

## SECUNDUM ARTEM

*SECUNDUM ARTEM (LATIN 'TO MAKE FAVOURABLY WITH SKILL'). THE SKILL OF THE APOTHECARY AND PHARMACIST TO MANUFACTURE MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS.*

### HISTORY

Over the centuries medicines have come in many forms. It has been the work of the Apothecary, the Chemist and Druggist and the Pharmacist to manufacture these preparations and to present them in forms acceptable to patients.

Ancient medicine consisted mainly of plant and animal extracts prepared by soaking in water or wine. Sweet substances would be added to flavour and make them more palatable. In more modern times forms such as pills, tablets, cachets, capsules etc. have rendered medicines virtually tasteless.

For external use, ingredients were incorporated into oils, fats and waxes.

The Pharmacist has had to manufacture in excess of sixty preparations over the years.

Listed here are many of those preparations.



<b>Applications</b>	Liquid preparations for skin application.
<b>Bougies</b>	Moulded items for use in the urethra and nose.
<b>Cachets</b>	Rice paper packages for individual doses of powders.
<b>Capsules</b>	Gelatin packages for individual powder doses.
<b>Collodions</b>	Liquids that dry to a film when applied to the skin.
<b>Confections</b>	Flavoured, thick, sweet preparations of herb extracts.
<b>Creams</b>	Light textured semi-solid preparations applied to the skin.
<b>Decoctions</b>	Liquids prepared by boiling herbs in water then straining.
<b>Draughts</b>	Single doses of liquid medicine.
<b>Dusting Powders</b>	Medicated powders for skin application.
<b>Ear Drops</b>	Oil or Water based liquids for infection or wax removal.
<b>Elixirs</b>	Flavoured liquid medicines.
<b>Emulsions</b>	Milky medicines of oil suspended in water.
<b>Enemas</b>	Liquids for injection into the rectum.
<b>Extracts</b>	Liquid or solid substances extracted from herbs.

<b>Eye Drops</b>	Liquid preparations for eye conditions.
<b>Eye Lotions</b>	Liquid preparations to bathe the eyes.
<b>Eye Ointments</b>	Greasy preparations for eye conditions.
<b>Gargles</b>	Liquids for throat infections.
<b>Glycerins</b>	Skin preparations containing Glycerin for soothing.
<b>Glycetracts</b>	Solutions of drugs in Glycerin.
<b>Granules</b>	Soluble dry powder lumps, usually taken while effervescing in water.
<b>Infusions</b>	Produced by soaking herbs in water to extract active ingredients.
<b>Inhalations</b>	Aromatic substances which are added to hot water and inhaled.
<b>Insufflations</b>	Powders for inhalation.
<b>Irrigations</b>	Liquids for washing out wounds.
<b>Juices</b>	Liquids produced by squeezing herbs.
<b>Lamellae</b>	Discs of medicated gelatin for use in the eye.
<b>Linctuses</b>	Syrupy liquids for the treatment of coughs.
<b>Liniments</b>	External preparations to rub in for muscle conditions.
<b>Lotions</b>	External liquids to apply to the skin.
<b>Lozenges</b>	Tablets to be sucked for throat infections and coughs.
<b>Mixtures</b>	Liquid medicine containing various ingredients.
<b>Mouthwashes</b>	Rinses for the mouth.
<b>Mucilages</b>	Thickened liquids for suspending substances.
<b>Nasal Drops</b>	Watery or oily liquids for conditions of the nose.
<b>NasalWashes</b>	Liquids to wash nasal passages.
<b>Oils</b>	Extracted from plants by squeezing or obtained from mineral sources.
<b>Ointments</b>	Thick preparations to apply to the skin.
<b>Oxymels</b>	Liquids containing honey as a sweetener.
<b>Paints</b>	Medicated liquids painted on to small areas of skin.
<b>Pastes</b>	Thick preparations to hold medicaments next to the skin.
<b>Pastilles</b>	Jellies to suck for mouth disorders and coughs.
<b>Pessaries</b>	Moulded preparations, for insertion into the vagina.
<b>Pills</b>	Spherical solid preparations of drugs for swallowing.
<b>Plasters</b>	Medicaments in an adhesive base spread on material to give prolonged contact with the skin.
<b>Powders</b>	<b>a)</b> Individual doses of medicine wrapped in paper. <b>b)</b> Bulk powder, doses are measured with a spoon or graduated measure.
<b>Poultices</b>	Thick Preparations applied to areas of the skin on cloth to draw out infection.
<b>Snuffs</b>	Medicated powders to be sniffed.
<b>Sprays</b>	Liquid preparations for the nose or throat.
<b>Suppositories</b>	Moulded preparations for insertion into the rectum.
<b>Suspensions</b>	Mixtures containing suspended insoluble substances.
<b>Syrups</b>	Sugar solutions for flavouring drug extracts.
<b>Tablets</b>	Compressed medicated powders for swallowing.
<b>Tinctures</b>	Alcoholic extracts of plants.
<b>Vinegars</b>	Vinegar used as a flavoured base for medicinal ingredients.
<b>Waters</b>	Water mixed with herbs and used for flavouring.
<b>Wines</b>	Wine or Sherry used, a flavoured base for medicinal ingredients.

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The illustration overleaf is from a Museum postcard showing an apothecary preparing Theriac – a treacle containing numerous ingredients to combat poisoning. The picture is a hand-coloured woodcut from *Ortus Sanitatis (Mainz 1491)*; *Tracatus de animalibus cxlvi*

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