

Specification of Edmund Adolphus Kirby : dispensing medicines.

Contributors

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A.D. 1867, *2nd August.* N^o 2239.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

EDMUND ADOLPHUS KIRBY.

DISPENSING MEDICINES.

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A.D. 1867, 2nd AUGUST. N° 2239.

Dispensing Medicines.

LETTERS PATENT to Edmund Adolphus Kirby, of Gordon Square, in the County of Middlesex, Doctor of Medicine, for the Invention of "**AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF DISPENSING MEDICINES AND PREPARING DRUGS THEREFOR, TOGETHER WITH AN IMPROVED PORTABLE MINIATURE DISPENSARY AND INSTRUMENT CASE APPLICABLE TO SUCH SYSTEM.**"

Sealed the 28th January 1868, and dated the 2nd August 1867.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 2nd August 1867.

I, EDMUND ADOLPHUS KIRBY, of Gordon Square, in the County of Middlesex, Doctor of Medicine, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "**AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF DISPENSING MEDICINES AND PREPARING DRUGS THEREFOR, TOGETHER WITH AN IMPROVED PORTABLE MINIATURE DISPENSARY AND INSTRUMENT CASE APPLICABLE TO SUCH SYSTEM,**" to be as follows:—

This improved system is designed for the purpose of affording medical practitioners and others a ready means of dispensing or compounding medicines without the usual delay of weighing or measuring the various ingredients. It will also enable medical men to carry with them in a convenient form the means of compounding and administering at once to the patient the medicament or remedial agent required, and thus obviate the delay and danger frequently caused by the ordinary process of writing a prescription and sending it to a druggist or apothecary to be dispensed or compounded; the drugs will

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also be effectually preserved from the action of the atmosphere and from evaporation or deliquescence, and will keep unchanged for any length of time.

To effect these objects I propose instead of keeping the drugs (whether fluid or solid) in bottles or other receptacles containing indefinite quantities, as now invariably practised, to enclose the drugs separately (either in a fluid 5 or finely powdered state) in small air-tight envelopes or cases of gelatine or other suitable material, each containing a certain definite or ascertained quantity or dose of the pure drug, the said envelopes or cases being enclosed in glass tubes, bottles, or other receptacles duly labelled with the name of the drug and the number of grains, minims, or other exact quantity contained in 10 each envelope or case. In some cases where the drug is in the form of a powder I mix it into a paste with syrup, gum water, or other simple substance to cause it to conglomerate, and roll it into globules or pilules (each containing a definite quantity), and I then coat these globules or pilules by immersion in gelatine or other similar substance. I also combine several 15 drugs or chemicals in one globule or case to produce certain effects; thus, calomel and jalap for a purge; ipecacuanha, squills, and opium as an expectorant and sedative; and in like manner I combine drugs to produce other therapeutical effects. I employ the gelatine globules or cases simply as envelopes to carry the various drugs in definite quantities and in a convenient 20 form, either for dissolving in water for combining their contents with those of others, or for administering as pills, these powder pills (as they may be called) having the advantage of being more soluble, and therefore more active and certain in their operation.

In compounding, combining, or dispensing medicines with drugs prepared 25 in this manner, scales, weights, and measures are not required. All that is necessary is to take one, two, or more of the globules, envelopes, or pilules of the different drugs as may be required, mix them together, and if the medicament is to be used in a fluid form add the requisite quantity of water. If a portion only of the contents of an envelope should be required it may be 30 divided with a penknife or other similar instrument (if in a powdered state) or dissolved in a definite quantity of water, and a half, a quarter, or other required proportion of the solution taken. For example, to make a mixture 01 for fever, I take (say) one globule containing one grain of tartarized antimony, and six globules containing each five grains of bicarbonate of potash, and dissolve 35 them in four or six ounces of water, and determine the dose according to the age and condition of the patient. Again for external use I make an eye lotion in the following manner:—One globule of sulphate of zinc containing 01 two grains, and one globule of liquid extract of opium containing five grains,

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and dissolve in water to the required strength. Any other combinations or prescriptions may be made up in a similar manner at a moment's notice and administered at once to the patient either internally or externally according to the effect desired to be produced.

5 The second part of my Invention has been designed principally with a view to carrying out the improved system above described, and to supply medical men with a portable and ready means of dispensing the medicines which they prescribe during their visits to their patients and at their own homes, and to afford a convenient mode of carrying with them besides medicines certain
10 clinical and other instruments which are necessary and constantly required at the bedside in the investigation or treatment of disease or injuries, together with convenient writing materials for taking notes or writing prescriptions.

The Invention is also designed and adapted to the requirements of travellers, colonists, and others resident at a distance from medical men and chemists,
15 and it is suitable for domestic use and all the purposes for which a medicine chest and instrument case are employed, both by professional men and others.

The novelty of this part of the Invention consists principally in the general construction and arrangement of the case, by which the uses and conveniences of several cases are combined in one with compactness and economy of space,
20 the whole being very portable, light, and elegant in appearance, and combining in one case the following articles, namely, a pocket instrument case, a catheter case, an enema apparatus case, and a urinometer case, together with writing materials and a supply of medicaments and drugs (in certain definite quantities as above described) and other conveniences necessary for dispensing purposes,
25 thus comprising in a single portable case those clinical instruments which are necessary for the correct diagnosis of diseases and the remedies which are required for their relief or cure, together with such surgical instruments and appliances as are in common use for the dressing of wounds, and for various surgical operations.

30 The case (which may be constructed of metal, wood, or other suitable material) is made so as to open like a portable desk or despatch box, having two or more leaves connected by hinges. These leaves are divided by means of partitions or divisions into separate compartments or spaces of various forms and sizes adapted to contain the clinical and other instruments and
35 appliances above referred to, so that each is kept in its proper place, and when the case is opened the whole is exposed to view. That leaf or part of the case which is to contain the glass tubes of medicaments and drugs hereinbefore mentioned is provided with semi-cylindrical grooves in which the tubes lie snugly each in its own groove. The case (if of wood or other similar

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material) may be covered with morocco or other leather, and the whole or parts lined with velvet plush, or other soft material as a precautionary measure against breakage, and to prevent the contents from rattling whilst being carried.

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed 5
by the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby in the Great Seal Patent Office
on the 1st February 1868.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, EDMUND ADOLPHUS KIRBY, of Gordon Square, in the County of Middlesex, Doctor of Medicine, send greeting. 10

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Second day of August, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, in the thirty-first year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, Her special licence that I, the said Edmund 15 Adolphus Kirby, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of 20 Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF DISPENSING MEDICINES AND PREPARING DRUGS THEREFOR, TOGETHER WITH AN IMPROVED PORTABLE MINIATURE AND INSTRUMENT CASE APPLICABLE TO SUCH SYSTEM," upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, my executors or administrators, by an 25 instrument in writing under my, or their, or one of their hands and seals, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent. 30

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, do hereby declare the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement in writing, and on reference to the accompanying Drawings, that is to say:— 35

This improved system is designed for the purpose of affording medical

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practitioners and others a ready means of dispensing or compounding medicines without the usual delay of weighing or measuring the various ingredients; it will also enable medical men to carry with them in a convenient form the means of compounding and administering at once to the patient the medica-
5 ment or remedial agent required, and thus obviate the delay and danger frequently caused by the ordinary process of writing a prescription and sending it to a druggist or apothecary to be dispensed or compounded; the drugs will also be effectually preserved from the action of the atmosphere and from evaporation or deliquescence, and will keep unchanged for any length of
10 time.

To effect these objects I propose, instead of keeping the drugs (whether fluid or solid) in bottles or other receptacles containing indefinite quantities, as now invariably practised, to enclose the drugs separately (either in a fluid or finely powdered state) in small air-tight envelopes or cases of gelatine or
15 other suitable material, each containing a certain definite or ascertained quantity or dose of the pure drug; the said envelopes or cases being enclosed in glass tubes, bottles, or other receptacles, duly labelled with the name of the drug and the number of grains, minims, or other exact quantity contained in each envelope or case. In some cases where the drug is in the form of a
20 powder I mix it into a paste with syrup, gum, water, or other simple substance to cause it to conglomerate and roll it into globules, granules, or pilules (each containing a definite quantity), and I then coat these globules, granules, or pilules by immersion in gelatine or other similar substance; I also combine several drugs or chemicals in one globule or case to produce certain
25 effects; thus, calomel and jalap for a purge; ipecacuanha, squills, and opium as an expectorant and sedative, and in like manner I combine drugs to produce other therapeutical effects. I employ the gelatine globules or cases simply as envelopes to carry the various drugs in definite quantities and in a convenient form, either for dissolving in water, for combining their contents
30 with those of others, or for administering as pills; these powder pills (as they may be called) having the advantage of being more soluble, and therefore more active and certain in their operation than the ordinary pills.

In carrying out this system in conjunction with my improved portable miniature dispensary, herein-after described, I arrange and classify the various
35 remedial preparations in different groups according to their relative therapeutical effects. In compounding, combining, or dispensing medicines with drugs prepared in this manner scales, weights, and measures are not required. All that is necessary is to take one, two, or more of the envelopes or pilules of the different drugs as may be required, mix them together, and if the medica-

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ment is to be used in a fluid form add the requisite quantity of water. If a portion only of the contents of an envelope should be required it may be divided with a penknife or other similar instrument (if in a powdered state) or dissolved in a definite quantity of water and a half, a quarter, or other required proportion of the solution taken. For example, to make a mixture 5 for fever I take (say) one globule containing one grain of tartarized antimony, and six globules containing each five grains of bicarbonate of potash, and dissolve them in four or six ounces of water, and determine the dose according to the age and condition of the patient. Again for external use I make an eye lotion in the following manner:—One globule of sulphate of zinc con- 10 taining two grains, and one globule of liquid extract of opium containing five grains, and dissolve in water to the required strength. Any other combinations or prescriptions may be made up in a similar manner at a moment's notice, and administered at once to the patient, either internally or externally, according to the effect desired to be produced. 15

The second part of my Invention has been designed principally with a view to carrying out the improved system above described, and to supply medical men with a portable and ready means of dispensing the medicines which they prescribe during their visits to their patients, and at their own homes, and to afford a convenient mode of carrying with them, besides medicines, certain 20 clinical and other instruments which are necessary and constantly required at the bedside in the investigation or treatment of disease or injuries, together with convenient writing materials for taking notes or writing prescriptions.

The Invention is also designed and adapted to the requirements of travellers, colonists, and others resident at a distance from medical men and chemists, 25 and it is suitable for domestic use and all the purposes for which a medicine chest and instrument case are employed, both by professional men and others.

The novelty of this part of the Invention consists principally in the general construction and arrangement of the case, by which the uses and conveniences 30 of several cases are combined in one with compactness and economy of space, the whole being very portable, light, and elegant in appearance, and combining in one case the following articles, namely:—A pocket instrument case, a catheter case, an enema apparatus case, and a urinometer case, together with writing materials and a supply of medicaments and drugs (in 35 certain definite quantities, as above described), and other conveniences necessary for dispensing purposes; thus comprising in a single portable case those clinical instruments which are necessary for the correct diagnosis of disease and the remedies which are required for their relief or cure, together with

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such surgical instruments and appliances as are in common use for the dressing of wounds, and for various surgical operations.

The case (which may be constructed of metal, wood, or other suitable material) is made so as to open like a portable desk or despatch box, having 5 two or more leaves connected by hinges; these leaves are divided by means of partitions or divisions into separate compartments or spaces of various forms and sizes, adapted to contain the clinical and other instruments and appliances above referred to, so that each is kept in its proper place, and when the case is opened the whole is exposed to view. That leaf or part 10 of the case which is to contain the glass tubes of medicaments and drugs herein-before mentioned is provided with semi-cylindrical grooves in which the tubes lie snugly each in its own groove. The case (if of wood or other similar material) may be covered with morocco or other leather, and the whole or parts lined with velvet, plush, or other soft material, as a precau- 15 tionary measure against breakage and to prevent the contents from rattling whilst being carried. It will be evident that the case may (if preferred) be made in the form of a travelling bag, as herein-after described.

In order that the construction and arrangement of my improved miniature dispensary and instrument case may be distinctly understood I have annexed 20 hereunto a Sheet of Drawings illustrative thereof, and have marked the same with figures and letters of reference corresponding with those in the following explanation thereof.

Figure 1 represents the miniature dispensary and instrument case closed, and Figure 2 shows the same open as a desk only, the upper part *a, a*, forming 25 a slope for writing upon; Figure 3 shows the leaf *b, b*, open, and the drawer *c, c*, pulled partly out so as to expose the clinical and surgical instruments, and Figure 4 is a view with the lid of the part *a, a*, opened and the leaf *d, d*, thrown back, so as to give access to the whole of the medicaments or compounds both in the lid *a, a*, and the body of the case *e, e*. Figures 5 and 6 30 show two views of the same when arranged in the form of a bag, Figure 5 representing the bag as closed, and Figure 6 showing the same open. The bag is made with a square opening, and has several pockets both inside and for containing the various clinical and other instruments, together with lint, oil silk, &c. The tubes containing the drugs are supported in loops or 35 tucks attached to both sides of the central division or diaphragm *f, f*; this central division or diaphragm is so arranged and constructed that it can be removed from the bag, and will stand on a table for convenience of access to the drugs.

It will of course be evident that the details of arrangement, both of the bag

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and the case, may be varied to a very great extent without departing from the characteristic features of my Invention.

Having now described the nature and object of my said Invention for "An Improved System of Dispensing Medicines and Preparing Drugs therefor, together with an Improved Portable Miniature Dispensary and Instrument Case applicable to such System," together with the manner in which the same is to be or may be performed or carried into practical effect, I would remark in conclusion that I claim as my Invention,—

Firstly, the novel and peculiar method or system of dispensing medicines and preparing drugs therefor, substantially as herein-before set forth. 10

Secondly, I claim in connection or combination therewith the improved portable dispensary and instrument case, constructed and arranged substantially as above described and represented on the annexed Drawing, or any mere modification or imitation thereof.

In witness whereof, I, the said Edmund Adolphus Kirby, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this First day of February, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight. 15

EDMUND A. KIRBY. (L.S.)

Witness,

GEORGE DAVIES, C. E., 20

Patent Agent,

1, Serle St., Lincoln's Inn.

LONDON :

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1868.

FIG. 1.

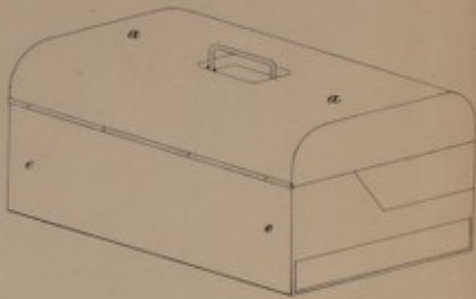


FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.

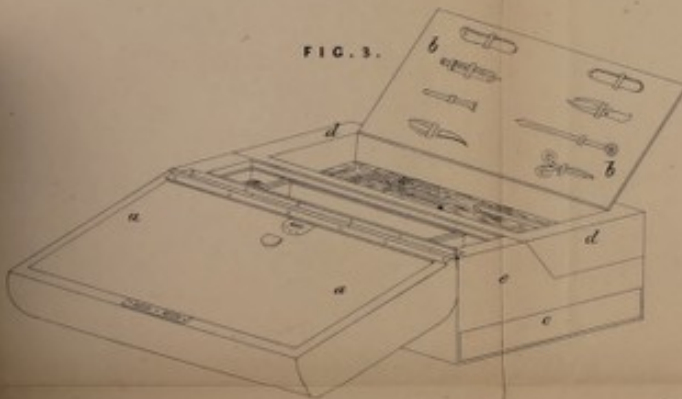


FIG. 4.

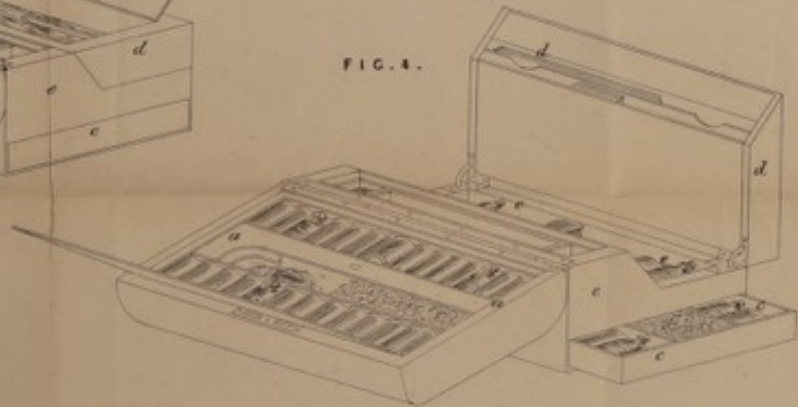
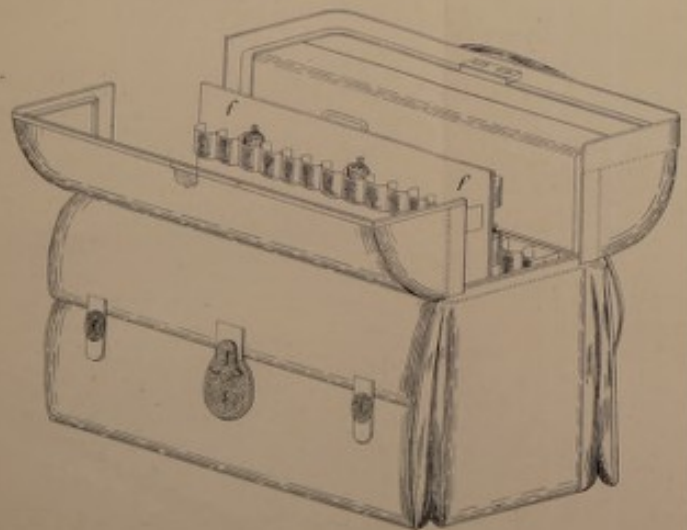


FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.



The steel drawing is not colored

Drawn on Stone by McAlister & Jones

