

A PHILADELPHIA "PHARMACEUTIST" IN THE OLD WEST—WILLIAM BARKER CHAPMAN (1813-1874)

By Glenn Sonnedecker *

YOUTHFUL William Barker Chapman landed in the old West, one of the professional sparks thrown off by the youthful Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He symbolizes a small group of venturesome pharmacists, educated in early American schools or foreign homelands, who became foci for the spread of professionalism at cultural outposts about the middle of the 19th century.

In his native Philadelphia, a pharmaceutical center, Chapman might have become merely one among many able, ambitious "pharmacutists." In Cincinnati, the burgeoning town on the Ohio River, he became prominent among a few leaders who sparked the early development of pharmacy there.

Educational Background

William Chapman grew up in the vicinity of Philadelphia. He was born June 5, 1813, probably at nearby Pennypack Hall (1). As an apothecary's apprentice he enrolled at the school of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, which had been founded only about a decade before (1821). There Chapman attended the lectures on materia medica and pharmacy by George B. Wood and those on chemistry given by Franklin Bache. Here were two outstanding teachers of the time, now best remembered for their work on the U. S. Pharmacopoeia and U. S. Dispensatory.

After attending these same lectures for a second time as required, completing the necessary apprenticeship, and writing an inaugural essay on ipecac, William Barker Chapman graduated in 1834 (2). Among his nine classmates was Augustine J. L. Duhamel, whose

* Assistant Professor (history of pharmacy), University of Wisconsin; Secretary, American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, Madison 6, Wisconsin.

Adapted from a contribution to a symposium on the founders of the American Pharmaceutical Association at the 1952 meeting of the Association in Philadelphia.

prolific pen mediated a French influence on early scientific pharmacy in the United States (3).

Armed with the best pharmaceutical education then available on American soil—which only 36 Philadelphia and New York graduates had attained before him—Chapman promptly set out for Cincinnati (4).

Five years later he received there an M. D. degree from the Ohio Medical College (5), an institution long under attack from without and torn by dissension within. Although the College was not in the best condition by this time, Chapman probably got a reasonably good medical training if he took the standard two terms of lectures (6).

We do not know that Chapman ever had serious ambitions as a physician. Perhaps the Ohio Medical College only served conveniently to extend his education. In any case, when pharmacy and medicine were still imperfectly separated even in the cities, the twin degrees of Ph. G. and M. D. permitted him to meet every exigency in good conscience.

Professional Stature

William Chapman could be called a physician, but he was considered a pharmacist, by himself as well as by others.

Upon arriving in Cincinnati he had become "associated with Dr. Eberley in the drug business . . ." (7). By 1839, when he received his M. D., Chapman felt he was ready to set up his own home and his own shop. To accomplish the former, he wed Margaret, daughter of William Crossman. For the latter he chose the corner of 6th and Walnut Streets (8). Later he moved to the corner of Court and Vine but his last and best known shop was in the new Mechanics Institute building (9).

Chapman soon became known as a thorough pharmacist who went out of his way to manufacture his own preparations. He felt keenly his responsibility to train young apprentices for pharmacy in the West (10), at a time when good preceptors were almost as hard to obtain as a formal education.

When the North and South clashed, Chapman served in the U. S. Army at Camp Dennison, with the rank of Surgeon (11). After returning from war service Chapman constructed one of the first suppository molds made in a solid metal block. This eventually brought to him "the major part" of the suppository prescriptions of

Cincinnati. Before then it had been "customary in this city to make suppositories by twisting a small sheet of paper into a cone, waxing the edges, the top and bottom with sealing wax, and pouring therein the medicated cocoa butter" (12).

True to his cooperative bent, Chapman did not long try to reserve the advantage of the metal molds for himself. He also made molds for other pharmacists at \$5, quite inexpensive in view of the work involved and their usefulness at the time. John Uri Lloyd, one of America's most distinguished and versatile pharmacists, says he bought a set "and used them subsequently for years in prescription work" (13).

Lloyd himself worked with Chapman at the pharmacy of the respected German apothecary, George Egers. Of this relationship Lloyd says: "It was my good fortune to be engaged in business as a clerk with Dr. Chapman, and I may say that these years of prescription work under his special direction were to me a source of invaluable knowledge . . . Dr. Chapman was one of the most thorough pharmacists it has ever been my opportunity to meet . . . The result of such instruction as came from Dr. Chapman to the young men of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy is evidenced yet in the thoroughness of many matured pharmacists of the west, to whom in those early days he was a teaching preceptor" (14).

Can we then conclude that he was a success? No, he was a failure—by the commonplace monetary standard. John Uri Lloyd says: "He was not a successful business man, preferring rather the manipulative and educational side of his art than the business department of his store. He neglected the customer for manipulative work, and often cut a patron short in order to attend to some detail concerning manipulation, his theory being that the pharmacist should make everything he used, at least everything possible. The result was that while Dr. Chapman was thus engaged in making these preparations and attending to the scientific part of his art, he was losing the good will of his customers and finally their trade, the result being failure in a business way" (15).

The Cincinnati College of Pharmacy

We are hardly surprised to find Chapman among the five men who took the lead in establishing the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy in 1850. The founders may well have been stimulated "to greater effort in the accomplishment of their plans" (16) by the example and

spirit of the fledgling American Medical Association, which had met in Cincinnati earlier in 1850.

That same year Chapman was selected to represent the College at the Pharmacopoeial convention in Washington, the first time that Colleges of Pharmacy were officially invited to participate in revision work. As on later occasions Chapman had trouble reaching his destination, hence almost missing his place in history! As an anticlimax to the report on this significant meeting appears the statement: "After the adjournment of the Convention, Dr. William B. Chapman, one of the delegates from the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, arriving in Washington, stated to the Secretary his concurrence in the proceedings of the Convention." (17) With this beginning, Chapman's role in U.S.P. work appears to have come to an end (18).

The Cincinnati College (i.e., association) did not establish a regular school of pharmacy until 1871. Sometime before that "personal and indirect" instruction was offered by several members. At the monthly roundtable discussions and at sessions in private homes, Chapman taught theoretical pharmacy (19). He was appointed professor of pharmacy in the formal school the year after it opened (1872) (20). Shortly before his death two years later Chapman was also named to the Cincinnati Board of Pharmacy (21).

Service to the A.Ph.A.

It was late afternoon on October 6, 1852, when the secretary droned off the roll of accredited delegates to the "National Pharmaceutical Convention," in the Hall of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. No one answered to the name of William Barker Chapman. Only Charles A. Smith spoke for the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy; and for all we know now, Chapman remained behind the counter of his shop as the American Pharmaceutical Association came into being. There can be no doubt that the spirit of William Chapman was with the little group of men gathered in Philadelphia for this historic event. Yet the remembrance of him as a "founder" hangs by a tenuous thread: that there were "satisfactory credentials" of his appointment as a delegate (22).

Chapman may not have been in Philadelphia for the founding, but he did make the even more arduous journey to Boston the next year for the Association's convention. There he was elected Cor-

responding Secretary, while Edward Parrish became Recording Secretary (23).

The Association year 1853-54 found Chapman also a member of the Special Committee on the Collection and Arrangement of the Statistics of Pharmacy in the United States. He was re-appointed for 1854-55. Illuminating information gathered by this Committee provided a framework for the influential "Address to the Pharmacutists of the United States", prepared and published in 1854 under the guidance of William Procter, Jr. (24). We meet Chapman again in 1857 as an unobtrusive member of the Committee on Local Unofficial Formulae (25).

Chapman's participation in the youthful A.Ph.A. culminates with his election as president at the third annual meeting (1854). Does this accurately reflect Chapman's stature nationally? Probably not. First of all the meeting convened in his home town of Cincinnati. And precedent called for election of a president from the local ranks. Many pharmacutists from Eastern cities could not come, the Secretary said, because of the prevalence of cholera (26). In fact, 16 of the 20 pharmacists attending were from southern Ohio (27). There may have been considerable last-minute recruitment around Cincinnati to bolster the convention, for the previous year Chapman and C. A. Smith had been the sole members in Ohio. With only these two Cincinnati signatures really dry on the register, the list of logical candidates for the presidency could not have been very long. Chapman's election undoubtedly reflects his preeminence among the city's professionally-minded pharmacutists. One cannot say more.

When the A.Ph.A. again convened, the president's chair stood vacant. Perhaps the travel difficulties between Cincinnati and distant New York were more than Chapman counted on, for he arrived at the convention later (28).

His support and services were freely offered in these post-natal years of the Association but apparently he did not take a very vocal part in the proceedings. His pen likewise left few traces in the literature. The single article under his name in the *American Journal of Pharmacy* the editor reprinted (1854) from the *Transactions of the Ohio State Medical Society*. It discusses, for physicians, the importance and difficulty of obtaining pure pharmaceutical preparations and the proper formulation, choice and use of various types of medications (29).

Conclusion

William Chapman lived out his 61 years in a consistent pattern that expressed devotion to, and ambitions for, pharmacy. He is perhaps typical of a small group of American-educated pharmacutists—smaller still than the group of educated immigrants—who went into the old west to become pioneers for a responsible profession of pharmacy distinct from medicine. An associative bent channeled his efforts into the development of a local organization and school and then into the larger sphere of action of the embryonic national organization (30). A rather quiet cooperation, instead of the stimulus of conflict, was this Quaker's way of contributing to American pharmacy's progress.

Chapman died on October 10, 1874, after a three-week bout with dysentery. He was the "oldest pharmacist in the city of Cincinnati" and one of the oldest members of the A.Ph.A. (31); significant but not great in American pharmacy of the 19th century; the kind of man John Uri Lloyd remembered as "a whole-souled, kind-hearted pharmacist, intent on doing well that which he had to do; wrapped up . . . to the extreme in his art." (32)

REFERENCES.

- (1) Some obituaries say he was born in Philadelphia.
- (2) Joseph W. England, "The First Century of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy," 1922, p. 462.
- (3) Edward Kremers and George Urdang, "History of Pharmacy," 1951, p. 245.
- (4) See graduation lists, England, "The First Century," p. 461 and Curt P. Wimmer, "The College of Pharmacy of the City of New York—A History," 1929, p. 313.
- (5) "Obituary", *Amer. J. Pharm.*, 46:544 (1874).
- (6) In medicine, as in pharmacy, this would be a series of evening lectures, once repeated. On the Ohio Medical College, see William Frederick Norwood, "Medical Education in the United States Before the Civil War," 1944, pp. 313-317.
- (7) "Obituary", *Amer. J. Pharm.*, 46:544 (1874).
- (8) *Ibid.*
- (9) *Ibid.*
- (10) John Uri Lloyd, "The Chapman Suppository Mold," *Proc. Am. Pharm. Assoc.*, 50:501f. (1902).
- (11) "Obituary", *Amer. J. Pharm.*, 46:544 (1874).
- (12) John Uri Lloyd, "The Chapman Suppository Mold", *Proc. Am. Pharm. Assoc.*, 50:501f. (1902). Lloyd thought the mold was not only the

earliest in Cincinnati but perhaps in the country. Beringer pointed out, however, that plaster of paris molds for suppositories were used as early as 1840 in the Heinitsh store at Lancaster, Penna. (*Ibid.*, p. 502). Cf., George B. Griffenhagen, "The History and Evolution of the Suppository Mold," *Amer. J. Pharm.*, 125:136 (1953).

- (13) Lloyd, *ibid.*, 501.
- (14) John Uri Lloyd, "The Chapman Suppository Mold," *Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 50:501f. (1902) and personal communication from Corinne Miller Simons of the Lloyd Library and Museum, Cincinnati, July 2, 1952. According to unpublished papers in the Lloyd Library, Chapman was the senior clerk at the time Lloyd was a junior clerk for Eger, sometime after 1863.
- (15) *Ibid.*, p. 502. It may be that Chapman's employment in the George Eger pharmacy was due to failure of his own establishment, although I have no evidence on this point.
- (16) Quoted by Edward Kremers and George Urdang, "History of Pharmacy," (2nd ed.) 1951, p. 249; see "Gleanings from the Early History of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy", *Am. J. Pharm. Ed.*, 12:412-424 (1948).
- (17) The Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America, 3rd revision (2nd ed.), 1855, p. xi.
- (18) His name does not appear again in the delegate lists of the Pharmacopoeia between 1840 and 1870.
- (19) Charles T. P. Fennel, in the Annual of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy for 1925, as quoted by Dean J. F. Kowalewski in a personal communication.
- (20) "Obituary", *Amer. J. Pharm.*, 46:533 (1874).
- (21) "William B. Chapman", *Druggists Circular*, 51:83 (1907). Inquiry to the Lloyd Library at Cincinnati and to the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, uncovered no personal papers of Chapman nor other sources of information about him not cited herein.
- (22) Proceedings of the National Pharmaceutical Convention, held at Philadelphia, October 6th, 1852, 2nd ed. unaltered, Philadelphia, 1865.
- (23) Chapman himself served on the Nominating Committee, which suggests the idea that he quite willingly accepted, if not even welcomed, this office.
- (24) *Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 1853, 1854.
- (25) *Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 1857, p. 174.
- (26) *Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 1854, p. 4.
- (27) *Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 1854, p. 4. C. A. Smith was mentioned as from Kentucky, perhaps to give a more representative flavor to the roll call; I have counted him among the Ohioans since he was always thus identified on the membership roster.
- (28) *Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 1855, pp. 3 and 8.
- (29) William B. Chapman, "On the Uncertainty of the Composition of Pharmaceutical Preparations, and the Most Eligible Form of Medicines for Administration", *Amer. J. Pharm.*, 26:154-159 (1854).
- (30) Chapman's service "for many years" as Grand Master of Odd Fellows of the State of Ohio tends to confirm that he had a personal inclination toward association activity. ("Obituary", *Amer. J. Pharm.*, 46:544 (1874).
- (31) *Ibid.*, p. 544.
- (32) John Uri Lloyd, "The Chapman Suppository Mold", *Proc. Amer. Pharm. Assoc.*, 50:501f. (1902).

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the war. It is followed by a detailed account of the military operations in the West, the East, and the Balkans. The author then discusses the political and economic conditions of the various countries involved in the conflict. The report concludes with a summary of the author's views on the future of the world.

The author's analysis is based on a thorough study of the available information. He has taken into account the military, political, and economic factors that are influencing the course of the war. His conclusions are based on a realistic assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the various sides in the conflict.

The report is a valuable contribution to the understanding of the war. It provides a clear and concise summary of the events that have taken place to date. It also offers a thoughtful analysis of the factors that are shaping the future of the world. The author's views are well-reasoned and based on a deep understanding of the situation.

The report is written in a clear and readable style. It is easy to follow and provides a wealth of information. The author's use of language is precise and to the point. The report is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the war and the future of the world.