

Museum pieces. 2, Elizabeth Blackwell's curious herbal.

Contributors

C.L. Bencard Ltd.

Publication/Creation

London : C.L. Bencard Ltd., [between 1965 and 1975?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zn26npa4>

License and attribution

Conditions of use: it is possible this item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Elizabeth Blackwell's
Curious Herbal

MUSEUM PIECES—2

FERRAPLEX B

in adolescence

The "green sickness" referred to in the "Curious Herbal" monograph, once so common among adolescent girls, now belongs almost to medical history. Characterised by a declining haemoglobin level and a red cell count surprisingly near to normal, this peculiarly feminine disturbance was at least easy to recognise—certainly easier than is the microcytic anaemia of relatively mild form so prevalent among adolescents of both sexes today. Frequently, indeed, this condition passes unnoticed and untreated until it has reached disturbing severity; but, even then, the administration of adequate doses of assimilable iron and haematinic supplements can speedily restore normal haemopoiesis.

FERRAPLEX B is an excellent means of combating hypochromic anaemia in young patients. It provides adequate assimilable iron in the form of ferrous sulphate, potentiated by balanced proportions of copper, vitamin C and complete, naturally-occurring vitamin B complex, in a single tablet.

Although FERRAPLEX B provides highly efficient haematinic therapy, it rarely causes the gastro-intestinal upsets that often accompany iron medication.

Remarkable to the connoisseur historian as the dilettante author of "A Curious Herbal" of 1737, for which she appears to have engraved the text and botanical drawings, and water-coloured each of the 500 drawings in each copy single-handed, Elizabeth Blackwell deserves acclaim for the devotion that inspired this monumental work.

Her husband Alexander, an unarticled printer, fell foul of enemies in the trade, apparently for his non-recognition of their "closed shop." They contrived to imprison him for debt and Elizabeth procured his release with the proceeds of her book.

Alexander himself must have been a remarkable character. Later in life he combined the duties of physician and agricultural consultant to the king of Sweden, became involved in cloak-and-dagger diplomacy, and was hanged for high treason in England in 1747.

Although contemporary with Linnaeus, Elizabeth Blackwell's work belongs to an earlier, less rigidly scientific age. Unauthoritative as is her collection, botanically and medically, the quaint appeal and long forgotten *raison d'être* of "A Curious Herbal" make it a unique collector's piece.

FERRAPLEX B

Dosage

One or two tablets three times daily according to the patient's age and the severity of the anaemia. Young children should receive a reduced dosage according to age. It is advisable to commence with one or two tablets daily and increase the dosage gradually. The tablets should always be taken with or immediately after food.

Packings and Prices

FERRAPLEX B is available in bottles of 50 and 250 tablets. Basic N.H.S. cost of 250 tablets, 15/6d. Daily cost of full treatment, 4½d.

Composition

The full adult daily dose of six FERRAPLEX B tablets contains :—

FERROUS SULPHATE	
Exsicc., B.P.	1 gramme
COPPER CARBONATE	2 milligrammes
ASCORBIC ACID (Vitamin C)	50 milligrammes
NATURAL VITAMIN B	
COMPLEX EXTRACT	2 grammes
(PREPARED FROM BREWERS' YEAST)	
including	
Aneurine hydrochloride (B ₁)	3 milligrammes
Riboflavine (B ₂)	6 milligrammes
Nicotinamide	30 milligrammes
and pantothenic acid, pyridoxine, folic acid, choline, inositol, biotin, para-aminobenzoic acid and other naturally occurring factors of the vitamin B complex.	



C. L. BENCARD LTD.,
PARK ROYAL, LONDON, N.W.10