

CONVICTIONS UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

MONTE CRISTO RUM AND QUININ FOR THE HAIR

The Monte Cristo Cosmetic Company of New York City, which was a trade style used by one Albert Edelstein, shipped in interstate commerce a product labeled "Monte Cristo Rum and Quinin for the Hair." The claims for the preparation were:

"Cools and invigorates the Scalp. Prevents the hair from falling out. Removes and prevents dandruff, imparting to the hair a delightful perfume."

A sample of the product was analyzed by the Bureau of Chemistry, and the chemists reported the following results:

Ethyl alcohol	18.5	per cent.
Wood alcohol	42.0	per cent.
Quinin (grams per 100 c.c.)	0.28	

This preparation was declared adulterated in that its purity and strength were inferior to the professed standard under which it was sold, in that wood alcohol had been substituted for part of the rum. It was declared misbranded because the label was false and misleading and likely to deceive the purchaser into the belief that the product was composed of rum and quinin, when as a matter of fact it was composed of rum, quinin and wood alcohol. It was further declared misbranded in that it bore a serial number that did not belong to the Monte Cristo Cosmetic Company; and in that the label failed to bear a declaration of the quantity of alcohol the preparation contained. Albert Edelstein pleaded guilty and was fined \$50.—[*Notice of Judgment No. 2321.*]

PEPSIN MAGEN BITTERS

Bettman-Johnson Company, a Cincinnati corporation, shipped from Ohio to Oregon a quantity of a product labeled "Pepsin Magen Bitters." The claims made for the stuff were to the effect that it "ranks among the best means for the preservation of activity of the digestive organs." It was further stated that "weakness of the stomach is mainly due to the scanty secretion of pepsin," and that in such cases the physician always prescribed pepsin. "Pepsin Magen Bitters" should be used because:

"A supply of Pepsin, as contained in these celebrated Bitters, in connection with some wholesome and strengthening bitter roots and herbs, will supply that deficiency and bring the stomach back to a normal condition."

When analyzed by the federal chemists, "Pepsin Magen Bitters" was found to contain 28.44 per cent. alcohol, 5.2 per cent. sugar, and less than 0.0001 grams of pepsin in each cubic centimeter of the preparation. "Pepsin Magen Bitters" were declared misbranded because the label conveyed the impression that the stuff contained a substantial amount of pepsin, when as a matter of fact, it contained only an infinitesimal quantity of pepsin, and it was further declared misbranded as the percentage of alcohol was not stated on the label. The Bettman-Johnson Company entered a plea of *nolo contendere* and was fined \$25 and costs of \$15.85.—[*Notice of Judgment No. 2222.*]

BAVARIAN MALT EXTRACT

A quantity of so-called Bavarian Malt Extract was shipped by the Kansas City Breweries Company from Kansas City, Missouri, to Nebraska. In addition to the name, "Bavarian Malt Extract," the label contained these claims:

"An unequalled health giving medical tonic."

"An excellent recuperant for weak physical energy, with the nourishing qualities of a pure extract of Malt and Hops."

Analysis by the government chemists showed that the preparation was misbranded, since instead of being a malt extract as claimed, it was essentially beer, containing 5.8 per cent. alcohol. The government further declared the stuff misbranded in that it led the purchaser to believe he was buying a foreign-made product, when as a matter of fact "Bavarian Malt Extract" was made at Kansas City, Missouri. The company pleaded guilty to both allegations and was fined \$100 and costs.—[*Notice of Judgment No. 2258.*]

Correspondence

Testimonial to Lucas-Championnière

To the Editor:—I beg to call the attention of my fellow surgeons to a movement which has just been inaugurated for the erection of a monument to the late Prof. Just Lucas-Championnière. There is a large committee consisting of representative surgeons, such as Professors Delagenière, Delorme, Depage, Dollinger, von Eiselsberg, Ceccherelli, Chantemesse, Garré, Gibson, Godlee, Hartmann, Robert Jones, Körte, Macewen, Michon, Labbé, Perier, Reverdin and many others from America and practically every country in Europe.

Championnière's important contributions to surgery are too well known for it to be necessary to recount them. He was more than friendly to all Americans who were brought into contact with him. I am sure that it will be a great pleasure to many American surgeons to contribute toward this international testimonial.

Contributions may be sent to M. Georges Steinheil, 2, rue Casimir-Delavigne, Paris, or if any of the contributors prefer, I shall be very glad to receive and transmit any such contributions.

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Presence in Urine of Dialyzable Products Reacting to Ninhydrin

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, April 4, 1914, p. 1084, Jamison reports on experiments with urine to check up the article by Warfield (THE JOURNAL, Feb. 7, 1914, p. 436). Jamison's reports are at variance with a large number of tests which I made with urine, as the following facts will show:

Urines of various acidities were tested directly with ninhydrin. Acidities were determined by titration with tenth-normal sodium hydroxid solution: Four specimens of urine of acidity 33, 56, 91 and 123 degrees were positive with ninhydrin. These acidities represent a fair range. It is not frequently that a urine with so high an acidity as 123 degrees is found.

Jamison says that a urine which gives even a strongly positive ninhydrin reaction loses its power to react if made strongly acid by the addition of acetic acid, and that the reaction will not reappear when the urine is exactly neutralized by the addition of sodium hydroxid. To determine what might be the disturbing element, provided his statement is true, the following tests were made:

Urine plus one-third its volume of glacial acetic acid, plus ninhydrin, no reaction.

Urine plus sodium acetate, plus ninhydrin, typical reaction.

Urine plus sodium hydroxid plus ninhydrin, yellowish color.

Urine plus acetic acid, then neutralized exactly with sodium hydroxid, plus ninhydrin, original reaction.

Urine plus acetic acid, plus sodium hydroxid to very faint alkaline reaction, plus ninhydrin, no reaction.

Urine plus acetic acid, plus sodium hydroxid until just short of neutral, plus ninhydrin, typical reaction.

Urine plus 0.5 per cent. acetic acid, plus ninhydrin, typical reaction.

These experiments were repeated on a number of urines and were also duplicated with solutions of pure glycocholl. The results were always the same as above.

From the foregoing it is evident that a large excess of acetic acid (like hydrochloric, nitric, etc.), will interfere with the production of a color reaction. It is also evident that the reason Jamison failed to restore the ninhydrin reaction after acidifying was that he did not neutralize exactly, but used too much alkali.

It is well known that acids and alkalis dialyze readily. It is hard to conceive that an acid solution on dialysis would give a neutral dialysate. Experiments with urine, with diammonium hydrogen phosphate, with disodium hydrogen phosphate and with monopotassium hydrogen phosphate show the reaction of the dialysate to be always the same