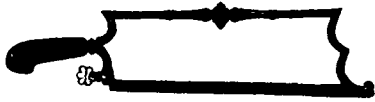


MEDICAL



COLLECTORS



ASSOCIATION

Greetings:

Things have been moving along very nicely with several very important activities that concern the members of the Medical Collectors Association.

First of all let me point out to every one that once again it is the end of the calendar year and time to renew your membership in the organization. If you wish to remain a member, please fill out the attached membership form and return it to me at your earliest convenience. I have decided to continue to hold the line on the dues and this now marks the fifth year that we have been able to keep the dues at the same level.

The first item of business to discuss is the meeting which will take place at the Bakken Museum on June 9, 1995. Dr. Albert Kuhfeld has graciously consented to host this meeting and enclosed with this newsletter is a preliminary program and registration form. Dr. Gordon Dammann has already volunteered to provide a lecture on Dr. Johnathan Letterman, Medical Director Army of the Potomac. Gordy is a real expert in this area and I am sure will provide us with a most stimulating and informative lecture. There are still places open for other people to speak. If you are interested in presenting at the meeting at the Bakken please write to me at your earliest convenience. Also, please note on the registration form that the checks should be sent to Mitchell Stomer for registration for the

meeting.

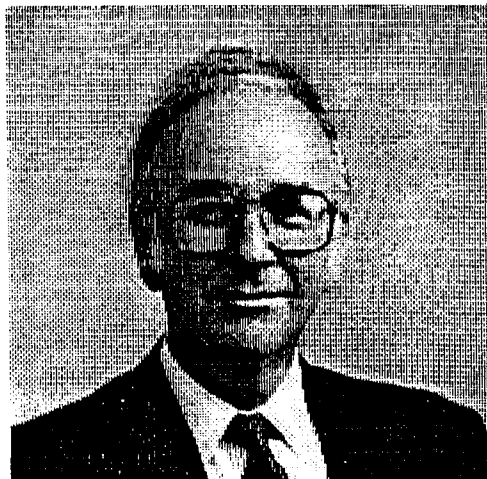
The meeting at the Bakken will also include a visit to the Museum of Questionable Medical Devices. I have included an article from the Pantograph about Bob McCoy and his collection.

Since the Society of Nuclear Medicine, of which I am a member, is holding its meeting the week following the MCA, we will arrange for suitable accommodations at a meeting hotel taking advantage of the group rate. This meeting draws several thousand people which will allow us to obtain very favorable rates. It will necessitate that when you make your reservation for the hotel, that you indicate that it is in connection with the Society of Nuclear Medicine Meeting, since they will not know what the Medical Collectors Association is.

Along the line of the meeting, we have undertaken a new activity this year. Dr. Irwin Rugendorff and his wife have graciously consented to host a meeting of the Medical Collectors Association in Frankfurt from September 9th through September 13th. Dr. Rugendorff has sent me a letter (enclosed) with a very stimulating preliminary program which was worked out by them. In order to allow adequate time for planning we have chosen to schedule the meeting in September, 1996. There will be no meeting of the Medical Collectors Association in the United States in 1996 so that we do not have to duplicate our effort. I will try to arrange some sort of a group flight discount to Frankfurt which will give people the

benefit of a reduced fare and as much freedom as possible. Please set aside on your calendars the date of September 9th through the 13th for what promises to be a most stimulating activity. This will give members a chance to meet some of the European collectors and dealers who have not been able to make it abroad for our meetings in the United States.

The "Can You Identify?"



Founder: M. Donald Blaufox, M.D., Ph.D.

column is remarkable this year in that we received numerous responses. I have included all of the various responses with this newsletter. I believe that this is the first "Can You Identify?" column that has ever received more than one response if any. Rosalind Berman who submitted the question certainly found something that is of much greater interest than I would have realized.

In the way of a new "Can You Identify?" column I have included a picture of what Dr. Douglas Arbittier describes as a miniature Petit style tourniquet which is 1 1/2" high. It is made of silver and hallmarked for 1802. He is curious to know if anyone has ever seen this type of tourniquet and what it might have been used for. Dr. Arbittier also asked if anyone knows of any type of review article which covers the history of the tourniquet.

The patent for this issue is the Fitch prescription scale. I thought this would be of interest to the general membership. There are two versions of this device, one from 1885 and a later version from 1895. I have included both patents. If anyone has an interesting patent please send it to me.

I have also included a page from "Pharmacy in History" (the series by Bill Helfand). These vignettes continue to provide extremely interesting information which I think is of general appeal.

There are a number of announcements and inclusions which may be of interest to the membership. Ralph and Terry Kovell have announced the 27th edition of their book. This does not contain a very great deal of medical related information but it should be of some general interest to the group.

The Inter Documentation Company of the Netherlands continue to produce medical reproductions that are of interest to everyone.

John Conter sent me a copy of an article about his collection which I have photocopied for inclusion in the newsletter.

Also, Dr. Anne Young has completed a book on antique medical chests. The pre-publication price deadline was originally November 30th, this has been extended to December 10th but it is unlikely that any of you will have seen these flyers by that date. If you are interested, it might be worth writing to Anne or to the publisher asking for the pre-publication price and explaining that you simply did not receive the announcement in reasonable time. I have written to Anne and asked her to extend the date to January. I have not personally seen the book but Dr. Young is a great expert in this area and I am sure it is of great value.

Enclosed with the newsletter is a notice of books, journals and monographs from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and some related publications.

If you have any information for the newsletter please contact me at your earliest convenience. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting in Minneapolis and would be delighted if a few other people could step forward and offer to lecture.

I wish you all a happy holiday.

Sincerely,

M. Donald Blaufox, M.D., Ph.D.

# TRAVEL

# QUACK HOUSE

## Visit a museum of medical hokum

By PAT DENATO

Register Staff Writer

**M**INNEAPOLIS, MINN. — You ought to have your head examined if you visit the Museum of Questionable Medical Devices at Riverplace mall. Go ahead — everybody else does, and the "exam" costs only \$2.

First, you'll have to slip into something uncomfortable — a *Psychograph*. Don't be shy about this. Step right up; take a seat; let this truly remarkable helmet-like contraption settle gently onto your head.

Thirty-two sensitive measuring devices — one for each of the 32 mental faculties, you understand — will touch your head lightly and in a matter of seconds produce a printout describing your mental powers, your spiritual qualities, your emotional nature.

This amazing device, friend, is "capable of making several million distinct calculations based on individual peculiarities in the shape of the human head."

It's scientific; it's phrenology. Don't be afraid.

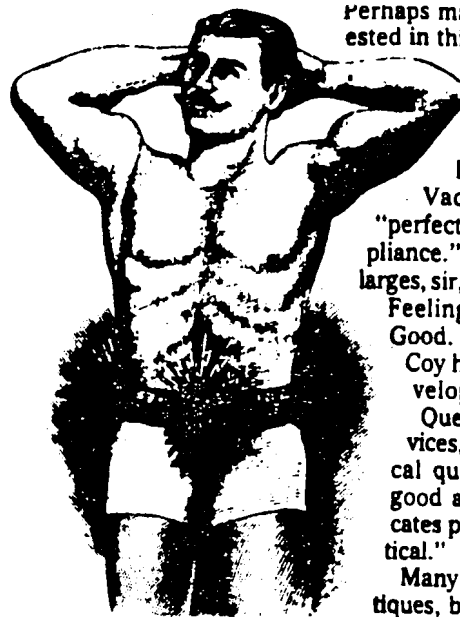
Ordinary phrenologists may read the bumps on your head with the tips of their fingers, but the *Psychograph*, friend, "is more accurate than any human phrenologist could possibly be."

Just look at this readout. You test "very superior" in the areas of individuality, dignity, wit, sublimity and suavity. Looks as if you're running a quart low on sexamity, but you're right up there on alimentiveness and faith.

You kind of knew you'd test well on wit and suavity, didn't you? How could a mere machine have managed to describe your outstanding qualities to a T?

If you buy all this, Bob McCoy has some other swell gizmos he'd like to show you. Consider the *Toftness* radiation detector; it sucks the noxious energy right out of your body.

The Pantagraph  
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois  
Wednesday, May 15, 1991.



Perhaps madame would be interested in this foot-operated breast enlarger pump — sorry, all the rental units are out today.

And you, sir, take a look at this Vital Power Vacuum Massager, the "perfect organ developing appliance." It invigorates and enlarges, sir, guaranteed.

Feeling a little skeptical? Good. That's just what McCoy had in mind. He has developed the Museum of Questionable Medical Devices, a monument to medical quackery, "because it's good as a debunker. It educates people to be more skeptical."

Many of the devices are antiques, but if you're feeling su-

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*“We work on the Barnum effect here.”*

— Bob McCoy

Museum of Questionable Medical Devices

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perior to the gullibility of past generations, please note the *Toftness* radiation detector mentioned above dates way back — to 1988.

It consists of a couple of pieces of plastic pipe on a handle, fitted with a half dozen lenses. The pitch was that lenses of the *Toftness* device would scan the body, focusing noxious energy on the detector plate, then would suck it right out. The developer "got \$2,400 apiece for them," says McCoy.

Another recent acquisition is an "aerobic eye exercise kit" seized in Wisconsin just last year by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, McCoy says.

It's distant kin to a "vision enhancer" marketed about 1930 that promoted the notion you could throw your glasses away if you did certain eye exercises.

McCoy has one of those, too, and he says there was more to that system than cheats the eye.

Directions indicated that for the device to work properly, "You had to sunbathe in the nude at either 11 a.m. or 2 p.m., had to sleep outdoors in the moonlight and had to walk like a bear several times a week to relieve pressure on the intestines."

Such outlandish directions are common with worthless devices, he says. "It was all part of the ritual. You needed a ritual to make things happen."

Surrounded by phony medical diplomas, trumped up product endorsements, virility belts, neon hair growers and devices that promise to reverse the aging process, McCoy, 64, is decidedly skeptical. He is, in fact, active in the Minnesota Skeptics organization and a member of the Minnesota Council Against Health Fraud.

His harvest of medical hokum, about 150 devices, is displayed at Riverplace, a shopping and entertainment complex along the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis. He's on the lower level, not far from Hologram Land and Overland Outfitters.

The museum is open free from 5 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The aforementioned \$2 head exam is the only thing that costs, and the *Psychograph* machine is interesting in

this respect, says McCoy. It spits out 30 statements about each person from a possible 160, and although different people get different readouts, "The machines read the same person pretty much the same way each time."

About 25 years ago, McCoy met the son of the man who developed the Psychograph in the 1930s. They got together and put a few of the machines back in working order. After a while, people began to ask McCoy for demonstrations. He became a sidewalk attraction at Riverplace after shops opened in 1984.

This led to TV appearances with David Letterman and others, which led to donations of quack devices from the FDA, the American Medical Association and others, which led, finally, to the museum McCoy operates.

The most amazing thing about some devices is the notion that anyone ever trusted in them. Consider, for instance, the Omnipotent Oscilloclast, a machine developed in the 1920s by one Albert Abrams to "diagnose" illness by

measuring the "vibration rate" of blood, urine or saliva samples.

The samples didn't have to be fresh; you could send them in. All too often, the return mail brought both bad news and good news.

The bad news was you had syphilis. The good news was Abrams had a cure, and it could be yours for \$300, a small price considering the alternative. Should you get a second opinion from your hometown doctor? Fat chance, says McCoy.

"If you were living in some small Iowa town and got a letter from Dr. Abrams that said you had syphiis, you'd send for his cure rather than go to a local healer," he says.

The appeal of medical quackery "cuts across all levels of education," says McCoy. He tells of a test involving phrenology:

Several years ago, psychologists administered personality tests to a group of students and gave each student a reading of his or her results. The students received a phrenology reading that was exactly the same for all of them. More than half the students thought the phrenology readout was a more accurate personality reflection.

So go ahead — have your head examined at the Museum of Questionable Medical Devices, but be skeptical.

"We work on the Barnum effect here," says McCoy.



New technology? No, it's old-fashioned phrenology. Bob McCoy demonstrates a bit of scientific quackery.

840 CROYDEN RD.  
CHELSEA, PA 19012-1614

DEAR DON -

FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS:- HERE ARE MY  
XEROX COPIES OF MY TWO QUESTIONABLES.

Can You Identify This

Material:

Maker:

Presumed Use:

Date:

AS YOU CAN SEE THIS ITEM IS MARKED  
STERLING AND HAS A DOCTOR'S NAME &  
INITIALS - IT'S NOT FLEXIBLE - IT'S SLIGHT  
CURVED & FIRM - I DON'T UNDERSTAND  
THE NOTCH AT ONE END. IT WAS SOLD TO  
ME AS A TONGUE DEPRESSOR.

"BLACK, STARR & FROST"  
STERLING

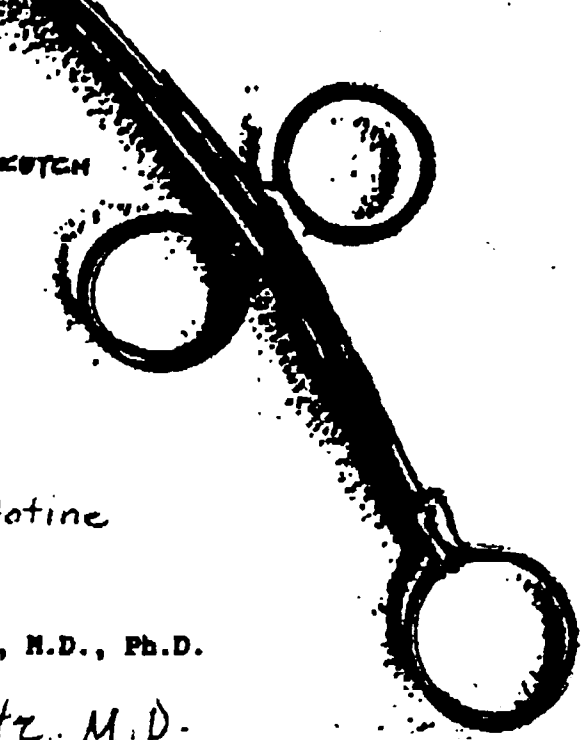
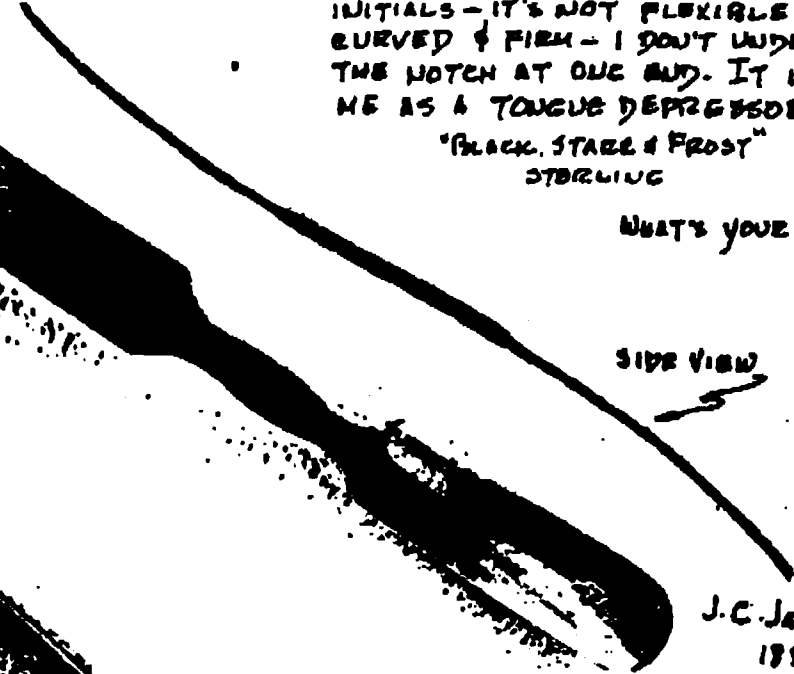
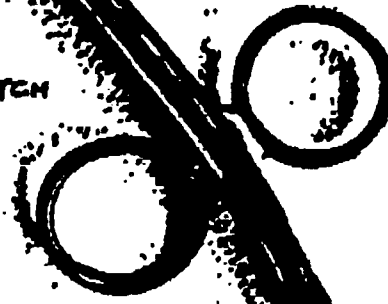
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

SIDE VIEW

J.C. Jay, M.D.  
1886

THIS IS THE INSTRUMENT.

I SHOWED YOU AT THE  
MEETING IN N.Y. - MARKED  
E.A. MERKEL. I COULDN'T  
GET A COPY OF THE SIDE  
THAT OPENS - SO THIS IS MY SKETCH



I think this is a: tonsil guillotine

From: Circa 1900

Please return to M. Donald Blaufox, M.D., Ph.D.

From: Sherman A. Katz, M.D.

DEAR DON -

FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS:- HERE ARE MY XEROX COPIES OF MY TWO QUESTIONABLES.

Can You Identify This

Material:

Maker:

Presumed Use:

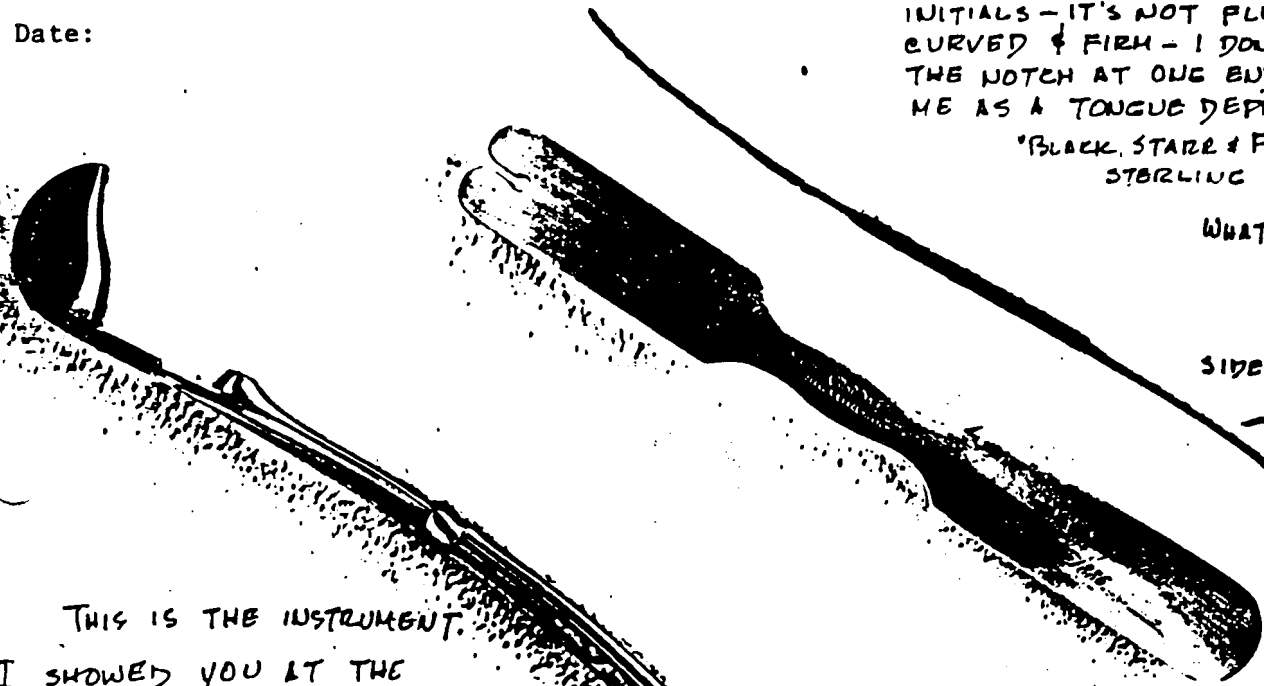
Date:

AS YOU CAN SEE THIS ITEM IS MARKED STERLING AND HAS A DOCTOR'S NAME & INITIALS - IT'S NOT FLEXIBLE - IT'S SLIGHTLY CURVED & FIRM - I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE NOTCH AT ONE END. IT WAS SOLD ME AS A TONGUE DEPRESSOR.

"BLACK, STARR & FROST"  
STERLING

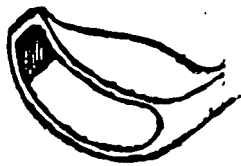
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

SIDE VIEW



J.C. Jay, M.D.  
1886

THIS IS THE INSTRUMENT. I SHOWED YOU AT THE MEETING IN N.Y. - MARKED E.A. MERKEL. I COULDN'T GET A COPY OF THE SIDE THAT OPBUS - SO THIS IS MY SKETCH



This is a pharyngeal tonsillotomy — used to remove adenoids. I have personally used this to remove enlarged adenoids as part of performing a T&A, It is guided by feel and placed firmly over the adenoidal tissue against the posterior pharynx (hence pharyngeal tonsillotomy). The grip opens a thin sliding metal blade that is closed once placed over the tonsillar tissue.

Robert A. Surtan MD

Please return to M. Donald Blaufox, M.D., Ph.D.

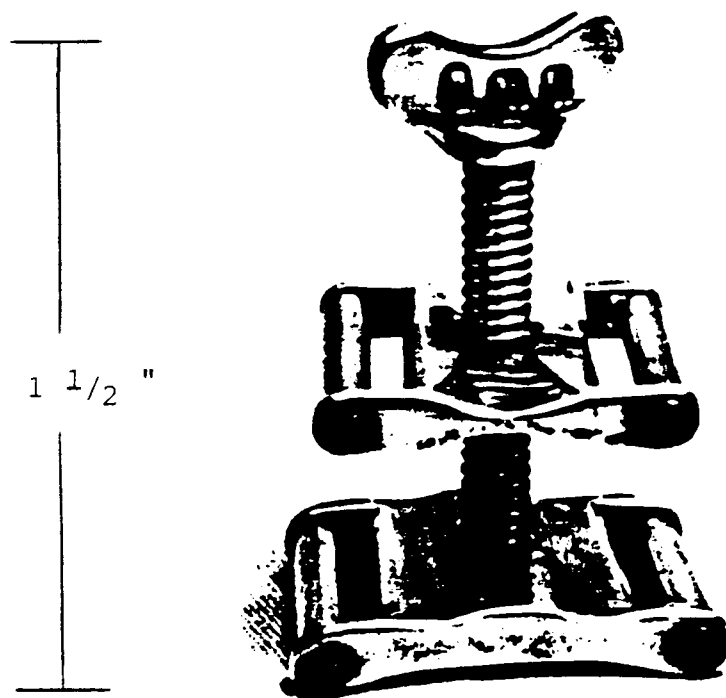
**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS ?**

Material: Silver

Maker: Unknown

Presumed Use: Tourniquet ?

Date: 1802



From:

Please Return to M. Donald Blaufox, M.D.,Ph.D.

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS?

(Additional Responses)

From: Robert J. Ruben, M.D.

The lower instrument that is carved is not a tonsillotome, it is an adenotome. This is an instrument which is still used by some for removal of adenoids. The tongue depressor appears to be a tongue depressor. I have no explanation for the notch at one end, except occasionally someone may want to use it to hold the suture or to look at Warden's duct. That may be somewhat far-fetched. I am very comfortable with the second instrument with the moving part as an adenotome.

From: William O. Campbell, M.D.

The unidentified items are: 1. adenotome - the distal end was placed blindly behind the soft palate and the guillotine blade closed. The small compartment retained the adenoid tissue. This item probably appears in all 1930-1940 general surgical catalogues.  
2. tongue depressor - I have a similar item in a kit and evidently the slot was slipped over the frenulum of the tongue when the frenulum was clipped for "Tongue-tie", which used to be a common operation. The blade protected the structures in the floor of the mouth.

From: J.W. Rosenthal, M.D.

I suggest that the upper one is a shoe horn and button hook, but I am not positive. The lower instrument however, I used many times during a T&A procedure and is an adenotome circa 1945.



**Stop Naturally!**

Tobacco's done your lungs enough. Call a halt, but do it in the right way. No-To-Bac will destroy the nerve craving and eliminate the nicotine from your system. Think a moment of your state of body. Run a few steps and your heart, nerves and are totally exhausted.

**THAT'S TOBACCO AT WORK ON YOUR HEART.**

Hold out your hand and watch it tremble. Think how it throbs irritate you.

**THAT'S TOBACCO AT WORK ON YOUR NERVES.**

Your vigor—your right to be called a man is slipping away from you.

**THAT'S TOBACCO AT WORK ON YOUR MANHOOD.**

**DON'T TOBACCO SPIT AND SMOKE YOUR LIFE AWAY.**

Thousands of tobacco users WANT TO STOP AND CAN'T FOR A DAY without actually suffering. To them we repeat the trenchant message:

**NO-TO-BAC KILLS TOBACCO**

You ask for proof? Test No-To-Bac under our absolute guarantee. Feel how quickly No-To-Bac kills the desire for tobacco, steadies the nerves, increases weight, makes the blood pure and rich, clothing with new life and energy. Lascivious days will be gone; the sunshine will be brighter. The old man is ready to make young men and happy.

**OUR GUARANTEE IS PLAIN AND TO THE POINT. One box, 50 pills, costs thirty days' treatment. It IS GUARANTEED TO CURE THE TOBACCO HABIT in any form, or money refunded. We don't claim to cure everyone, but the percentage is so large, we can better afford to leave the good will of an occasional failure, than his money. WE HAVE PATTER ON NO-TO-BAC. If you try No-To-Bac, you will find that it is to you**

**WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD**

DRUGGIST: Any dropped in the U. S. and Canada is authorized to add No-To-Bac under our GUARANTEE. Buy No-To-Bac from druggists, or mailed for price. Add THE STERLING REMEDY CO. Chicago, or Muncie, Ind. N. Y. 20 Spruce St. Laboratory, Indian Springs, Indiana.

## Historical Images of the Drug Market—XV

by William H. Helfand

THE association of smoking with heart disease is nothing new. In several advertisements that appeared in Harper's Monthly and other late nineteenth century magazines, the Sterling Remedy Company called attention to the evils of the tobacco habit with their slogan, "Don't tobacco spit and smoke your life away." Promotion in this advertisement was directed only to men, for the prospect of women smoking was not seriously entertained in 1895 when the illustration appeared. No-to-Bac would address

women only indirectly, to suggest that they convince their men to use it. In a booklet published in 1895 they proposed that America's Women should put their pamphlet "... under the tobacco user's plate at dinner-time, and if he reads it and wants a cure he will find it in No-To-Bac." The brave warrior did some good, but, unfortunately, the problem is still with us almost a hundred years later. (*Size of advertisement, 8-1/8" X 5-1/2".*)

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CALVIN H. FITCH, OF MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS, VERMONT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO BYRON S. FITCH, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

## PREScription-SCALES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 327,152, dated September 29, 1885.

Application filed January 19, 1885. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CALVIN H. FITCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Middletown Springs, in the county of Rutland and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Prescription-Scales, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of this invention is to provide portable balances or scales that may be carried in a person's pocket for the use of physicians and others, and for families for weighing small quantities of medicine or small divisions of other articles or substances. In order to secure accuracy, that quality so indispensable, particularly in medicine, I deem it essential that the balances shall be of as few parts as possible, and that a permanent pivot be provided for such balances. In order to get the scales within a compass compatible with easy portability some portions must be capable of disjoining, and I find that the member that may be so detached with a minimum loss, and, in fact, no detriment to accuracy, is the graduated arm and weight; hence in constructing my scales I employ a casing or box in which the pan and socket-piece are fixed to a fulcrum pin or shaft permanently hung in said casing, and adapted to be turned out from such box for use, and to be reversed into the box when not in use, said pan having facilities for readily receiving a detachable graduated arm and movable weight thereon constituting the beam, and shaped to preserve the balance, and also permit the ready discharge of its contents, the box forming a base or pedestal for the scales, and being provided with a suitable cover.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, in the several figures of which like parts are similarly designated, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the scales in place in the box, the cover being shown to the left. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the scales ready for use. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same; Fig. 4, a top plan view with a modification in the bearings for the fulcrum pin, and Figs. 5 and 6 plan views of other modifications of the bearings, the scale of the drawings being somewhat enlarged over the actual size.

The box or casing *a* is made preferably of metal, and rectangular or oblong in shape, struck up in dies or otherwise formed, and its cover *b* is similarly formed and readily detachable; or said box and its cover may be constructed of wood, paper, or other suitable material. *c* is the fulcrum pin or shaft, preferably made of steel wire drawn with a knife-edge, as shown, and having its bearings in holes *d* in opposite vertical sides of the box, near one end of such box. This pin may be made from a solid piece of steel or other suitable metal with knife-edge shouldered journals at each end, (see Fig. 5,) obtained by reducing the size of the pin or shaft at its ends; but, preferably, as more economical and to secure a more perfect bearing, the pin is passed through a tube, *e*, and said tube is equal in length to the distance between the sides of the box within the box, while the pin *c* is as much longer as is the outside width of the box greater than its inside, or a little more than that, so as to insure permanence of the pin in its bearings, and prevention of so much longitudinal movement as would permit the accidental disengagement of the pin and its bearings.

To the tube *e* (or to the pin *c*, if the shaft is used without the tube,) is secured a strip of metal, *f*, the longitudinal edges *g* of which are turned down, and then toward each other parallel with the piece *f*, to form a socket or sockets, *h*; and to the free end of said socket-piece *f* is affixed the scale-pan *i*, which may be round, flat, or any shape used for scales; but I prefer to make it V shape in cross-section, so as to preserve the "balance" of the scales, and obviate the necessity for adjustment, and, furthermore, to facilitate the emptying of the pan of its contents.

The pan and its socket-piece may be made of one piece of sheet metal stamped to shape, or cut and shaped in dies, or it may be formed of two pieces suitably united, as by solder.

Instead of having the bearings for the fulcrum pin in the sides of the box, they may be separate pieces, something like sheet-metal-pail bail ears secured to the sides within the box, as indicated in Fig. 4, or the sides of the box may be indented, as in Figs. 5 and 6, either angularly or in an arc of a circle to form such bearings.

The scale beam and pan may be made of one solid piece, or the scale beam and pan may be made of separate pieces, and these soldered or fastened together in any other suitable manner, and the pan and scale-beam may be so adjusted as to work all within the box; but, preferably, the scale-beam or graduated arm *j* has a tenon, *k*, to fit the socket *h* of the socket-piece of the pan, and it is limited in its inner movement in said socket, and truly registered therein by lateral lugs *l*. This scale-beam is about the length of the box inside. It is provided with a suitable counterpoise or weight, *m*, sliding thereon by the provision of a loop on its under side embracing the said beam, as indicated in Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

The vertical end walls of the box are cut out at *n* and *o* to permit the movement of the scales when put together for use.

When the pan is reversed, or turned into the box, as in Fig. 1, the knife-edge is reversed with it, and consequently it is saved the wear upon it, which is more injurious in disuse ordinarily than when in use.

When the parts are connected, as in Fig. 2, the box forms a base or pedestal for the scales, and they are in this position ready for use.

The openings *n* and *o*, while permitting free play of the scales, preclude all undue lateral motion, and they are usually no deeper than the flange or rim of the cover, so that the cover when in place will completely inclose all openings in the box.

When the bearings for the fulcral pin are in the sides of the box themselves, the cover will be made with recesses *p* to cover them; but these additions to the cover are not necessary when such bearings are used, as shown in Figs. 4, 5, and 6.

The pan may be unloaded by catching up the box and scales together and tipping them sidewise; and inasmuch as the pan from its V shape will compel the load to seek its bottom angle, and thus preserve the balance without deviation and the use of extraneous means to this end, so the load may be readily discharged in a compact mass.

I desire to lay special stress on making the pan a fixture, for thus it obviates any probability of losing said pan and greatly facilitates the manipulation of the device and overcomes the necessity for any adjustment of the pan to balance it.

I propose putting these scales on the market nickel-plated, or in polished brass, or the like, and to supply each with a spatula and a medicine-dropper.

I do not confine this invention simply to a scale for weighing small quantities, but scales may be made on this principle of any capacity, and may be made portable or stationary.

What I claim is—

1. A scale comprising a box having fixed sides provided with bearings, a scale-pan provided with a tube, *c*, and a bearing-pin secured therein, whereby the pan is permanent-

ly hung in the said bearings, a scale-beam connected with such pan, and a movable cover for the box to inclose the pan, bearings, and beam within the box, substantially as described.

2. A prescription-scale comprising a covered casing or box having fixed sides, a scale-pan permanently hung in the said fixed sides, and rotatable on its bearings, so as to be capable of being turned into and out of the box, and a scale-beam adapted to be connected with and disconnected from such pan, substantially as described.

3. A box, a scale-pan provided with a socket-piece, and a knife-edge fulcral pin secured in bearings in the sides of said box, and rotatable in said bearings to adapt it to be turned into and out from said box, and a detachable scale-beam provided with a tenon to engage the socket-piece of the pan, combined substantially as described.

4. A box provided with bearings, a fulcral pin rotatable in said bearings, and a scale-pan secured to said pin and adapted to be turned into or out from the box, combined with a detachable scale-beam, substantially as described.

5. A box provided with bearings, a fulcral pin having a knife-edge and rotatable in said bearings, and a scale-pan rigidly affixed to said pin and adapted to be turned out of or into said box to bring the knife-edge of the pin into operative and inoperative positions, respectively, with respect of its bearings, substantially as described.

6. A box provided with side bearings, a fulcral pin having a knife-edge and rotatable in said bearings, a scale-pan and a tube attached to the socket-piece extending from said pan through which the fulcral pin extends to its bearings on either side, substantially as described.

7. The scale-pan made V shape in cross-section combined with a fulcral pin having permanently-fixed bearings, and a scale-beam, whereby the article or substance to be weighed is compelled to a given center, and a true balance thus preserved, substantially as described.

8. The box *a*, provided with openings *n* *o* in its ends, side bearings, and a cover combined with the pan, its socket-piece, fulcral pin, and detachable tenoned scale-beam and weight thereon, substantially as described.

9. The combination, with the socketed scale-pan, of the tenoned scale-beam having stop-lugs *l* co-operating with the said socketed pan to insure the correct position of the beam in the socketed pan, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of January, A. D. 1885.

CALVIN H. FITCH.

Witnesses:

BYRON S. FITCH,  
H. SWINFORD.

(No Model.)

C. H. FITCH.  
PRESCRIPTION SCALE.

No. 327,152.

Patented Sept. 29, 1885.

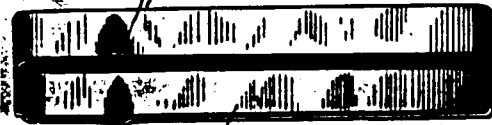


Fig. 1.

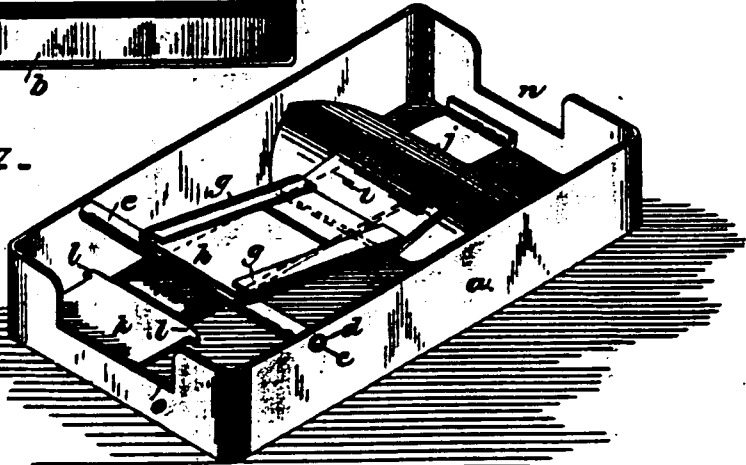


Fig. 2.

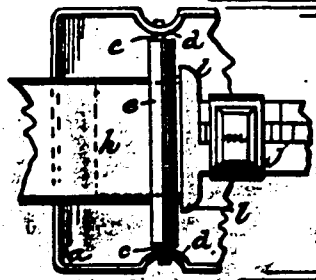


Fig. 3.

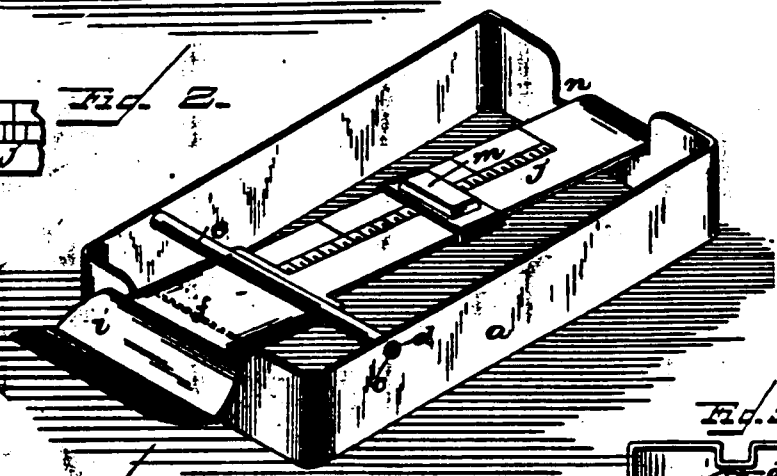


Fig. 4.

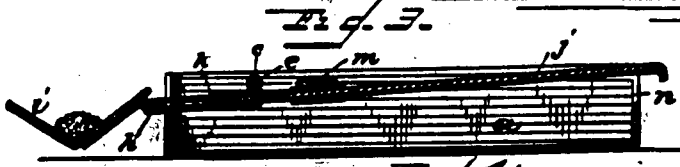


Fig. 5.

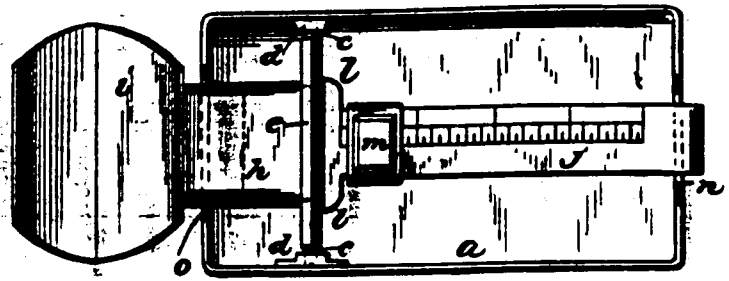
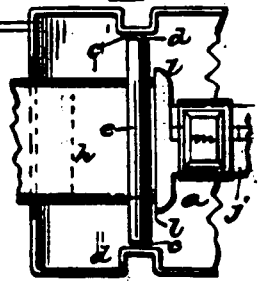


Fig. 7.

WITNESSES  
*F. L. Orland*  
*Geo. H. Binckel*

INVENTOR:  
*Calvin H. Fitch*  
*by W. H. Binckel*  
his Attorney.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CALVIN H. FITCH, OF UTICA, NEW YORK.

## PRESCRIPTION WEIGHING-SCALE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 533,166, dated January 29, 1895.

Application filed August 13, 1892. Renewed July 2, 1894. Serial No. 516,312. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CALVIN H. FITCH, of Utica, in the county of Oneida and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Prescription Weighing-Scales; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

My present invention relates to an improvement in prescription scales, more particularly adapted for apothecaries' and physicians' use.

In the drawings which accompany and form a part of this specification, and in which similar letters and figures of reference refer to corresponding parts in the several views, Figure 1 shows in side elevation my improved scale. Fig. 2 shows a top view of the same with a small connecting bar removed to better illustrate the construction. Fig. 3 shows an end view of the device as seen from the left of the Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 shows the right hand end of the device as seen in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 5 shows the fulcrum piece which is applied to the end of the beam, in section, also showing a portion of the upper end of the pan hanger. Fig. 6 shows the weight or counterpoise. Fig. 7 shows in perspective a portion of the right hand end of the scales as shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 8 shows the fulcrum end of the beam. Fig. 9 shows the fulcrum piece as seen from the under side and which is secured to the end of the beam shown in Fig. 8. Fig. 10 shows a modified form of construction of the fulcrum piece in connection with a portion of the beam.

Referring more particularly to the reference numerals and letters in a more specific description of the device, 1 indicates the base in which is secured supporting rod 2, which projects on either side of the base and has secured at one end the head 3 by nut 4 on the end of the supporting rod 2. On the opposite end of the rod 2 is provided a check arm 5 provided with an opening 6 in which the projecting end of the beam 7 plays. At the lower end of the opening 6 is provided a projecting arm or post 8 formed from the metal punched out of the

hole and which is provided with a sharp point or edge 9 on which the end of the beam rests when in its lower position and which acts as the lower check or stop therefor. On the beam 7 is provided a movable poise 10 adapted to be moved along the beam 7. The beam is divided or marked off with marks and figures in the usual manner of a scale beam. The pan end of the beam 7 is tapered, as shown at *a* in Fig. 8; the taper making an incline downward from the point of the beam adjacent to the fulcrum toward the pan end of the beam. Secured on this tapering end *a* of the beam by soldering or in any other suitable manner, is provided the fulcrum piece 11, which is formed as shown, with L shaped projections on either side of the body of the piece which form fulcrums 11<sup>c</sup> and 12. In the opposite end of the fulcrum piece 11 is provided an opening 13 and the portion of the piece between the opening 13 and the end is sharpened on the upper side to furnish pan supporting knife edge pivot 14.

It will be observed that the taper or incline *a* formed on the end of the beam 7 is such as to bring the fulcrums 11<sup>c</sup> and 12 on line with the top surface of the beam and the pivotal edge of the pan hanging pivot 14 in the same line with the fulcrums 11 and 12 and with the upper surface of the beam. By means of the hanger 15 a pan 16 is supported from the pivot 14. The head 3 is provided with a pair of upwardly extending arms 17, which at their upper ends are turned inwardly and downwardly forming suspended ears 18. These ears are provided with openings in which the fulcrums 11<sup>c</sup> and 12 have bearing. The beam may be put in place by slightly springing the arm 17 apart to allow the fulcrums to be put in their places.

Extending between the upper ends of the arms 17 may be provided a cross bar 19 secured on the upper end of the arm by screws as 20. By providing the ears 18 on the inside of the arm 17, a bearing is secured which is protected by the arm and the fulcrums extending through the ears will abut against the body of the arm 17 and prevent the beam from becoming displaced and still be substantially frictionless if the scales are used with the end of the fulcrum so abutting against the side of the arm. This construc-

tion also dispenses with a shoulder at the side of the fulcrum 12 to limit the amount of play which it would otherwise have if the bearings for the fulcrums were provided directly in the arms 17 on the head 3.

Secured on the fulcrum piece adjacent to the fulcrum is an indicator arm 21 which extends downward on the inner side of the arm 17 nearly to the bottom of the head 3 and thence turning at an angle passes through a slotted opening 22 provided in one side of the head and vibrates in unison with the beam opposite a scale 23 provided on the lower portion of the head 3.

The operation of a scale is too well known to require description.

I have provided a check having a sharp point or edge 9 on which the scale beam does not adhere to any appreciable extent, thus overcoming the adhesive and cohesive forces. I am, therefore, able to provide a scale which is very sensitive to variations in weight placed in the scale pan while the beam is in its lower position. The scales may be entirely dismantled by detaching the pan hanger and removing the strap or bar 19. The beam can then be removed by springing the arms 17 apart to disengage the fulcrums and withdrawing the indicator 21 from the slotted openings 22. The head 3 and the check arm 5 may also be removed by loosening the nuts 4 and  $x$  which secure them.

In the modified form of construction shown in Fig. 10, I provide in lieu of the piece 11 shown in the other figures, a piece 11<sup>a</sup> which has the fulcrums formed and brought on to a level with the upper face of the beam by a turn or bend  $b$  provided therein. This fulcrum piece is stamped by a die from a sheet of metal and in turning the bend, the under side of the pin becomes one of the walls of the knife edge of the fulcrum and the fulcrum bearings are easily completed by simply filing off on a bevel the end of the fulcrum piece. The pan hanger pivot  $c$  provided in the end of the piece 11<sup>a</sup> is also in line with the upper surface of the beam, as will be seen by the dotted lines in the figure. As the fulcrum piece contains both the fulcrums and the pan hanging pivot, these points are invariable with reference to each other and the fulcrums and pivot may on that account be more perfectly mounted on the beam than is otherwise practicable. The position of the pan hanger pivot  $c$  and the fact of its being brought into

line with the upper surface of the beam is determined by the inclined tapered end of the beam on which it is secured, as described with reference to the other figures.

What I claim as now, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a scale, the combination of a scale beam having a beveled end sloping from the pivotal point downward toward the pan hanging end, and a fulcrum piece having fulcrum projections extending to either side of the beam and a pan hanging pivot in the end of the piece the fulcrum piece being secured on the beveled end of the beam, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a scale beam and a check arm having an opening in which the end of the beam vibrates, an arm projecting from the lower edge of the opening below the beam and having a sharp edge on its end on which the beam rests in its lower position, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination in a scale, of a beam having fulcrum arms projecting from either side, a head having a pair of upwardly extending arms in which are provided bearings for the beam fulcrums, one of the arms having a slotted opening adjacent to its base, and a scale beside the opening and an indicator arm secured to the fulcrum arm between the bearings and extending to and bent to pass through the slotted opening, the indicator point vibrating in unison with the beam in front of the scale, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination of a beam having fulcrum arms extending from either side thereof, and a pair of beam supporting arms, each having an inwardly turned perforated ear in which the beam fulcrums have bearing, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination in a scale of a beam having a tapering end and a fulcrum piece formed out of a plate with sharp bend in one end of it whereby the fulcrums are brought into line with the upper surface of the beam and provided with a pan hanging pivot in the opposite end of the piece, also in line with the upper surface of the beam, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CALVIN H. FITCH.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM FISHER.

G. W. ADAMS.

(No Model.)

C. H. FITCH.  
PRESCRIPTION WEIGHING SCALE.

No. 533,166.

Patented Jan. 29, 1895.

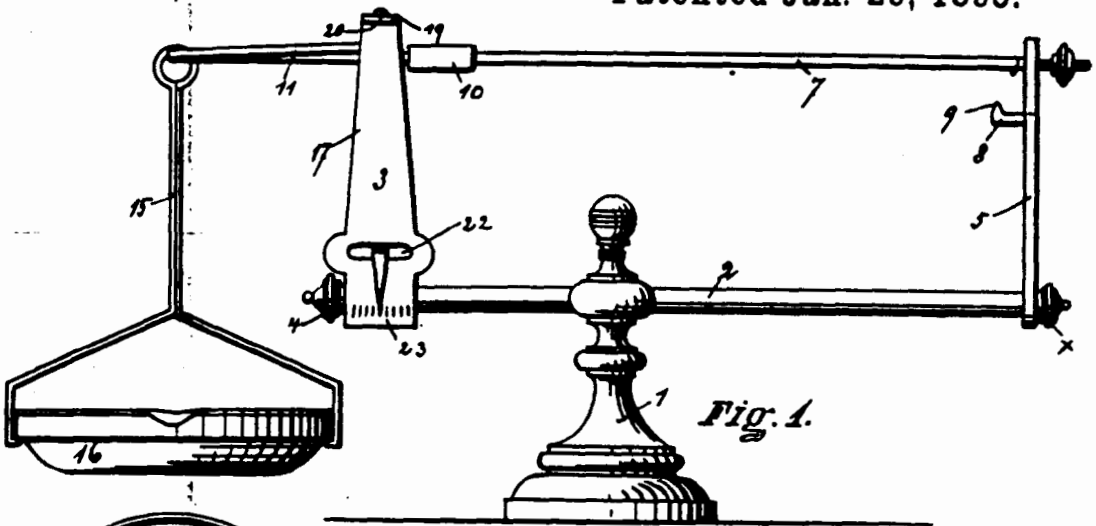


Fig. 1.

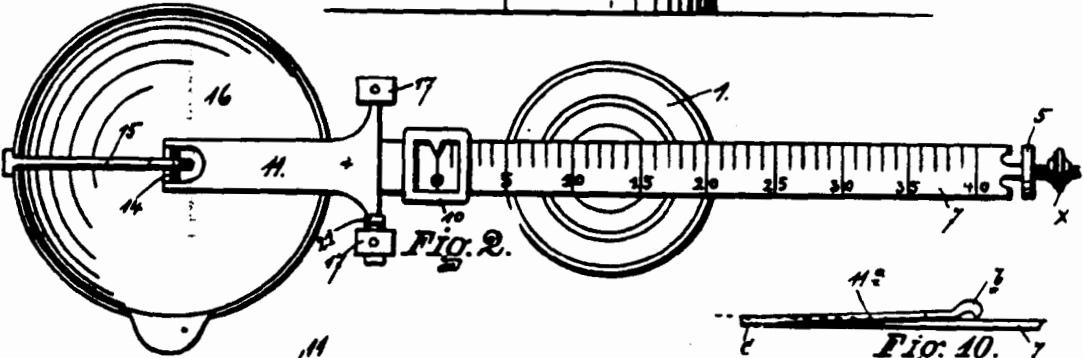


Fig. 2.



Fig. 10.

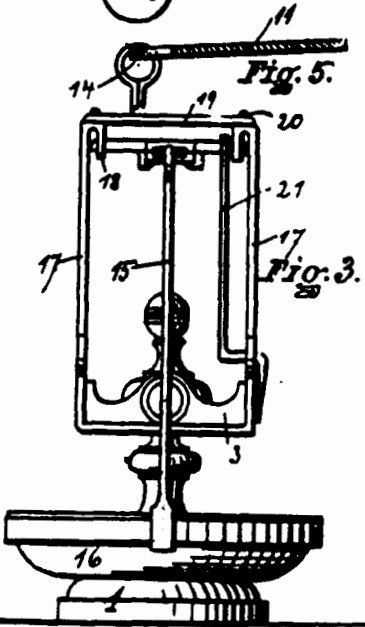


Fig. 3.

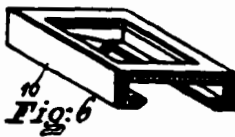


Fig. 6.

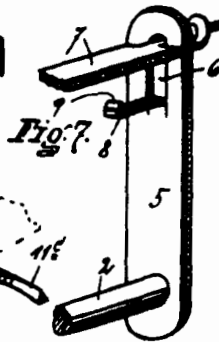


Fig. 7.

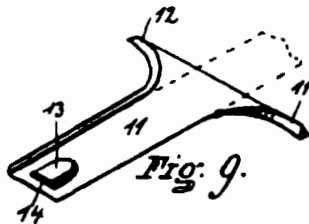


Fig. 9.

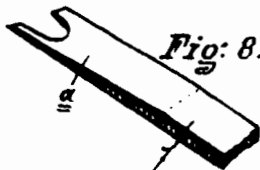


Fig. 8.

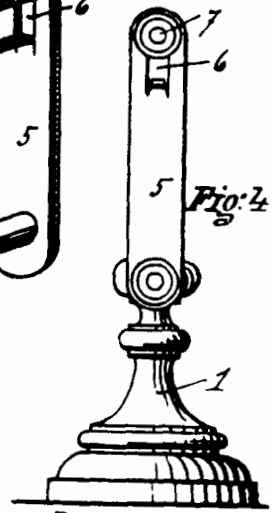


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES.  
Rich. A. George.  
L. & Morse

INVENTOR.  
Calvin H. Fitch  
By Halsey Robinson  
Atty

# The Ultimate Collection

By Betty Jo Geiger  
Associate Editor

**W**e all know that old soldiers just fade away, but what happens to old peddlers ... old Cutter peddlers? In John Conter's case, he raises spotted asses.

Conter spent 44 years with the Cutter company (now Miles), and during his travels collected thousands of samples of animal and human health products. Shelves line the basement of his Billings, Mt., home, displaying everything from flavors of rye and amaretto that were mixed with grain alcohol during Prohibition, to the original inoculant Cutter developed for blackleg. Each of the packages contains the original product.

Since there were no laws about truth in advertising early in the century, the claims on the package labels are hilarious. One product will claim to cure arthritis, dropsy, heart problems, etc. Conter has one box with at least 20 remedies for what was called, darkly, "men problems."

Most amazing is the first of the Cutter blackleg products. The inoculant came in a small packet the size of a postage stamp. One package contained ten doses. A small crucible was provided, but the customer had to supply his own string.

First, the inoculant was dissolved in a container of water. Then, ten inches of string were placed in the container to absorb the liquid. A darning needle was used to pull the string through the animal's hide, and an inch of the string was cut off and left in the animal. Inoculation by the inch.

## Exciting Life

Conter — fit, trim and pink-cheeked — looks 20 years younger than the 80 years old he will be next year. A native of Iowa, he took \$150 and went off to the University of Minnesota to become a veterinarian because he liked animals. As it turned



John Conter shows off the museum in his basement.

out, the University of Minnesota did not have a veterinary school and he ended up taking care of 1,800-lb. Belgian horses for his keep.

After finishing school, Conter became a sheep herder. He lists W.D. Farr as one of his favorite bosses. Conter had decided, however, that he wanted to be a salesman. When he saw in a cowboy magazine that the Cutter family was looking for people, he applied. He was hired ... to take care of their 600-head horse herd, which they were using as test animals to develop a human sleeping sickness vaccine.

Conter and his wife Claire were married just before he left for World War II. Claire worked for Cutter while he was gone. He was sent to India for the first year to train with 15,000 Chinese, and was then sent to North Burma. Conter, one vet tech, two doctors, one dentist and 15 corpsmen were the backup team for 3,000 Chinese. Conter was in charge of the care of 25 mules. The contingent's assignment was to push the Japanese out of the country so the Ledo Road could be built.

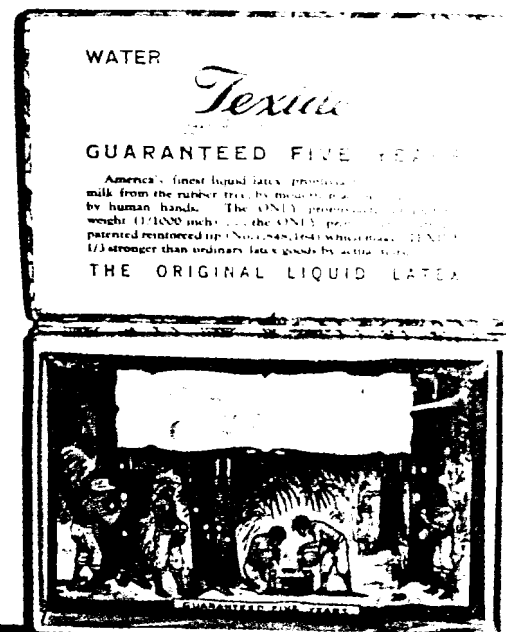
"The road was 550 miles long — the distance from Denver to Billings — and was terrible," Conter recalled. "We were so short on officers, two of

us were promoted from private to second lieutenant. They gave us \$150 to buy uniforms, but there wasn't any place to buy them so we spent the money on booze. We each bought 24 bottles of gin.

"After that experience, two things I never wanted to do again were eat rice and go on picnics."

After the war, Conter became a salesman for Cutter. His territory ran from Washington state to Wyoming

*Conter has a little bit of everything in his collection.*

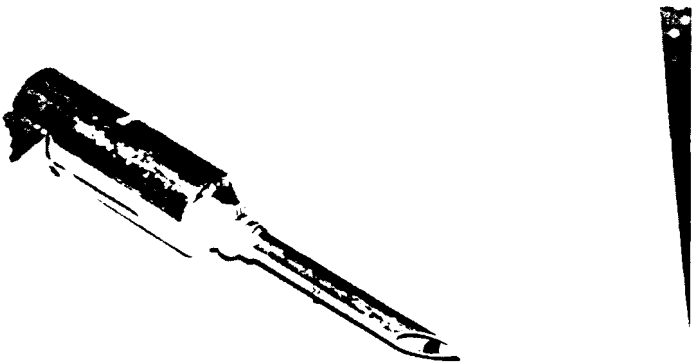


(Reprinted from the January 1994 issue of CALF News Cattle Feeder magazine.)

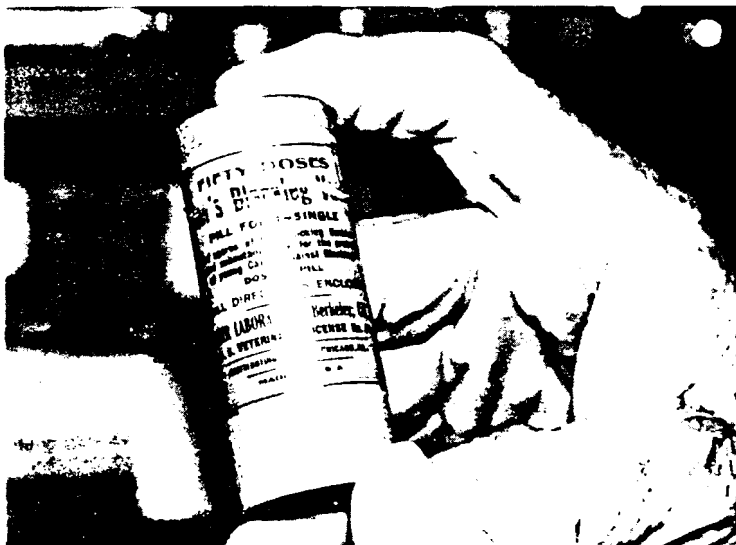




*The very first blackleg inoculation kit ... product by the inch.*



*The tip of this early-day syringe is as big as the end of my little finger. The tip of a knife was usually used to puncture the hide, and then the needle was inserted.*



*The next step in the packaging of a blackleg*



*Conter's Spotted Ass Ranch is known across the country.*

and North Dakota. On each three-month swing, he and Claire would make the rounds of hospitals, drug stores and feed stores. Basically, the only product they had to start with was sulfa.

"I will never forget," Conter said. "The first year our gross sales were \$39,000. The company was pleased and we all made money. They gave me a \$10 raise — all the way to \$160 a month. The Cutter family was a delight to work for."

### *Spotted Asses*

In 1983, Conter retired with 44 years under his belt. Through a good friend, Dave Parker, founder of Parker Livestock, he and Claire started raising spotted asses.

Versatile creatures, the asses are used for packing, sheep protection, halter breaking of calves and, as the brochure says, for foal companionship, help with handicapped children and baby-sitting. The donkeys, of which there are only about 700, come in three sizes: miniature, standard and mammoth. Some of the animals sell for several thousand dollars.

Until recently, Conter ran the American Council of Spotted Asses. Once, they were a special feature on the "Today Show." They do part of their advertising on sheep wagons along the road, near Pompeys Pillar outside of Billings.

"I used to have 800 sheep and one sheep wagon," Conter explained. "Now we have eight wagons and two old ewes. Something got out of hand."

The Conters also use the wagons as camp units for their three grown children and grandchildren.

If you should stop in Billings to see the infamous Conter museum, or the spotted asses, you can rest assured that John Conter will pour you a drink and toast you with the SAP (Spotted Ass Promoter) Club Toast:

May your friends never leave you,  
 May your spurs never rust.  
 May your spotted ass never stumble,  
 May your cinch never bust.  
 May your boots never pinch,  
 May your crops never fail.  
 May you always have plenty to eat and drink,  
 May you never go to jail. 🐴