

**MEDICINAL AGENTS OF
THE CHEMICAL
WORKS (VORMALS E.
SCHERING), BERLIN, 1893**

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CHEMISCHE FABRIK AUF ACTIEN

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CHEMICAL WORKS

Chemische Fabrik in Berlin

(VORMALS E. SCHERING),

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1893.



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PREFACE.

The discovery of the DAGUERRE method of producing pictures of natural objects—in other words, the invention of the art of photography—gave an important stimulus to the preparation of chemicals in a high state of purity, and indirectly exerted an influence upon the synthesis of organic compounds. The importance of the art was recognised by ERNST SCHERING, founder of the Chemische Fabrik auf Actien, who set himself the task of preparing the chemicals used in it in a condition of the utmost purity. In thus sketching in barest outline the origin of the firm, allusion may be made to the historic interest that gathers round the design impressed upon the title-page and cover of the volume. Though by no means a conspicuous figure, it is associated with the earliest history of the Fabrik, and has more significance than appears at first sight. Those readers acquainted with alchemic lore and symbols will recognise the superimposed forms representing fire and water as well as the central circle which stood for the third of the "elements" of the ancients. The part played by the sun as a source of energy in chemical processes is symbolised by the halo of rays streaming from the "star," while the particular application of this curious group of signs to the firm is indicated by the initials (E.S.) of the founder.

This may be regarded as the commencement of the manufacture of fine chemicals by this firm, which has now attained the dimensions indicated by the number of products described in the following pages—products which are, with few exceptions, all of recent introduction.

From the preparation of well-known compounds in qualities distinguished by their high purity to that of entirely new bodies of definite chemical nature was a natural transition. The development of synthetical organic chemistry revealed new and better methods of procedure, which were promptly investigated and taken advantage of in the works, and the inevitable result of the progressive tendency always kept alive was that the firm of E. SCHERING occupied the foremost place among those chemical manufacturers engaged in the production and investigation of new remedies.

It is noteworthy that the very first of the synthetical remedies—Chloral Hydrate—was prepared in the chemical works of the firm, and the prestige conferred by this achievement was again enhanced by the introduction of Salicylic Acid. It may be remarked, in passing, that although since the *début* of these compounds the class of synthetical medicinal compounds has enormously increased, they still maintain their high position in *materia medica*, and, indeed, have become almost indispensable in modern therapeutics.

It will be seen that the derivative of chloral, Chloralamid, rivals the mother-substance in general importance, and in

certain cases is preferable to it. The steadily-growing literature of the compound establishes its valuable hypnotic properties and the freedom of its medicinal action from unpleasant after-effects. This latter feature has attracted general attention; to it is largely due the great strides which Chloralamid has made in the favour of medical men in all countries.

The monograph on Piperazine, the first remedy in the gouty diathesis which organic chemistry has yielded, should prove especially interesting. Although so recently introduced, the peculiar chemical and chemico-physiological behaviour of the base, especially in relation to uric acid and its compounds, has procured for it a searching investigation and extensive trial which enable a sound judgment as to its value to be already formed. When combined with Phenocoll it seems to form the most efficient remedy for the various forms of gout which has hitherto been discovered.

The noteworthy points in the therapeutical uses of Phenocoll are its comparatively ready solubility in water, and its freedom from any deleterious action on the blood or circulatory system generally. The medical practitioner will not need to be reminded that the possession of both these properties gives Phenocoll a marked advantage over all other remedies of the same class.

Finally, the attention of the reader may be directed to the chapters on Diabetin, Strontium Salts, and Thiosinamine,

the latest comers among therapeutical novelties. It is not possible, of course, to predict with certainty what position these substances will finally attain in *materia medica*; but it may at least be said that they give promise of winning recognition as real enrichments of the physician's armament against disease.

Chemische Fabrik auf Actien
vormals E. Schering.

BERLIN,
February, 1893.

