
and Greene, and the site of the "Castle of Renssellaersteën," from whose walls, in the days when New York was New Amsterdam, as we read in "Knickerbocker's History of New York," Nicholas Koorn, the agent of the patroon Van Rensselaer, used to compel passing vessels to dip their colours and pay tribute to the old Dutch freebooter, reminding one of ancient baronial doings on the banks of the "beautiful Rhine."

Beyond Albany, although the river flows for 180 miles north of that city, it is not navigable for steamers or large craft, being broken by numerous falls and rapids.

Although I have tried to give those who may never go "up the Hudson" an idea of its beauty, I am aware that to those who have seen it the description may seem feeble; so difficult is it to describe the charm of that winding river, now a lake and now a strait, or by saying the banks bear such a name at such a part, and are so many feet high, to convey an idea also of the exquisite beauty of their formation, the shadows they cast one on the other and on the waters at their feet; and if one could do all that, the brilliant atmosphere through which it is all seen would be wanting.

The Druggist's Peculiar Orders

Curious Mistakes in Names Made by Applicants for Medicines

A Cambridgeport druggist has made a practice for some years of saving in a scrap book some of the most peculiar orders which he receives. "We are asked for some rather strange things," he said to the writer, "but we can generally guess what is wanted. Many people expect a druggist to prescribe for their ailments, as it saves physicians' charges, and the diagnoses of complaints which come to us are often amusing. Look at these: 'Send me some of the essence you put people to sleep with when you cut their fingers off.' That evidently means ether. 'I want something to take tobacco out of my mouth.' Of course the scent of tobacco was the thing objected to. 'Send me a baby's top to a nursing bottle' means, without a doubt, a nursing bottle top. 'An ounce of the smelling stuff that goes through your brain' describes very well the effect of inhaling ammonia. 'Something for a sore baby's eye' is not easy to mistake, though stated rather oddly. Here is a startling order for 'enough ipecac to throw up a girl 4 years old.' I cannot help sympathizing with this person, who asks for 'enough aniseed to take the twist out of a dose of senna.' Here is a request for a 'plaster for a man kilt with stitches.' Perhaps the one who wrote this order for 'something for a caustic woman' built better than he knew. Here is an order for 'something for a heavy pain in the bones that is coming out through the eyes.' The person who wrote for 'something to take a man's breath away' did not intend murder or suicide, but merely wished for cardamom seed or something of that nature. I sent a liniment to this lady, who asked for 'something to rub my old man with.' Not a bad description of a poultice is the order for 'enough flaxseed to make a pudding for a sore toe.' This child, who had an

'impression on his heart and a cough that is choking him in the neck' ought to have been taken to a doctor, as well as this other one who, his mother wrote, was 'heaving up and down and every way.' Here is a request for 'something to knock a cold out of an old woman.' The next one seems to be in hard condition. She desires something for a woman 'who has a bad cough and cannot cough.' No druggist would hesitate for a minute to fill this order: 'Something, I forget the name, but it is for a cure.' 'Our own preparation' will just fill the bill in such a case. But what should we send for a 'swelled woman's foot,' 'a man with a dry spit on him,' and 'a woman whose appetite is loose on her?'

"We got used to phonetic spelling," pursued the druggist, "and are very seldom unable to arrive at a fair conclusion of what is wanted, even by the blindest writers. Here are orders for penny garick, pary garic and paddy garic, which procured paregoric in each case. These orders for Barnegat, vergamout and bugmint were filled with bergamot; these requests for come earback, gum mare back, garmariback, come araback and ram back called for gum Arabic; these asking for camfler and camplire meant camphor; worm me fuge and barmafug meant vermifuge, of course; where our customers have called for epicot, metick, apricot and epicat we have delivered ipecacuanha; the persons who wrote for honey quintom, blew oint, Annie Quintom and Ann Grintom got unguentum; otherwise called blue ointment; orders for lodnom, lad num and lord warm we filled with laudanum; for balm of city we sent spermaceti; those who wanted high stirrips got hive syrup; this fellow who wrote for paint killer received pain killer; I knew that bubben wisky meant bourbon whisky, that air root

meant arrowroot, and that bitter Alice meant bitter aloes. I sent Arabian balsam instead of raving balsam to this man, corrosive sublimate instead of a gross of supplements to that one, and cherry pectoral instead of cherry pickered to this other. I substituted syrup of squills in these orders for sharp squil and sirrrip of swill, sent Ayer's pills to this man who asks for ear pill, Epsom salts to the one who wrote for lapson salt, and some cubebs instead of cupids to the other. Not having any glory farm on hand, I took the liberty of filling this order with chloroform, and being out of flack seed and flack sed I sent flaxseed in that one.

"When I got these orders for ox sled acid and horrid lime, I sent oxalic acid and chlorate of lime. This man asks for McCordon seed and this one for carman seed, but I gave cardamom seeds to each. Many orders come in where one syllable is mistaken for a conjunction, as chirrup and quill, for syrup of squills; check and berry, for checkerberry; gold and thread, for golden thread; spit and turkletine, for spirits of turpentine; balm and gilead, for balm of Gilead; hope and dildock, for opodeldoc. People who wish for borax write for boeracks, bowrux, bow rax and bow wax. We get orders for Arnold's 'blossom,' instead of balsam; Hall's hair 'manure' for renewer, and Burnett's 'cocarine' instead of cocaine. Customers who want lovenge write for love itch. Those who desire licorice write for luckrich, logrish, lickrish and stickrish. Here is a woman who wants five cents' worth of cologne to smell a trunk. Another asks for a mixture which shall be two-thirds alcohol and two-thirds castor oil. This one wants something to make catnip tea from, and the other asks for ten cents' worth of Mary attic acid.

—*Boston Herald*