londinensis* of 1745. This state of affairs dates from much earlier, however, and it is small wonder that Nicholas Tulp, in compiling the first Amsterdam Pharmacopœia of 1636, used, besides the *Pharmacopœa Augustana* and the *Dispensatorium Coloniensis*, the London Pharmacopœia of 1618.

LONDON PHARMACOPOEIAS

This London Pharmacopœia, since it was official all over England, can be regarded as the first national pharmacopœia. In Holland, every self-respecting town, however, had its own pharmacopœia, but the nine pharmacopœias that were official in their own localities were obviously not sufficient because a number of foreign ones were reprinted in Holland and even translated into Dutch. I have already mentioned, in a previous communication to the conference in Salzburg, the

Below—FIG. IV.

Right—FIG. III.

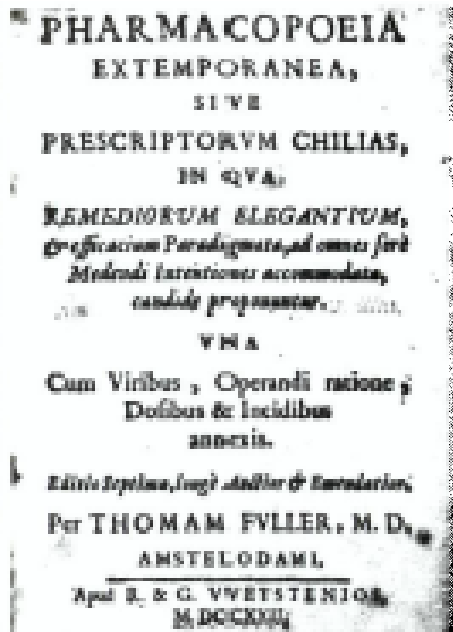


FIG. I.

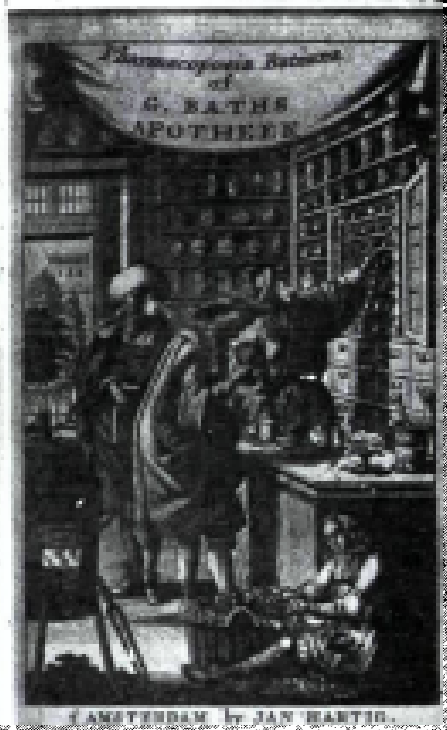
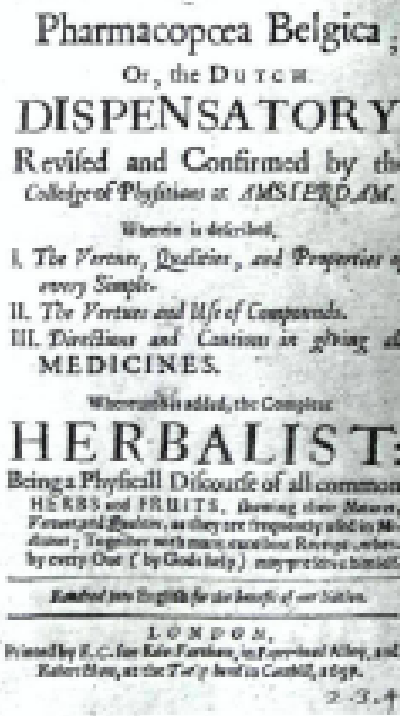


FIG. II.

Austrian pharmacopœias that were printed in Holland; but besides these were also English, German, French and Swedish pharmacopœias. Six English pharmacopœias have been issued in Holland. These were the *Pharmacopœia Collegii Regalis Medicorum Londinensis*, *Pharmacopœia Bat(h)eana*, the *Pharmacopœia Extemporanea* of Thomas Fuller, the *Pharmacopœia Domestica* of Thomas Fuller, *Pharmacopœia Collegii Regii Medicorum Edinburgensis*, and the *New Dispensatory* of W. Lewis.

The London Pharmacopœia of 1618 had been used in the compilation of the Amsterdam Pharmacopœia of 1636. The second edition of 1650 was published at Leyden in 1681; it had the title *Pharmacopœia Collegii Regalis Londini: remedia*

succincta descripta cura J. Shipton Pharmacopoli Lond. A translation of this edition was printed in Amsterdam in 1696 with the title *Pharmacopœia Londinensis* or 'Londische Apotheek,' the preface stating that the Dutch translation had been issued because no copy of the English edition was available. The title page was designed by Jan Luyken, a famous Dutch engraver (Fig. 1). His charming engravings also form the title pages of Dutch local pharmacopœias (Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leeuwarden). It shows a very large and well appointed pharmacy. Through a high doorway at the back is a botanical garden, wherein several people are working. The dispensing bench is on the right; a woman is sitting behind it; a man is arranging the drug jars. Two visitors with long coats and large hats stand talking in front of the bench. An assistant on a ladder is removing a jar from an upper shelf. In the foreground, a servant is pulverising something in a mortar. It will be

A paper read at a meeting of the *Union mondiale des Sociétés d'Histoire de la Pharmacie* during the 16th General Assembly of the F.I.P. in London.

sufficient to mention only one pharmacopœial preparation, namely, Sanguis Hirci (bucksblood) :

"Have a buck of medium age fed for a month with pimpinella, apium, petroselinum, malva, levisticum. Kill him about the end of the summer, during the dog days. Collect the blood running from the arteries, let it coagulate, pour off the water, and dry the sediment in a furnace."

The notable fact is that both Dutch editions of 1681 and 1696 are reprints of the second London edition of 1650, and not of the third London edition of 1677. This can be explained by the wars between Holland and England in the intervening years. The third London edition, therefore, was never published in Holland.

The fourth London edition, however, was printed in 1722, in Amsterdam, in Latin; a translation with the title 'Londische Apotheek van het Koninklijke Genootschap der Geneesheeren' was published at Amsterdam in 1745. The foreword explains that the London Pharmacopœia had been, by general consent, the principal pharmacopœia both for conciseness and conformity with the Amsterdam Pharmacopœia as well as useful for the great number of English people that was in the country. An Amsterdam edition of 1724, mentioned in some references, does not exist. The fifth edition of 1746 appeared simultaneously in London and Amsterdam; the sixth edition was printed at Leyden in the same year, 1788, as the London edition. A Rotterdam edition of the same year that is mentioned in some references does not exist. After the French occupation of the Netherlands at the end of the 18th century and the consequent link with the continental system, and after the publication of the first national Dutch Pharmacopœia in 1805, interest in Dutch editions of foreign pharmacopœias came to an end.

PHARMACOPOEIA BAT(H)EANA

George Bate, born in 1608, had been physician to Charles I, Charles II, and to Cromwell. The first Latin edition of the *Pharmacopœia Bateana*, published in England in 1688, was followed by the Latin edition in the same year at Amsterdam, and 10 years later, in 1698, a Dutch translation appeared at Amsterdam with the title *Pharmacopœia Batheana ofte den Apotheek van de Heer Georgius Bath*. An engraved title-page by Jan Luyken adorns the work. The editor explains in the foreword that: "Meanwhile somebody came to me, who had been his servant for more than 20 years, and handed over to me all his chemical preparations, which, having in hand, I now will issue, if God spare my life, for there are many good but simple things in it being most useful for our neighbours. It will be called 'de Londische Chymiste Stook-plaats,' in which will be described all chemical preparations usual in London and by Mr. Bath kept in his cabinet as a rare secrecy."

The number of peculiar medicines is large. There is a prescription for Aqua Omnium Florum, the principal ingredient of which was cow-dung gathered in May and pounded snails in their shells. Spiritus Sanguinis was obtained by distilling the putrid blood of a boy. The title-page engraved by Jan Luyken has been designed rather differently. Once again there is a large door in the background that leads into a garden where men are at work, but the middle of the pharmacy is now an empty space. A much smaller dispensing table is on the left, and the pharmacist is preparing his medicines. Next to him is a pair of scales. On the right is an assistant with a mortar. In the foreground a group of four persons are round a table, talking.

The third edition is missing. The fourth edition of 1709 was printed at Amsterdam, and the fifth was published there in 1719, after the English edition of 1718 had been published by Fuller. The Dutch edition is also bound together with a Dutch issue of Fuller's *Pharmacopœia* of 1731. It may be, therefore, that, from references cited, an edition of the *Pharmacopœia Bateana* was printed in 1731. Fuller made an appendix to it—*Appendix ad Pharmacopœiam Bateanum ex autographo eximii auctoris nunc primum desumpta*. Finally, in 1742, a Dutch translation, called the second edition, was published at Amsterdam, with the imprint "Hoorn 1762," and containing an appendix with separate title printed at Hoorn in 1763. This edition had another engraved title-page (Fig. II), showing the inspection of a Dutch pharmacy, during which a pharmacist is

taking a jar from a cupboard and the inspectors are looking at the contents of a syrup jar; in the foreground, on the right, is an assistant with a basket of herbs and, on the left, a furnace.

FULLER'S PHARMACOPOEIA

Fuller was an English pharmacist and physician (1654-1733). The *Pharmacopœia Extemporanea* was first issued in England in 1701. In Holland, a fifth edition was printed at Rotterdam in 1709, a sixth edition in the same year at Amsterdam, a seventh edition in 1717 at Amsterdam, and also a seventh edition in 1734 at Leyden. A third Dutch printing of this seventh edition took place at Amsterdam in 1722; a copy of this rare book is in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library, from which an illustration of the title-page (Fig. III) was obtained. No copy is known in Holland. Three years before the Leyden edition of 1734, an eighth edition was published at Amsterdam, and finally, in 1752, a tenth edition at Louvain. In references, two other editions are mentioned, those of 1719 and 1729 at Rotterdam, but I have been unable to find these in Holland and conclude that they do not exist. In the eighth edition there is the tag: *Mille mali species? Mille salutis erunt* with a play upon the word *species*—"Are there a thousand kinds of evil? There will be a thousand herbs of health." The *Pharmacopœia Domestica* of Thomas Fuller was published in London in 1723 and 1752. The second edition was issued, only one year later, in 1753, in Latin at Leyden and Louvain.

EDINBURGH PHARMACOPOEIA

The first edition of the *Pharmacopœia Collegii Regii Medicorum Edinburgensis* was published in 1699. In the Dutch foreword to the London Pharmacopœia of 1745, the use of that dispensatory in Holland was commented upon, but it was not until 1774 that the first Dutch edition of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia was published. This was a translation into Dutch of the edition of 1774; it was printed at Rotterdam in the same year, with the title 'Apotheek van het Koninklijk Genootschap der Geneesheeren te Edinburgh.' A Latin edition was published at Rotterdam in the following year; this was the *Pharmacopœia Collegii Regii Medicorum Edinburgensis reformata*. To the translation there was an appendix concerning the alterations in the pharmacopœia; the appendix itself was a translation of an article in "Medical and Philosophical Commentaries" (Volume III, Part IV). The editions of 1752, 1756, and 1776, mentioned in the literature do not exist; perhaps these references are to the Edinburgh edition of 1756.

THE NEW DISPENSATORY

A translation of the London third edition (1750) of the 'New Dispensatory,' by W. Lewis, appeared at Amsterdam in 1772-73, under the title 'De Nieuwe Britische Apotheek.' An appendix was added in 1778; this was a translation by Th. van Brussel of a work by John Ruttty. It contains remarks on the strengths of several items of materia medica not included in this pharmacopœia. Cowen mentions a second edition at Amsterdam in 1797; he does not give any library record, and as this work cannot be found in Holland, its existence is to be doubted.

PHARMACOPOEIA BELGICA

The reverse procedure took place when an English edition of a Dutch pharmacopœia was published in London in 1659. This was the Amsterdam Pharmacopœia (Fig. IV) "rendered into English for the benefit of our nation," to which was added "The Compleat Herbalist," showing the nature of all common herbs and fruits, "together with many excellent Receipts, wherby every One (by God's help) may preserve himself."

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