

4383. Misbranding of "Mecca Compound." U. S. * * * v. Albert D. Foster, et al. (The Foster-Dack Co.). Plea of guilty. Fine, \$50 and costs. (F. & D. No. 6074. I. S. No. 10023-e.)

On July 27, 1915, the United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for said district an information against Albert D. Foster, Eugene W. Peterson, Sr., Eugene W. Peterson, Jr., and Edmond W. Raymond, trading under the firm name of The Foster-Dack Co., Chicago, Ill., alleging shipment by said defendants, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, as amended, on or about March 20, 1913, from the State of Illinois into the State of California, of a quantity of "Mecca Compound," which was misbranded. The article was labeled: (On tin box) "Mecca Compound Healing Ointment The Foster-Dack Co. For Full Instructions See Booklet Inclosed Chicago, Ill., U. S. A. & Toronto, Canada. Guaranteed by Foster-Dack Co., under the Food and Drugs Act, June 30th, 1906. No. 1477. Pry up cover. Pat. April 13th, 1897, May 10th 1898, * * *. Mecca Compound—Mecca Ointment—Price, \$1.00. Mecca Compound is used for all kinds of Sores and Inflammation, affording in most cases, quick relief and a speedy cure. Best results are obtained in its use by applying as a thick poultice, especially in severe cases. Directions:—For Burns and Scalds apply soon as possible, putting on a thick layer from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, as to depth of burn. No scars if rightly used. For Sprains, Neuralgia, Rheumatism and sundry aches apply the Mecca with brisk rubbing and if severe by poulticing. For Pneumonia, apply a thick poultice of Mecca over the chest and well up around the throat, and down over the abdomen if bowels are sore. Used for Eczema, Erysipelas, Blood Poison, Chafing, Salt Rheum, Chilblains, Sore Feet, Hives, Boils, etc. Trade Mark Registered." (Translated from German) "Mecca Compound is used for wounds and inflammation of all kinds, produces quick relief and assists nature to accomplish a speedy cure. Directions for use: One employs it always freely either by rubbing it in with the hand or applying it as a dressing. For burns apply as promptly as possible in a thick layer over the injury from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, according to the depth of the wound. No scars if properly used. It is used for cuts, bruises, fever blisters, barber's itch, eczema, pimples, erysipelas, salt rheum, soreness, chilblains, swellings, blood poisoning, diphtheritically infected throat, inflammation of the lungs and inflammation of whatever kind." (On carton) "Mecca Compound Healing Ointment The Foster-Dack Co. 3148 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago. Trade Mark Registered June 21, 1910. Mecca Compound Large size Price \$1.00 The Foster-Dack Co. 3148 Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago. Guaranteed by the Manufacturers under The Pure Food and Drugs Act. June 30th 1906 Serial No. 1477." The booklet accompanying the article contained, among other things, the following: "Erysipelas * * * Mecca is what is needed, applied in very thick poultices over all the irritated portion. Continue as long as needed, changing once or twice each twenty-four hours. Gangrene, Blood Poison. This terrible malady can be successfully combatted with the practical application of Mecca. The parts affected should be poulticed with it, applying it from one-half to one inch thick according to the case. If the Mecca is at all hard it should be rubbed under a case knife until soft and uniform. Relief is often noted at once and restoration follows in due time. Poultices should be changed every 12 to 24 hours till the parts are thoroughly restored and healed. Salt Rheum. Salt Rheum or Tetter is a common disease and too well known to need any description. We have never found a case of this disease that Mecca has failed to cure where practically applied. Persis-

tency in massaging the irritated portion and in severe cases, applying the Mecca in poultice form will always result in a complete cure. Cancers. Numerous cancers have been cured with the use of Mecca. It should be applied as a poultice, and its use continued until a cure is effected. The patient is rewarded at once with the removal of soreness and cessation of pain, but patience must be exercised for it will take time to eradicate a cancer. Bronchitis * * * The patient should have the entire chest and throat thoroughly massaged with Mecca and then poultices of same should be applied over the chest and around the throat, covering well with flannel. Change poultices each 12 hours if case is severe. The effect of the treatment is marked with relief from the start, bringing quick recovery. Diphtheria. This disease is known to all, and is greatly dreaded. It is safe to commence the treatment of a sore throat at once, and not to await developments. Commence by poulticing the throat with Mecca, and covering with flannel. If taken in the beginning this treatment alone will be sufficient, but if irritation has got a firm hold it would be well to use an antiseptic gargle, or what is better let the patient use our Foster's Croup Remedy according to instructions for Croup. This has proved most effectual as an internal treatment. The Mecca applied to the throat reduces the inflammation and removes the soreness, and assists nature in overcoming bacteria. Pleurisy and Pneumonia. * * * Mecca is a most effectual remedy in the treatment of these diseases when practically used. Commence as soon as possible by massaging thoroughly with Mecca the parts affected, and follow up by poulticing. Wonderful results have been effected in serious cases treated with Mecca. Scarlet Fever. * * * Commence treatment with first indications by massaging or rubbing the entire body with Mecca, rubbing in all that is possible. Poultice the throat with Mecca and wrap up with flannel. The massaging should be repeated twice a day until all traces of the disease disappear. The eruptions and blotches, will soon pass away, the fever goes down, the throat is no longer sore, and the child is usually fully restored in from three to six days with no danger of contagion if above instructions are followed; you, of course, have to submit to the law governing such cases. Small Pox. This disease is nearly always treated under the direction of a physician, but it is well to know what Mecca will do for a patient suffering with this much dreaded disease. On first indication of it, let the patient be thoroughly massaged with Mecca at least twice a day. Poultice any part of the body with Mecca where there is much pain. Note carefully if there are any indications of eruptions, poultice them if they appear. The effect of Mecca in this treatment is to break up the fever, so that there will be no secondary fever, prevent all itching and scratching, so there will be no marking or disfiguring. We also believe if our instructions are carefully carried out that there can be no contagion; as there will be no pustules allowed to ripen. Quite a good many cases treated in this way have proved its reliability. Appendicitis. In this disease, that has caused so much suffering and loss of life, Mecca Compound offers to sufferers a treatment that affords almost certain relief and cure if used in time. When pain is first felt on the right side, over the hip, it is safe to act at once. Apply over the seat of pain, according to the case, from one-half to one pound of Mecca in the form of a thick poultice. Let it remain on until all pain subsides, and all symptoms of the disease pass away. If the case appears serious the poulticing may have to be kept up for some time. Apply fresh poultices every 12 and 24 hours. If it is a case of appendicitis, and the Mecca is applied in time, the inflammation will be reduced at the mouth of the appendix and nature will force the feces back into the colon, making the cure complete, but if

treatment be deferred until suppuration takes place then a surgical operation will have to be performed. Safety lies in prompt treatment. Lock-Jaw or Tetanus. * * * Mecca has saved a good many lives from death from this disease. It will do what nothing else can do in such cases. Goitre. Massage freely with Mecca and poultice thickly with same over the swelling. Persist in the treatment and in due time the Goitre will begin to decrease in size and finally disappear. The treatment is effectual. Measles. Massage with Mecca all where eruptions appear, rubbing in all the tissues will absorb. It overcomes the disease on the start, rendering a quick cure," and, "A Case of Tuberculosis Cured. Tuberculosis is said to be incurable, especially in patients of advanced age. At the time of my trouble I was 56 years old and a sufferer from indigestion, Rheumatism, Heart Disease, etc. I first felt a soreness in the elbow of my left arm, which soon became much swollen and very painful. Supposing it to be an attack of rheumatism I was treated for that disease by our family physician for some 13 weeks, the arm becoming much swollen and very painful. A white spot appeared at the elbow which soon after discharged yellow water and matter mixed with blood and pieces of bone. Soon after this I was examined by the head surgeon of a hospital on Wabash Ave., who pronounced it Tuberculosis. He said, 'A surgical operation will have to be performed and should be at once. He will never use his arm again.' Not long after I was examined by a noted surgeon who had me before his clinic and after quite a long discourse on Tuberculosis, said, 'A surgical operation is the only treatment for this case, nothing else will avail.' I understood the operation meant the removal of the diseased bones and perhaps the entire arm. I was told unless operated on within 60 days I would lose my life. I feared an operation on account of my heart trouble for I felt certain I could not survive it. I had heard of a preparation called Mecca Compound and was impressed with its success in subduing inflammation, so I gave it a trial, hoping to obtain relief from its use. I applied it as a thick poultice over all the inflamed surface and in the course of a few hours I felt easier than I had for a long time. Under the use of Mecca applied by rubbing and poulticing, I slowly improved, day by day the inflammation subsided, the soreness decreased and I began to gain strength. The treatment was continued upwards of 5 months, during which time I gained 15 lbs. in weight, my appetite returned, my complexion cleared and my general health greatly improved. Six months after the treatment I was examined by a competent physician who after a thorough examination declared he could find no trace of the disease. A. Charles, 42 River Street, Chicago, Illinois."

Analysis of a sample of the article by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed it to be an ointment with a soft paraffin base, containing phenol, camphor, borates, zinc compound, a sodium soap, and a trace of perfume, no peroxids, salicylates, or alkaloids.

Misbranding of the article was alleged in the information for the reason that the following statements regarding the therapeutic or curative effects thereof, included in the booklet accompanying said article, to wit, "Erysipelas. * * * Mecca is what is needed," "Gangrene, Blood Poison. This terrible malady can be successfully combatted with the practical application of Mecca, * * * restoration follows in due time. Poultices should be changed every 12 to 24 hours till the parts are thoroughly restored and healed," "Cancers. Numerous cancers have been cured with the use of Mecca. It should be applied as a poultice, and its use continued until a cure is effected. The patient is rewarded at once with the removal of soreness and cessation of pain, but patience must be exercised for it will take time to eradicate a cancer," "Bronchitis. * * * The

patient should have the entire chest and throat thoroughly massaged with Mecca and then poultices of same should be applied over the chest and around the throat, covering well with flannel. Change poultices each 12 hours if case is severe. The effect of the treatment is marked with relief from the start, bringing quick recovery," "Diphtheria. This disease is known to all, and is greatly dreaded. It is safe to commence the treatment of a sore throat at once, and not to await developments. Commence by poulticing the throat with Mecca, and covering with flannel. If taken in the beginning this treatment alone will be sufficient. * * * The Mecca applied to the throat reduces the inflammation and removes the soreness, * * *," "Pleurisy and Pneumonia. * * * Mecca is a most effectual remedy in the treatment of these diseases when practically used. * * * Wonderful results have been effected in serious cases treated with Mecca," "Scarlet Fever. * * * Commence treatment with first indications by massaging or rubbing the entire body with Mecca, rubbing in all that is possible. Poultice the throat with Mecca and wrap up with flannel. The massaging should be repeated twice a day until all traces of the disease disappear. The eruptions and blotches, will soon pass away, the fever goes down, the throat is no longer sore, and the child is usually fully restored in from three to six days with no danger of contagion if above instructions are followed," "Small Pox. This disease is nearly always treated under the direction of a physician, but it is well to know what Mecca will do for a patient suffering with this much dreaded disease. On first indications of it, let the patient be thoroughly massaged with Mecca at least twice a day. Poultice any part of the body with Mecca where there is much pain. Note carefully if there are any indications of eruptions, poultice them if they appear. The effect of Mecca in this treatment is to break up the fever, so that there will be no secondary fever, prevent all itching and scratching, so there will be no marking or disfiguring. We also believe if our instructions are carefully carried out that there can be no contagion, as there will be no pustules allowed to ripen. Quite a good many cases treated in this way have proved its reliability," "Appendicitis. In this disease, that has caused so much suffering and loss of life Mecca Compound offers to sufferers a treatment that affords almost certain relief and cure if used in time. * * * If it is a case of appendicitis, and the Mecca is applied in time the inflammation will be reduced at the mouth of the appendix and nature will force the feces back into the colon, making the cure complete," "Lock-jaw or Tetanus. * * * Mecca has saved a good many lives from death from this disease. It will do what nothing else can do in such cases," "Goitre. Massage freely with Mecca and poultice thickly with same over the swelling. Persist in the treatment and in due time the Goitre will begin to decrease in size and finally disappear. The treatment is effectual," "Measles. Massage with Mecca all where eruptions appear, rubbing in all the tissues will absorb. It overcomes the disease on the start, rendering a quick cure," and, "A Case of Tuberculosis Cured," were false and fraudulent in that by means of said booklet they were applied to said article knowingly, and in reckless and wanton disregard of their truth or falsity, so as to represent falsely and fraudulently to the purchasers thereof, and create in the minds of purchasers thereof the impression and belief, that it was, in whole or in part, composed of, or contained, ingredients or medicinal agents effective, among other things, as a remedy for erysipelas, for the cure of gangrene or blood poison, cancers, and bronchitis, as a preventive of diphtheria, reducing inflammation and removing the soreness, as a remedy for pleurisy and pneumonia, for the cure of scarlet fever, and for preventing contagion from the said diseases if applied according to instructions, as a remedy for small pox, breaking up the fever and preventing contagion

therefrom if applied according to instructions, for the cure of appendicitis in its early stages, for the cure of lock jaw or tetanus, for the cure of goitre and measles, and for curing tuberculosis, when, in truth and in fact, said article was not, in whole or in part, so composed, and did not contain such ingredients or medicinal agents.

On December 10, 1915, a plea of guilty was entered on behalf of the defendants, and the court imposed a fine of \$50 and costs.

C. F. MARVIN, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*