

The surgeons and the apothecaries of Edinburgh were amalgamated into one body in 1670. It was not an easy union and for a short period the apothecaries broke away but then came under the domination of the physicians from 1681–1695 when they once more united with the surgeons. In contradistinction from Scotland’s neighbour England, From that time onward, the physicians ceased to dispense except in remote country areas, and it has remained so since.

J. Burnby


The first part of this study of the materia medica and pharmacotherapy of the early 17th century describes the regimen of treatment devised for Thomas Harriot by Sir Theodore Turquet de Mayerne, Physician to James I. Mayerne’s materia medica was very similar to that of the London Pharmacopoeia: then in preparation, and reflected the use of spagyric as well as galenical forms. The second portion deals with the events leading up to the first publication of the London Pharmacopoeia in 1618. The author concludes that although the December issue of the Pharmacopoeia became the ‘first’ London Pharmacopoeia, the earlier May edition cannot be dismissed and of the two versions is probably a better guide to the nature and range of prescribing of the time.

D. L. Cowen


Of Scots descent, A. Dalmahoy was a member of the London Company of Apothecaries, and sold a wide range of products including a popular peppermint water and medicine chest. With the chest he sold a ‘Book of Directions’ from which it is obvious that the modern method of resuscitation from drowning known as ‘The Kiss of Life’ was well known to him. The Queen to whom he claimed to be chemist was probably Charlotte of Mecklenburg, the wife of George III.

J. Burnby


This paper reviews some of the more important early studies of the placental passage of foreign material. The evidence is presented under five headings: microbiological, inorganic, simple organic, dyes and drugs. As far as the authors have been able to determine, the first unequivocal roof of the placental passage of a drug, at least by chemical means, was not given until the 1890s by Edward Marquis working at the University of Dorpat. (See The Pharmaceutical Historian 12 [1982], No. 2: The earliest demonstration of the placental passage of morphine? By D. B. Jack and S. J. Laugh.)

J. Burnby


The Medicine Stamp Act came into force on Tuesday, September 2, 1783 and was to last with many modifications for 156 years. It was always unpopular with pharmacists and many attempts were made to have one or another of the Acts repealed. In this they were not successful although useful amendments were sometimes obtained.

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