

Analysis of Patent Medicines

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The following startling figures are an Analysis of Tonics, Beverages, etc., from the report of the State Board of Health, Public Document No. 34, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

TONICS AND BITTERS.

The following were examined for the purpose of ascertaining the percentage of alcohol in each. Some of them have been recommended as temperance drinks:

	Per Cent. of Alcohol (by Volume).
"Best Tonic".....	7.6
Carter's Physical Extract.....	22.0
Hooker's Wigwam Tonic.....	20.7
Hop Tonic.....	7.0
Hoodland's German Tonic.....	29.3
Howe's Arabian Tonic, "not a rum drink".....	13.2
Jackson's Golden Seal Tonic.....	19.6
Liebig Company's Cocoa Beef Tonic.....	23.2
Mensman's Peptonized Beef Tonic.....	16.5
Parker's Tonic, "purely vegetable," recommended for inebriates.....	41.6
Schenck's Sea Weed Tonic, "entirely harmless".....	19.5
Atwood's Quinine Tonic Bitters.....	29.2
L. T. Atwood's Jaundice Bitters.....	22.3
Moses A. Wood's Jaundice Bitters.....	17.1
Baxter's Maudrake Bitters.....	16.5
Boker's Stomach Bitters.....	42.6
Brown's Iron Bitters.....	19.7
Burdock Blood Bitters.....	25.2
Carter's Scotch Bitters.....	17.6
Colton's Bitters.....	27.1
Copp's White Mountain Bitters, "not an alcoholic beverage".....	6.0
Drake's Plantation Bitters.....	33.2
Flint's Quaker Bitters.....	21.4
Goodhue's Bitters.....	16.1
Greene's Nervura.....	17.2
Hartshorn's Bitters.....	22.2
Hoodland's German Bitters, "entirely vegetable and free from alcoholic stimulant".....	25.6
Hop Bitters.....	12.0
Hosretter's Stomach Bitters.....	44.3
Kaufman's Sulphur Bitters, "contains no alcohol" (as a matter of fact it contains 20.5 per cent of alcohol and no sulphur).....	20.5
Kingsley's Iron Tonic.....	14.9
Langley's Bitters.....	18.1
Liverpool's Mexican Tonic Bitters.....	22.4
Patne's Celery Compound.....	21.0
Pierce's Indian Restorative Bitters.....	6.1
Puritana.....	22.0
Z. Porter's Stomach Bitters.....	27.9
Pulmonine.....	16.0
Kush's Bitters.....	35.0
Richardson's Concentrated Sherry Wine Bitters.....	47.5
Secor's Cinchona Bitters.....	13.1
Shouyo's German Bitters.....	21.5
Job Sweet's Strengthening Bitters.....	29.0
Thurston's Old Continental Bitters.....	11.4
Warner's Vinegar Bitters, "contains no spirits".....	6.1
Warner's Safe Tonic Bitters.....	35.7
Warner's Bilious Bitters.....	21.5
Wheeler's Tonic Sherry Wine Bitters.....	18.8
Wheat Bitters.....	13.6
Faith Whitcomb's Nerve Bitters.....	20.3
Dr. William's Vegetable Jaundice Bitters.....	18.5
Whiskol, "a non-intoxicating stimulant, whiskey without its sting".....	28.2
Colden's Liquid Beef Tonic, "recommended for treatment of alcohol habit".....	26.5
Ayer's Sarsaparilla.....	26.2
Thayer's Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla.....	21.5
Hood's Sarsaparilla.....	18.8
Allen's Sarsaparilla.....	13.5
Dana's Sarsaparilla.....	13.5
Brown's Sarsaparilla.....	13.5
Corbett's Shaker Sarsaparilla.....	8.8
Kadway's Resolvent.....	7.9

The dose recommended upon the labels of the foregoing preparations varied from a teaspoonful to a wineglassful, and the frequency also varied from one to four times a day, "increased as needed."

"BLOOD PURIFIERS."

An examination of the "sarsaparilla" remedies, or "blood-purifiers," was made in 1892, and in nearly every instance the remedy was found to contain iodide of potassium in variable amounts.

The following list presents the percentage of iodide of potassium found in those samples which have been submitted to the analyst for examination:

SARSAPARILLA REMEDIES.

NAME	Per Cent. of Iodide of Potassium.
Wilson's.....	0.32
Howe's.....	0.33
White's.....	0.38
No name.....	0.41
Charles's.....	0.41
Mahern's.....	0.41
Ayer's.....	0.45
Bartlett's.....	0.50
No name.....	0.50
No name.....	0.50
Packard's.....	0.58
Coleman & Co's.....	0.83
Bass's.....	0.84
Brown's.....	1.00
Leavitt's.....	1.00
Moriarty's.....	1.11
Dana's.....	1.17
Woodward's.....	1.33
Dudley's.....	1.50
Cherry & Wingate's.....	1.55
Jaynes's.....	1.59
Nim's.....	1.67
Raynsford's.....	0.58
Adams's.....	0.75
Broad & Co's.....	0.75
Hood's.....	0.75
Hutchinson's.....	0.75
Dr. White's.....	0.75
Cherry & Wingate's.....	1.67
Mattinson's.....	2.00
Myrick's.....	2.12
Leavitt's.....	2.17
Church's.....	2.25

Also the following medicines for alcohol:

	Per Cent. of Alcohol (per volume).
Hoff's Extract of Malt and Iron.....	5.24
Peruna.....	28.59
Vinol, Wine of Cod Liver Oil.....	18.88
Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Comp.....	20.61
Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root.....	7.32
Dr. Peter's Kuriko.....	14.00

MISCELLANEOUS DRUGS.

Intemperance Cures.—Dr. Grant's "Gold-cura," for the liquor and drug habits, manufactured by the Canadian Chemical Company, Rutland, Vt., and sold for \$5 per package, consisted of two bottles of liquid and one small bottle containing pills. The two liquids were found to contain 41.11 per cent. and 28.22 per cent. of alcohol by volume respectively, while the pills contained nux vomica and were coated with a very thin layer of gold foil, which, by the way, was the only gold found in the preparation.

From Weekly Bulletin of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, "Results of Analyses of Certain Articles of Food for the months of October and November, 1903":

"Liquozone," "Simply Liquid Oxygen," The Liquid Ozone Co., Chicago. A solution of 1.35 per cent. sulphurous and 1.08 per cent. sulphuric acids, in water. With this combination of acids, the teeth are liable to injury, unless the preparation is quite largely diluted.

From the report of the State Board of Health, Public Document No. 34, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

COSMETICS.

The following were found to contain acetate of lead (sugar of lead) or some active lead compound:

	Per Cent. of Lead contained.
Ayer's Hair Vigor contained the equivalent of about.....	0.30
"Renown" Hair Restorer contained the equivalent of about.....	1.86
Mrs. Allen's Hair Restorer contained the equivalent of about.....	2.30
American Hair Restorative contained the equivalent of about.....	0.61
Barrett's Vegetable Hair Restorative contained the equivalent of about.....	0.22
Chevalier's Life for the Hair cont'd. Much Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Restorer contained the equivalent of about.....	1.75
Wood's Hair Restorative contained the equivalent of about.....	1.59
Ring's Vegetable Ambrosia contained the equivalent of about.....	1.51

Parker's Hair Balsam contained the equivalent of about.....
 Wolf's Vegetable Hair Restorer contained the equivalent of.....
 Champlin's Liquid Pearl.....

Instances of lead poisoning have been known to occur from the free external use of such preparations as the foregoing.

The following contained corrosive sublimate, or some other poisonous salt of mercury, in the proportion of 1 to 15 grains per ounce:

- Harriet Hubbard Ayer's Recamier Cream. Balm and Lotion.
- Madam Ruppert's World Renowned Face Bleach.
- Madam Yale's Excelsior Complexion Bleach.
- Hill's Freckle Lotion.
- Soule's Freckle and Moth Eradicator.
- Perry's Freckle Lotion.
- Oriental Cream.
- Mrs. McCarrison's Famous Diamond Face Lotion (14.7 grains to the ounce.)
- Royal Cream.

In one instance a six-ounce bottle contained 47 of grains corrosive sublimate; another contained 14 grains of the bichloride per ounce. It is not surprising that instances of serious harm were reported from the use of such articles.

In view of the facts disclosed by this report it becomes plain that the purchasers of patent and proprietary medicines, beverages, tonics and cosmetics should know what they are buying.

In order that this information may be given it is proposed to petition the Legislature to enact a statute corresponding to laws which have long been in force in Germany and France with most beneficial results.

This act may be substantially as follows:

Be it enacted that on and after . . . no Patent or Proprietary Medicine, no Beverage or Tonic compounded of various materials recommended for curative purposes by advertising or other mode of publicity, no tonic, bitters, ginger compound, soothing syrup or other curative mixture, no medicated soap, hair wash, face powder, or other compound by which it is proposed to promote the growth of hair, to color the hair, to remove freckles and pimples, to improve the complexion, and other compounds of like kind shall be sold within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, unless every package, parcel, case, paper, bottle or other receptacle shall have inscribed, stamped or printed upon it in type or other stamp approved by the State Board of Health, the exact formula by which such compound is made, giving the proportion, weight or quantity of each and all ingredients.

The penalty for each infraction of this act shall be a fine of fifty cents on each separate parcel or package sold, to be assessed on each separate parcel which may be contained in a case, barrel or wholesale package.

On the complaint of any person it shall be the duty of the State Police to investigate the case and to make a report to the State Board of Health, by whom prosecutions may be instituted, or to any magistrate having jurisdiction in similar cases.

Such being the proposed action, subject to the framing by counsel of an adequate statute, all persons who desire action to be taken will send in their names to be appended to a petition as follows:

The undersigned, adult citizens of Massachusetts, men and women, respectfully petition the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled to enact a law to the effect that every separate package or parcel of patent or proprietary medicine, curative beverage, tonic, or medicated soap, hair wash and the like shall carry upon the case, paper, or bottle, the formula by which the compound is made, giving the proportion and quantity of alcohol, drugs or chemicals in it. Such act to provide suitable penalties and methods of enforcing the act.

