

The Medical Inventory of a Pioneer Doctor

*Edited by Gerald O. Haffner**

Contributed by William E. Wilson

People of today may find it difficult to comprehend how men of an earlier day got along without modern drugs and medical technology. Yet early settlers in southern Indiana and elsewhere managed to get by with the medicinal materials at hand and, perhaps, counted themselves fortunate if they had a "doctor shop" within a few miles and a "doc" whom they could reach without an appointment.

A century and a quarter ago, the pioneer town of Charlestown, Indiana, in Clark County, had at least two doctors. One of them was Dr. Andrew Rodgers, and the other was Dr. Andrew P. Hay. Dr. Rodgers, however, died in 1833; whereas Dr. Hay was still practicing medicine as late as 1841.¹ Upon Rodgers' death, Hay helped take an inventory appraising the estate left by his colleague. It is this inventory which follows.

Available records throw very little light upon biographical details concerning Dr. Andrew Rodgers.² Newspaper sources do, however, indicate that Dr. Andrew Rodgers and Dr. Andrew P. Hay entered into a medical partnership. When the partnership began is unknown, but an item in the local *Farmers' and Mechanics' Advocate* states that the two doctors dissolved it by mutual consent as of November 4, 1827. What

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¹ *Republican Statesman* (Charlestown, Ind.), March 21, 1829; *The People's Gazette* (Charlestown, Ind.), November 4, 1841.

² There were two Andrew Rodgerses from Bethlehem Township, Clark County, listed in the records of the U.S. census for Indiana in 1820, but only one was listed in the census of 1830. The two may have been father and son. One Clark County history contains a reference to an Andrew Rodgers, a doctor at Charlestown, Indiana, and an early history of the "Fall Cities" and adjoining counties briefly mentions Dr. Andrew Rodgers, "who died very suddenly." The probate court records of Clark County do no more than verify Rodgers' death and indicate that he left a small personal estate. U.S., Bureau of the Census, *Fourth Census of the United States: 1820*, I, 20; *Fifth Census of the United States: 1830*, I, 40. Photostat copies of these two census records are located at the Indiana State Library, Indianapolis. Lewis C. Baird, *Baird's History of Clark County, Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1909), 414-420; *History of Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties, with Illustrative and Biographical Sketches* (2 vols., Cleveland, O., 1882), 350; Clark County, Charlestown, Ind., Probate Records, Order Book B (1828-1835); *Republican Statesman* (Charlestown, Ind.), March 21, 1829.

Dr. Rodgers did from November 4, 1827, to January 3, 1829, remains a mystery.³ An illuminating bit of information pertaining to the time after January 3, 1829, comes from the doctor himself. During the early months of 1829, there appeared in the *Republican Statesman* the following announcement:⁴

Andrew Rodgers,

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends
and the public, that he has commenced
the

Practice of Medicine,

~~in the several departments.~~ He has
opened a shop in Charlestown, in the
white building lately occupied by
James Morrison, Esq. where he may
be found either by night or day when
not absent on professional duties.

He has and will constantly keep on
hand, a general supply of Medicines,
including the most valuable

FAMILY & PATENT MEDICINE S

which will be retailed in quantities to
suit purchasers, as low as they can be
bought at the stores or elsewhere, and
warranted of the best quality.

Charlestown, Jan. 3, 1829—161f

³ The partnership between Drs. Rodgers and Hay was probably brief. Earlier Dr. Hay and Dr. John T. Purington had entered into a partnership on June 27, 1821, and dissolved it on April 1, 1822. So the partnership between Hay and Rodgers must have been somewhere between 1822 and 1827; it could not have been for more than five years at the most. Furthermore, Rodgers' name was not included in a list of local physicians which was printed in 1823, although it is conceivable that he was practicing medicine at Charlestown even though his name did not get into print. *The Indiana Intelligencer* (Charlestown, Ind.), June 27, 1821; *The Indiana Intelligencer and Farmers' Friend* (Charlestown, Ind.), April 10, 1822, June 18, 1823; *Farmers' and Mechanics' Advocate* (Charlestown, Ind.), November 10, 1827.

⁴ The notice reproduced here appeared in the *Republican Statesman* (Charlestown, Ind.), March 21, 1829, although it is dated January 3, 1829. Evidently, the announcement was repeated for several weeks, and the January date indicated the first time it appeared in print; however, the March issue is the only extant copy in the Indiana State Library.

According to the foregoing notice, Dr. Rodgers began practicing by himself in Charlestown early in 1829; the inventory of his estate shows that he passed away in 1833. Therefore, it is assumed that he privately practiced medicine at Charlestown for a little over four years.

There is no assurance that the drugs, surgical instruments, and medical books listed in the inventory were typical of the average pioneer doctor's armamentarium. Nevertheless, the list of Rodgers' possessions does cast some light upon the type of medical care available to those pioneer people "from Bethlehem, on the Ohio, to New Providence [Borden] in the knobs" in Clark County.⁵ According to lists of drugs for sale in the 1830's and authorities who have written extensively about pioneer medicine, Dr. Andrew Rodgers was using many of the same drugs that were then being used by other members of the medical profession.⁶ In addition, judging from his library, Dr. Rodgers had a fairly good set of medical books for reference, especially since he lived in a period when books on medicine were scarce in the West and a "physician who could afford one work on each branch of the profession was considered well off."

The editor is aware that there is today rather wide acquaintance with several of the common items included in the inventory, such as quinine, arsenic, digitalis, ether, and olive oil; therefore, these are not identified in the explanatory notes. In discussing less well-known drugs, the editor has attempted to make some comparisons between their recent usage and that of pioneer times. And now a few words of caution: a mere discussion of early drugs does not in any way constitute a recommendation for their application today. It is well to remember that the pioneers had to bear the brunt of much experimentation.

The original document is in the manuscript collection of William E. Wilson, State Superintendent of Public Instruc-

⁵ *History of Ohio Falls Cities*, 350.

⁶ See *Republican and Banner* (Madison, Ind.), August 29, December 26, 1833, December 4, 1834, and *The Indianian* (Charlestown, Ind.), November 6, 1839, for advertisements of drugs and patent medicines offered for sale. For excellent references concerning pioneer medicine, see M. E. Pickard and R. C. Buley, *The Midwest Pioneer: His Ills, Cures & Doctors* (New York, 1946); J. E. Wright and D. S. Corbett, *Pioneer Life in Western Pennsylvania* (Pittsburgh, 1940); R. C. Buley, *The Old Northwest: Pioneer Period, 1815-1840* (2 vols., Bloomington, Ind., 1951), I.

⁷ G. W. H. Kemper, *A Medical History of the State of Indiana* (Chicago, 1911), 44.

tion, who granted permission to publish it here and furnished some of the background information about it. The editor also would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following persons: Miss Carolynne Wendel, Indiana State Library; Mrs. Ruth Atwood, Medical Library of the University of Louisville; Mr. William H. Butts and Mr. Myron Davis, pharmacists, Corydon, Indiana; and Miss Evelyn Dale, Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky.

(Page 1)

An Inventory and appraisment¹
of the Personal Estate of
Doct Andrew Rodgers decesd

August 29th 1833

	\$ ctt
one gray Horse	35.00
one bridle Martingale ² & saddle and BlanKe[t]	10.00
one cow	10.00

¹ Except for minor modifications dictated by common sense and enumerated in this note, the inventory of Dr. Rodgers' possessions has been exactly reproduced. Original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation have been carefully followed. The considerable number of errors and inconsistencies in spelling throughout the inventory would have called for overuse of "*sic*," therefore, that device has been utilized only in a few special instances. The arabic numerals that divide the inventory into sections mark each new page in the original document. In reproducing the inventory, flourishes of the pen and indiscriminate dashes and dots have been omitted. Penciled notations indicating which items in the inventory were subsequently sold have also been ignored. In order to clarify all items mentioned in the inventory, the editor went first to contemporary sources for an explanation; if these references did not shed any light upon the item—and this was often the case—he then searched modern medical literature. In most instances, some hint about the usage of a drug or compound was found; however, variations in suggested dosage can distort one's impression about how and for what the drug was used. It was necessary, therefore, to mention a general range of maladies for which a particular drug was employed. With respect to medical books, the procedure was to trace briefly the European editions and to comment on the more important American editions. The footnotes indicate that it is virtually impossible to track down all editions and printings of some of these works. Although the editor received much help, he assumes full responsibility for all errors.

² A leather strap attached to the bit of the bridle, passed down between the horse's forelegs, then fastened to the girth, which was the band around the animal's body securing the saddle. The martingale's purpose was to prevent the horse from rearing.

one sow and four pigs	6.00
one Riding Whip \$1. 1 Bridl[e] [illegible]	1.50
one Silver Watch chain & Key	15.00
one pair Medical Saddle Bags	3.00
one Stove & pipe	7.00
three cord [fire?]wood	3.00
one Settee	5.00
one Sett chairs 6	5.00
one Sett chairs 6	6.00
	<hr/>
	\$106.50

2

Amount over	\$106.50
one folding Dining Table	8.00
one breakfast table & cover	4.00
one candle stand table	2.00
one Table stand 3 drawer	3.00
one Secratory	18.00
one Bureau	15.00
one Sugar chest	4.00
one childs chair	.50
three split bottom chairs	1.50
one trunk	2.00
one table in shop	.50
one Trundle bed stead	2.00
one High post bedstead	
feather bed straw bed	
4 cotton quilts one sheet	
2 pillows & bolster cases	
2 BlanKets	41.00
	<hr/>
	\$208.00

3

Amount up	\$208.00
one French bedstead	
two feather beds	
two pillows	
two cotton sheets	
one blanKet	
3 cotton quilts	
one wool coverlid ³	
one Tow lin[en] ⁴ Tick	32.00
one bedstead, feather bed	
straw bed—wollen coverlid	
cotton sheet 3 pillows	
one bolster	20.00
one cotton quilt	1.00
one D ^o [blue?] quilt	2.50
one large cotton counterpane	4.00
one D ^o D	3.00
one BlanKe[t] bound	2.00
9 cotton sheets	8.00
9 cotton pillow cases	1.00
	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$281.50

4

Amount over	\$281.50
one cutting Box	3.00
8 [lbs?] Rolls	3.60
one haelf bushel	.37
one spade	.75
6 bushels corn	1.87
1 gilt looking Glass	3.00
three brass candlesticks	1.00

³ Often spoken of as "kiverlid" or "coverlid" by pioneers. A description of the construction of coverlets is found in Buley, *Old Northwest*, I, 211-213. Logan Esarey in *The Indiana Home* (Crawfordsville, Ind., 1947), 17, refers to the coverlet as an essential item of property in the average household.

⁴ For an explanation of the manufacture of tow linen, see Wright and Corbett, *Pioneer Life in Western Pennsylvania*, 76, and Buley, *Old Northwest*, I, 204.

1 pr. And irons	.75
1 pr Shovel & tongs	.75
one large Kettle & bale	1.50
1 large oven & lid	1.00
1 small oven & lid	.75
3 sKillets & two lid	1.25
1 frying pan	.50
1 grid iron ⁵	.50
1 small pot iron	.50
1 copper tea Kettle	1.50
1 Brass Kettle	1.50
1 pr. waffle irons	.75
	\$306.34

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Amount up	\$306.34
one wooden bucke[t]	.121½
1 Tin bucket	.121½
1 wood bucke[t]	.121½
2 pot warmers	.50
1 churn & dasher	.621½
1 coffee mill	.75
1 large tin pan & wooden tray	.50
1 flat iron & holder	.371½
1 lot Earthen ware	.50
1 [illegible] sifter	.50
2 Baskets & Tub	.371½
1 large Spinning wheel	2.00
1 Bee Hive	2.00
All articles of Cupboard ware for the Table	15.00
2 window screens	1.00
1 warter	.25
2 Razors. strap & box	1.50
	\$332.59

⁵ A grated iron utensil used for broiling food.

Amount over	\$332.59
1 large meat tub	1.00
1 Small D ^o	.75
1 pickle ca[n]	.25
1 large tin can	1.00
1 side of Bacon	1.25
1 lot oats in Sheaf	2.50
1 lot rye in Sheaf at Mr Welchs ⁶	3.75

Books

1 Large Quarto Bible	4.00
1 Watts Hymn Book	.25
English Exercises	.25
1 vocal Musick book	.37½ ⁷
1 Volum Dewees S. M. Wifery ⁸	3.00
1 Vol. Dewees on Females ⁹	3.00
Gregorys Practice Physic. 2 volms ¹⁰	4.50
Wistars Anatomy 2 volms ¹¹	4.50

⁶ Most likely refers to rye stored by Mr. Welch, the administrator in whose presence the inventory was made.

⁷ The half-cent is omitted in the total on p. 6 of the inventory.

⁸ William Potts Dewees, *A Compendious System of Midwifery* (Philadelphia, 1824). Dewees had much to say about midwifery, for this work filled 602 pages. He also was co-editor of the *Philadelphia Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*, 1825-1827. His book is listed in the *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army* (1st series, 16 vols., Washington, D.C., 1880-1898), III, 720. This work will be hereafter cited as *Index-Catalog*.

⁹ William Potts Dewees, *Treatise on the Diseases of Females* (Philadelphia, 1828). *Index-Catalog*, III, 720.

¹⁰ George Gregory, *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Physic: With Notes and Additions, Adapted to the Practice of the United States*, by Nathaniel Potter and S. Colhoun (2 vols., Philadelphia, 1826). A second edition appeared in 1829, and a third in 1831. It is uncertain which edition Dr. Rodgers possessed. Gregory was an English physician whose writings appeared in England and Scotland. This printing of his book represents and illustrates a point of practice in the days before copyrights. Very often an American printer would publish a book from western Europe as soon as it reached the shores of this continent—with or without additional notes. *Index-Catalog*, V, 600.

¹¹ Caspar Wistar, *A System of Anatomy for the Use of Students of Medicine* (2 vols., Philadelphia, 1811-1814). A second edition was published in 1817, a third in 1823 and 1825 by different publishers, and a fourth in 1827. *Index-Catalog*, XVI, 515.

Coxs Dispens[a]tory ¹²	2.50
1 vol Johnson on Tropical Climates ¹³	2.00
	<hr/> <hr/> \$367.46

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Amount up	\$367.46
Eberlees Materia Medica 2 volms ¹⁴	3.00
Ar[m]strong on Typhus fever 1 vol. ¹⁵	1.25
Coopers Surgery 1 vol. ¹⁶	1.50
Hallers Physiology 1 vol ¹⁷	1.50

¹² John Redman Coxe, *The American Dispensatory . . . Comprehending the Improvements in Dr. Duncan's Second Edition of the Edinburgh New Dispensatory* (Philadelphia, 1806). Other editions appeared in 1810, 1814, 1818, 1830, and 1831—any of which may have been the one used by Dr. Rodgers. Coxe held the chair of materia medica and pharmacy at the University of Pennsylvania. *Index-Catalog*, III, 464.

¹³ James Johnson, *The Influence of Tropical Climates on European Constitutions: To Which Is Added, Tropical Hygiene; or, the Preservation of Health in All Hot Climates, From the latest London edition* (2 vols., Philadelphia, 1821). Three editions of Johnson's book had been published in London by 1821. Johnson, an English writer who wrote about atmospheric conditions and other medical topics, was also an editor of several British journals at one time or other. *Index-Catalog*, III, 252.

¹⁴ John Eberle, *A Treatise on the Practice of Medicine* (2 vols., Philadelphia, 1830). A second edition came out in 1831, a third in 1835. *A Treatise of the Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, by John Eberle, was published in 1834 (after Rodgers' death) and is listed as the fourth edition of the first work noted above; a fifth edition appeared in 1841. The first title was probably the one owned by Dr. Rodgers, but Dr. Hay very likely entered it in the inventory as *Materia Medica*. *Index-Catalog*, IV, 41.

¹⁵ John Armstrong, *Practical Illustrations of Typhus Fever, of the Common Continued Fever, and of Inflammatory Diseases, etc. With Notes Critical and Explanatory, by Nathaniel Potter* (Philadelphia, 1821). This first American edition of Armstrong's book was from the third English edition. Two more editions were published (1822 and 1824) at Philadelphia. This same book was also published at Boston in 1829 under a slightly different title: *Practical Illustrations of Typhus and Other Fevers: of Pulmonary Consumption, Measles, etc.* *Index-Catalog*, I, 529-530.

¹⁶ Samuel Cooper, *A Dictionary of Practical Surgery* (London, 1818). Cooper's work went through at least eight editions in London and three editions in Philadelphia. The various editions had different titles. The editor has cited the third London edition because its title is most nearly like the one listed in Dr. Rodgers' inventory. *Index-Catalog*, III, 404.

¹⁷ Albertus Haller, *First Lines of Physiology* (Troy, O., 1803). There were four Latin editions, one German, one English, and one American edition of this work. The American edition was a translation from the third Latin edition and was probably the one Dr. Rodgers owned. *Index-Catalog*, V, 795-797.

Cabanis Essay 1 vol ¹⁸	.50
Johnsons Essays 1 vol. ¹⁹	.75
Hippocrates Progno[s]tics of crisis 1 vol ²⁰	.25
Miner & Tully on Fevers 1 vol ²¹	2.50
Rush on the Mind 1 vol ²²	1.00
Bell on the Venereal 1 vol ²³	1.50
Browns Elements ²⁴	.75
Hoopers Medical Dictionary ²⁵	3.00
Magendies Formula ²⁶	.50
4 Nos. Westn Med. Journal ²⁷	.50
6 No. West Med. Gazet[te] ²⁸	.37½
2 Nos American Medical Recorder ²⁹	.50

¹⁸ Pierre Jean Georges Cabanis, *An Essay on the Certainty of Medicine* (Philadelphia, 1823). There were three Paris editions of this book (1798, 1803, and 1819). The American edition was a translation from the French by R. La Roche. Cabanis has often been called "the founder of modern physiological psychology." *Index-Catalog*, II, 567; *Webster's Biographical Dictionary* (Springfield, Mass., 1948), 225.

¹⁹ This item in the inventory presents a problem. It may refer to the writings of the celebrated man of English letters, Dr. Samuel Johnson; but since the work is listed among books exclusively medical, it may refer to the writings of either Christopher Turner Johnson or James Johnson. At best, one can merely make a conjecture. Christopher Turner Johnson published in London (1810) *A Practical Essay on Cancer, Being the Substance of Observations to Which the Annual Prize for 1808 Was Adjudged by the Royal College of Surgeons of London*. This book was printed in Philadelphia (1811) with the same title. James Johnson's *An Essay on Morbid Sensibility of the Stomach and Bowels as the Proximate Cause, or Characteristic Condition, of Indigestion, Nervous Irritability, Mental Despondency, Hypochondriasis, etc. To Which Are Added, Observations on the Diseases and Regimen of Invalids, on their Return from Hot and Unhealthy Climates* went through six English editions and three American ones. The American editions appeared between 1827 and 1831, and a copy of one of them may very well have found its way to the shelves of the "doctor's shop" in Charlestown. *Index-Catalog*, VII, 251-252.

²⁰ It is a long way, both in time and space, from the shores of Greece and Hippocrates to the hills of southern Indiana and Dr. Andrew Rodgers. How much influence the "Father of Medicine" had upon the Ohio Valley in the eighteenth century no one will ever know. Perhaps the item listed above was a reprint of one of Hippocrates' eighty-seven treatises which collectively are known as the "Hippocratic Collection." *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, 713. Or perhaps the *Prognostics of Crisis* was from the pen of a local "Hippocrates." Buley, *Old Northwest*, I, 279-280, mentions a series of articles published under the name of "Hippocrates" in the *Liberty Hall* at Cincinnati during 1821.

²¹ Thomas Miner and William Tully, *Essays on Fevers and Other Medical Subjects* (Middletown, Conn., 1823). William Tully was a fairly well-known American physician and professor at Yale. Apparently there was just one edition of this book. *Index-Catalog*, IX, 330; *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, 1492.

²² Benjamin Rush, *Medical Inquiries and Observations upon the Diseases of the Mind* (Philadelphia, 1812). Through this book, some of the writings of the noted physician and political leader of Philadelphia had found their way to Charlestown, Ind. *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, 1292.

²³ Benjamin Bell, *Treatise on Gonorrhoea Virulenta and Lues Venerea* (Philadelphia, 1795). This two-volume work had been published during 1793 in Dublin. It was also published in Edinburgh, and a one-volume edition with "notes adapted to the present state of practice in those diseases" was printed in 1814 at Albany, N.Y. There is also a slight possibility that this item in the inventory was a copy of *A Treatise on the Diseases of the Urethra, Vesica Urinaria, Prostate, and Rectum*, by Sir Charles Bell, which was published in 1820 at London. *Index-Catalog*, I, 850-852.

²⁴ John Brown [or Bruno], *Elementa Medicinæ* (Edinburgh, 1780). The first American edition was published at Philadelphia in 1790 with the title: *The Elements of Medicine; or a Translation of the Elementa Medicinæ Brunonis. With Large Notes, Illustrations, and Comments by the Author of the Original Work*. This book was also published elsewhere in the United States. The last American edition was printed at Portsmouth, N.H., in 1804. *Index-Catalog*, II, 491.

²⁵ Robert Hooper, *A Compendious Medical Dictionary* (Boston, 1801). This medical dictionary by an English author enjoyed wide popularity in America. It was published at several places in this country and went through many editions. It seems, however, that J. and J. Harper (later Harper & Bros.) of New York turned out most of the American editions. The last one listed was the sixteenth American edition, and of course it was based upon the very latest London edition. *Index-Catalog*, VI, 341.

²⁶ François Magendie, *Formulary for the Preparation and Mode of Employing Several New Remedies, Namely, Morphine, Iodine [etc.], with an Introduction and Copious Notes, by the Late Charles Thomas Haden, Esq.* (Philadelphia, 1824). This edition was translated from the French by Robley Dunglison. Two editions had appeared in Paris during 1819 and 1822; other editions were published in New York, London, Leipzig, and Amsterdam. Magendie was a French physiologist who has been credited with the introduction of compounds of bromine and iodine, morphine, and strychnine into medical practice. *Index-Catalog*, VIII, 508; *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, 953.

²⁷ *The Western Medical and Physical Journal*. This monthly publication was owned by the medical faculty of Cincinnati College and was published in the late 1820's at Cincinnati. Its title was soon changed to *Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences*. It was edited by Dr. Daniel Drake and others. *Index-Catalog*, XVI, 399; Buley, *Old Northwest*, I, 280.

²⁸ *The Western Medical Gazette*. This was a semimonthly journal published at Cincinnati during the early 1830's. It was printed under the auspices of Ohio Medical College, and the editorial staff was headed by Dr. John Eberle. *Index-Catalog*, XVI, 399; Pickard and Buley, *Midwest Pioneer*, 158; Ralph Leslie Rusk, *The Literature of the Middle Western Frontier* (2 vols., New York, 1926), I, 197. (The appraiser merely added the 37¢ and dropped the ½¢ of the 37½¢ valuation of these six journals.)

²⁹ *The American Medical Recorder* (Philadelphia, 1818-1829). This journal was first a quarterly, then an annual. It was "conducted by several respectable physicians of Philadelphia," and in 1829 was merged with the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*. *Index-Catalog*, I, 226.

2 Nos. American Journal Med. Sciences ³⁰	.50
1 No. Baileys Morbid Anatomy ³¹	.50
	<hr/>
	\$387.83

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Amount over	\$387.83
Surgeon Dentists Manual ³²	.50
Home Physician ³³	2.00
Virgil Delphini ³⁴	1.50
Latin Grammer	.121½ ³⁵
Greek Grammar	.25
Natural Philosoph[y]	.50
English reader	.37
Blairs Lectures ³⁶	.31

³⁰ *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (Philadelphia, 1827-1879). This journal was edited by Dr. Isaac Hays, and it was at first a quarterly and then an annual publication. The first series (vols. 1-26) ran through the years 1827 to 1840; a new series (vols. 1-78) was published between 1841 and 1879.

³¹ Matthew Baillie, *The Morbid Anatomy of Some of the Most Important Parts of the Human Body* (London, 1793). This work went through five London editions. There were three American editions: Albany (1795), Walpole, N.H. (1808), and Philadelphia (1820). *Index-Catalog*, I, 735.

³² G. Waite, *The Surgeon-Dentist's Anatomical and Physiological Manual* (Philadelphia, 1830). *Index-Catalog*, III, 684.

³³ The *Home Physician* may be one of the following books: Dr. William Buchan, *Domestic Medicine; or the Family Physician: Being an Attempt to Render the Medical Art More Generally Useful with Respect to the Prevention and Cure of Diseases* (first published in 1769 at Edinburgh, with subsequent editions published in the British Isles and in this country); Dr. Anthony A. Benezet, *The Family Physician; Comprising Rules for the Prevention and Cure of Diseases; Calculated Particularly for the Inhabitants of the Western Country, and for Those Who Navigate its Waters* (Cincinnati, 1826); or A. Weyer, *The Family Physician or Poor Man's Friend, and Married Lady's Companion: Containing a great variety of Valuable Medical Recipes, designed to assist heads of Families, Travellers, and Sea-faring People in Curing Disease* (St. Clairsville, O., 1831). See Buley, *Old Northwest*, I, 269-270. It is also possible that the volume inventoried might have been one of the anonymous home medical books sold at the time. *Index-Catalog* (2nd series, 21 vols., Washington, D.C., 1896-1916), VII, 232.

³⁴ The writings of this Roman poet must have been a good seller at this time. See *Republican and Banner* (Madison, Ind.), August 22, 1833.

³⁵ The half-cent does not appear in the total for the page.

³⁶ Hugh Blair, *Lectures on Rhetoric* (n.p., 1783). Blair was a Scottish Presbyterian clergyman and professor of rhetoric and belles-

Woodbridge [illegible] Geography ³⁷	.20
Beckus discourses ³⁸	.25
Life of Jackson ³⁹	1.00
1 pr. Tooth Drawers. 3 hooks	2.50
1 pr. curved Tooth forceps	1.00
1 pr. Strait Tooth forceps	1.00
1 Gum Elastic Catheter	.75
1 Case Pocket Instruments	10.00
	<hr/> <hr/> \$410.13 ⁴⁰

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Amount up	\$410.13
1 optic Magnyfinf Glass	.50
1 large pr. scales & weights	3.00
1 small pr D° D°	1.50
1 Box small scales & weights	1.00
1 large Mortar & pestal	.50
1 Smaller D° & pestal	2.00
1 Turpentine Canister & Cock	.50
1 skillet	.25
1 Pill plate & small D°	1.00
1 Pill machine	.50
4 Stone Jugs	.50

lettres at Edinburgh University. It is possible that his *Lectures on Rhetoric* were first published at Edinburgh. This book was reprinted extensively. *The Dictionary of National Biography* (Reprint, 22 vols., London, 1949-1950), II, 622-623; *Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, 156.

³⁷ This book was by William Channing Woodbridge, a New England teacher and author of textbooks on geography. He was, in addition, the editor of an educational magazine which was very influential in the 1830's. Paul Monroe, *Founding of the American Public School System: A History of Education in the United States from the Early Settlements to the Close of the Civil War Period* (New York, 1940), 236.

³⁸ No clue to the identify of this item has been found.

³⁹ Here is another mysterious title. There was an early biography which primarily discussed Jackson's military exploits; however, it was published in the 1840's. James Parton published three volumes entitled *The Life of Andrew Jackson* (New York, 1859-1860), but this work, too, appeared several years after the death of Dr. Rodgers.

⁴⁰ There is an error in the total of this page of the inventory. The total is approximately 13¢ too much if one disregards the half-cent.

1 Soddering iron	.19
1 Counter Brush	.121½
82 Tin pill Boxes	.81
2 Spatulas	.50
1 Small Clyster pipe ⁴¹	.371½
1 Small 1 female D°	.25
1 steam Tube	.75
	<hr/>
	\$424.38

10

Amount over	\$424.38
one Gross vials	3.00
one & a half ounce ol. Cinnamon & vial ⁴²	0.50
½ ounce ol. Mentl & vial ⁴³	.25
1 ounce Anise & vial ⁴⁴	.50
5 ounces Crude Mercury vial	.621½

⁴¹ A clyster pipe was used in giving an enema. Clarence Wilbur Taber, *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary; Including A Digest of Medical Subjects: Medicine, Surgery, Nursing, Dietetics, Physical Therapy* (Philadelphia, 1943), p. C-72.

⁴² The appraiser means oil of cinnamon. The abbreviation may refer to oil, but it more than likely stands for the Latin equivalent of oil, *oleum*. The drugs listed in this inventory often appear according to their English names, their Latin terms, or a mixture of the two, as is the case in this instance. The complete Latin name would have been *oleum cinnamoni*. Although oil of cinnamon has germicidal action, it was and is used primarily as a carminative or an aromatic. Robert A. Hatcher (ed.), *Useful Drugs: A Selected List of Essential Drugs with Brief Discussions of Actions, Uses and Dosage* (Chicago, 1942), 92; Horatio C. Wood, Jr., and Arthur Osol, *The Dispensatory of the United States of America* (Philadelphia, 1943), 754-756.

⁴³ Mint oil (*oleum menthae*), but there is no indication of the species of mint it was made from. According to the *Pharmacopoeia* which was used during Dr. Rodgers' time, it was probably oil of peppermint or oil of spearmint. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 677-679; *The Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America* (Philadelphia, 1831), 156-157.

⁴⁴ Either anise oil or anise water. Used in liqueurs. Has carminative and aromatic action. *The Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America* (Easton, Pa., 1947), 43-44; *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 154-155; John C. Gunn, *Gunn's New Domestic Physician: or Home Book of Health. A Guide for Families; Pointing Out In Familiar Language, Free from Medical Terms, the Latest Approved Methods of Treating the Diseases of Men, Women, and Children, and for Using the Best New Remedies, Including Medical Plants* (Louisville, Ky., 1857), 777. This work will be designated as Gunn, *New Domestic Physician* in following citations.

Lunar Caustic & vial ⁴⁵	.25
1 vial Essen [ammoniac?] ⁴⁶	.12½
1 vial ol. Tansy ⁴⁷	.25
2 lbs lump Magnesia	.50
1 lb fol. Senna ⁴⁸	.44
¼ lb Cortex Aurantii ⁴⁹	.06
℥ 1½ Skunk Cabbage ⁵⁰	.12½
℥ ii Composition Mxt ⁵¹	.37½
3 lbs Sulph. Copper ⁵²	.37½
¾ lb Rhubarb root ⁵³	.50
¾ lb Radx Gentian ⁵⁴	.50
¾ lb Pix Burgundy ⁵⁵	.25
	\$433.00

⁴⁵ Lunar caustic is toughened silver nitrate and generally comes in the form of a pencil or cone. It is used for its germicidal action and as an agent for cauterization. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 206-207; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 160-161.

⁴⁶ Essence of ammoniac. The *Pharmacopoeia* of 1831 lists this drug as elixir ammoniac. Evidently the item listed in the inventory was in the form of an alcoholic solution of volatile oil or essence. Ammoniac has been used since ancient times, but it is now very rarely administered. It was used largely to combat chronic bronchitis, but was occasionally employed as a diaphoretic (to induce perspiration) or as an emmenagogue (to stimulate menstrual activity). *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 4; *Pharmacopoeia* (1947), 1256.

⁴⁷ Oil of tansy. "Tansy adds to the medicinal properties of the aromatic bitters those of an irritant narcotic." Its tonic properties were used for their soothing effect in cases where there was emotional excitement. *Pharmacopoeia* (1947), 1552.

⁴⁸ *Folia senna* or senna leaves, which was and is used to treat chronic constipation. Today the syrup of senna is so pleasant tasting that even children readily accept it. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 205.

⁴⁹ Orange peel. Used chiefly as a flavoring agent. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 6; *Pharmacopoeia* (1947), 182-184.

⁵⁰ The dried root of fresh skunk cabbage was given internally to stimulate body secretions. Was used in treating rheumatism, asthma, and whooping cough. *Pharmacopoeia* (1947), 1269; Gunn, *New Domestic Physician*, 779. The symbol "℥" used in this and a number of other listings stands for "ounce." Thus "℥ 7" is read "ounces, 7." In some instances, small roman numerals are used with the symbol for ounce. Therefore, "℥ ii" is read "2 ounces."

⁵¹ Composition mixture—probably a composition of several acids.

⁵² Copper sulfate (blue vitriol). Employed as a stimulant, an astringent, and as a powerful emetic. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. C-100.

⁵³ Rhubarb was used as an acid stimulant and as a cathartic. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. R-30.

⁵⁴ Radix (root) gentian. Made into a tincture and used as a bitter tonic. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 12; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. G-18.

⁵⁵ Burgundy pitch. Sometimes written as "Bergundy." Derived from the Norway spruce tree and named after the French province of

Amt up	\$433.00
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb and 1 pt Jar Creme Tart ⁵⁶	.45
$\frac{1}{2}$ [lb. ?] Pulv[erized] Rheubarb & Jar	.70
$\frac{1}{2}$ Pulv Red Pepper & Jar	.45
10 $\frac{3}{4}$ Gum Myrrh & Pt Jar ⁵⁷	.62
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb Gum Arabic & 1 pt Jar ⁵⁸	.65
$\frac{3}{4}$ 7 castile soap & Jar	.32
$\frac{3}{4}$ 14 Peruv. Barks & Jar ⁵⁹	.75
$\frac{3}{4}$ 8 Pulv Colombo & Jar ⁶⁰	.70
$\frac{3}{4}$ ii Jalap & Jar ⁶¹	.32

Burgundy. Used as a gentle skin irritant. Formerly employed in cases which called for long-continued, but mild, counter-irritation such as for chronic conditions of the abdomen and chest and rheumatic pains. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. P-73; *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 19; Pickard and Buley, *Midwest Pioneer*, 305; *Pharmacopoeia* (1947), 1292-1293.

⁵⁶ Cream of tartar (potassium bitartrate). Action and uses: a mild purgative and increases the secretion of urine. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 189.

⁵⁷ Myrrh in the form of gum and mixed with aloe to make pills is still used today as a carminative, an agent to expel gases from the gastrointestinal tract. In the tincture it is employed as an astringent mouthwash and gargle. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 165.

⁵⁸ Gum arabic (acacia). In the mucilage form gum arabic is used as a suspending agent in making emulsions and other mixtures. It also has value as an agent to soften skin and mucous membrane. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 9.

⁵⁹ Peruvian bark (cinchona bark). Is the source of quinine, an anti-malarial agent. The Indian word "*quina*," which means "bark," is the basis for our word *quinine*. Some authorities state that the Indian medicine men of Peru first used this bark in the treatment of malaria. Others say that Jesuit priests were the original prescribers of this bark—hence giving it another name by which it was known, "Jesuit bark." Authentic records show that it has been used since 1630—two hundred years before the time of Dr. Andrew Rodgers. Pioneer doctors, in addition to using it against malaria and other fevers, may have made a tincture out of it and used it "as a bitter stimulant to gastric digestion and appetite." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 309-317.

⁶⁰ Columbo (calumba) roots are pulverized into a powder which is slightly aromatic and very bitter. Can be made into fluidextracts and tinctures. Acts as a tonic upon the digestive organs. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 242-243.

⁶¹ Jalap root dried and made into a powder was a favorite drug among pioneer doctors but not among their patients. The Jalapa plant is a "native of Mexico" and derives "its name from the city of Jalapa, in the state of Vera Cruz." This drug "is a powerful, drastic, cathartic, in full dose operating briskly and sometimes painfully with copious, watery stools." It is little wonder that jalap "seems at times to have been even more feared than calomel." Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. J-1; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 580-582; Pickard and Buley, *Midwest Pioneer*, 296.

1 lb Flos Sulph & Jar ⁶²	.40
3 ii Red Precipitate & Jar ⁶³	.40
3 1 G[um] Camph[or] & Jar	.30
1/2 lb Gum Foetida & Jar ⁶⁴	.40
1/2 lb Gum Guaiac & Jar ⁶⁵	.40
3 10 Creta preparata & Jar ⁶⁶	.40
1/4 lb Nux vomica & Jar ⁶⁷	.33
1 lb Sal Nitre & Jar ⁶⁸	.40
1/2 lb Borax [refined?] Jar ⁶⁹	.33
	\$441.32

⁶² Flowers of sulfur (sublimed sulfur). This is a "fine, yellow, crystalline powder" which has been used in various forms. Formerly it was considered good for rheumatic conditions but probably had very few therapeutic benefits. It can be used as a gentle laxative, especially in cases of hemorrhoids where griping is to be avoided. In ointment form it has enjoyed success in the treatment of diseases of the skin, both the parasitic and nonparasitic varieties. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1060-1062.

⁶³ This is red mercuric oxide (listed as red oxide of mercury in the 1831 *Pharmacopoeia*). Used in ointments for body sores, e.g., the lesions of the secondary stage of syphilis. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 125; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. M-30.

⁶⁴ Gum asafetida was an old stand-by with pioneer doctors. In fact, it was used by the Arabian physicians of old and by the medical men of medieval Europe. Pioneers knew it by its offensive and repulsive odor. Yet today a small amount used as a condiment gives distinctive aroma to Worcestershire sauce. Asafetida was formerly used for nervous exhaustion and hysteria, but the effect was more psychological than therapeutic. It has been added to laxative drugs, used as a carminative for colic, and employed as an expectorant. Its disagreeable taste makes asafetida in the pill form a little easier to take than in other forms, but even then it is a hard pill to swallow. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 173-176.

⁶⁵ Gum guaiac (guaiac resin) was formerly used in the treatment of all types of chronic disorders, was considered useful as a nauseant, and was thought helpful for skin diseases. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 507-508.

⁶⁶ In its native form prepared chalk (*creta praeparata*) is calcium carbonate. It is "used in acidity of stomach" and is "admirably adapted to diarrhea accompanied with acidity." It has been applied externally to ulcers and burns and has been efficient as a dusting powder when drying of the skin was considered necessary. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 354-355.

⁶⁷ The preparations of *nux vomica*, which contain a small amount of strychnine, have been used occasionally as a nerve and respiratory stimulant and as an appetizer, but more often they have been utilized as a tonic for the stomach. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 172.

⁶⁸ *Sal nitri* (sometimes spelled "nitre") is potassium nitrate—more commonly called saltpetre. Used to increase the flow and quantity of urine and also added to various mixtures of asthmatic powders. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 896-898.

⁶⁹ Borax (sodium borate) possesses some antiseptic properties. Used widely for cleansing and treatment in inflammatory conditions of the skin and mucous membranes. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 986-988.

Amt over	\$441.32
½ lb Sugar Lead & Jar	.40
¾ ii Sulp Potasa & Jar ⁷⁰	.40
¾ i Gum Kino & Jar ⁷¹	.30
¾ iv flos Chamomile & Jar ⁷²	.45
¾ lb Chloride of lime & Jar	.25
¾ 14 arsenic & Jar	.56
¾ lb Gum Amoniac & Jar	.95
[¼ ?] lb Ginger & Jar	.25
¾ ii Gum Tragacanth Jar ⁷³	.38
¾ lb Gum camphor & Jar	1.14
¼ lb Sal Rochell & Jar ⁷⁴	.31
¼ lb Supr Car. Soda & Jar ⁷⁵	.45

⁷⁰ Sulfurated potash (*potassa sulphurata*) was in the early days used internally for asthma, chronic rheumatism, and other maladies. Mixed in an ointment or lotion and applied externally, it still has value in the treatment of various diseases of the skin. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 882-883.

⁷¹ Kino, often added to chalk preparations, has been used to allay diarrhea. Made into a tincture, it has been applied locally to bring about a shrinkage of tissue. "Kino is powerfully astringent." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 585-587.

⁷² Chamomile flowers (earth apple) when dried yield a volatile oil which is an aromatic bitter. In large doses oil of chamomile acts as an emetic; in small doses, a stomachic. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1263-1264.

⁷³ From the days of antiquity gum tragacanth has been used by the medical profession. It has been employed in the making of emulsions and as a basis for troches (lozenges). In addition it has been utilized as "a basis for a greaseless catheter lubricant and as an application for chapped skin." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1173-1175; Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 235.

⁷⁴ Rochelle salt (potassium and sodium tartrate; the *Pharmacopoeia* of 1831 calls it tartrate of potassa and soda) is "used as a saline cathartic." *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 183; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. R-33; Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 193.

⁷⁵ Sulphur carbonate of soda was a dry mixture or powder of carbonate of soda, which is a combination seldom listed today. The *Pharmacopoeia* of 1831 gave instructions for making the liquid "sulphuret of soda" for which one ounce of sulphur and two ounces of dried carbonate of soda were mixed. The *Pharmacopoeia* gave no hint as to usage, but the mixture was probably used to counteract excessive acidity and at the same time provide mild purgative action. Externally it may have been employed to bathe the skin and as a parasiticide. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 185-187; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, pp. S-62, S-119; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 990-991.

§ 6 Tart acid & Jar ⁷⁶	.57
§ 10 Peach Kernels & Jar ⁷⁷	.50
§ ii Santalum Runbrum & Jar ⁷⁸	.32
§ iv Radx Valerian & Jar ⁷⁹	.32
1 lb White Mustard & Jar	.40
§ 4 Extct Catechu Jar ⁸⁰	.45
	\$449.72

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Amt up	\$449.72
§ 6 Pylygala seneca & Jar ⁸¹	.60
§ 4 Carb Iron Jar ⁸²	.25

⁷⁶ Tartaric acid increases the acidity of the body and has a laxative effect. Today it is sometimes "used in artificial lemonades or in effervescent drinks." *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 4; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. T-6; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 54-55.

⁷⁷ An oil is obtained from peach kernels and is known as "peach kernel oil" or "persic oil." This oil has been used as a "substitute for expressed oil of almonds" (oil of sweet almond). Peach kernel oil has proven its efficacy as an emollient for inflamed skin conditions and in particular for chapped hands. It mixes well with the volatile oils. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 740-741, 776.

⁷⁸ *Santalum rubrum* is sometimes called "red saunders" and "red sandalwood." For pharmaceutical use red saunders usually is in the form of coarse powder, small chips, or raspings. This wood is used solely for coloring tinctures and other preparations and has no medicinal value. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 22; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 950-951.

⁷⁹ Valerian roots (radix) produce a volatile oil which has been made into tinctures and fluidextracts. The roots seem to lose much of their medicinal value in the process of drying; hence, preparations made from valerian roots are seldom used today. Formerly these preparations were considered valuable for patients who had troublesome emotional conditions. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1212-1214.

⁸⁰ Pale catechu is known perhaps more frequently by the term "gambir." Gambir is used commercially in dyeing, calico printing, tanning, and other industrial processes where there is need for tannic acid. Medically it has been utilized in instances calling for an astringent, and especially for diarrheal conditions. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 480-481.

⁸¹ *Polygala senega* (seneca, snakeroot) has therapeutic virtues in the treatment of various forms of asthma and bronchitis. In treating these conditions senega is used as an expectorant. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 966-968.

⁸² Carbonate iron is today more properly called "ferrous carbonate." Some form of sugar is usually added, and the mixture termed "saccharated ferrous carbonate." Ferrous carbonate has been considered very good for the "treatment of anemia." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 445-446.

℥ ii Sabina & Jar ⁸³	.40
℥ ii pulv Dovers & Jar ⁸⁴	.25
℥ 6 Tart Emetic & Jar ⁸⁵	.70
½ lb Calomel Jar ⁸⁶	.70
℥ i ss pulv Ipecac Jar ⁸⁷	.50
℥ i Corosive Sublimate Jar ⁸⁸	.25
℥ i Cochineal Jar ⁸⁹	.25
℥ 1 ss oxyd Bismuth Jar ⁹⁰	.38
℥ ii Sulfate of Antimony	.25
℥ ss Indigo	.10
℥ i ss Digitalis	.25
20 grs Quinin	.12½
℥ ii Crude Antimony	.12½
℥ iii Gamboge ⁹¹	.25

⁸³ Sabina (savin) is derived from the leaves and branches of an evergreen tree. The fluidextract and oil are strong irritants and in overdoses are toxic. When savin is "persistently applied to the skin or the mucous membrane, [there is produced a] violent inflammation." Formerly it was employed as an antirheumatic, a vermifuge, and an emmenagogue. See n. 110. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1505.

⁸⁴ Dover's powder (powder of ipecac and opium) was extensively used to counteract the early stages of colds and influenza by increasing perspiration and by acting as a sedative. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 907.

⁸⁵ Tartar emetic (antimony and potassium tartrate) has been used in medicine "as a diaphoretic, emetic, expectorant, and counterirritant." Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. T-5; Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 19-20.

⁸⁶ Calomel (mild mercurous chloride) was another favorite of pioneer doctors. It was used primarily as a laxative in small and not so small doses. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 158-159.

⁸⁷ Pulverized ipecac is "in large doses emetic, in smaller doses, diaphoretic and expectorant, and in still smaller, stimulant to the stomach, exciting appetite and facilitating digestion." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 572-576. The letters "ss." used in this and some of the following listings are the Latin abbreviation for "half."

⁸⁸ Corrosive sublimate (mercury bichloride, corrosive mercuric chloride, corrosive chloride of mercury) is a powerful poison. Used as a disinfectant and germicide. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. M-81; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 518-521.

⁸⁹ Cochineal possesses a rich crimson coloring and is used as a dye. Medically, cochineal is an antispasmodic and relieves mild pain. Has been used for nervousness and whooping cough. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. C-75.

⁹⁰ Bismuth oxide is rarely used today. It was employed against various inflammations of the mucous membranes and skin. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 212-214, 1283-1284.

⁹¹ Gamboge in the full dose is a powerful and drastic cathartic and is not used very much today. Formerly, because of the drug's potency, it was frequently mixed with other cathartics. Also in earlier days gamboge was used to expel intestinal worms. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 246-248.

3 i pulv. Liquorice	. 6
1/4 lb Peach Kernel	.25
	<hr/> <hr/> \$455.41

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Amt over	\$455.41
3 i Sulp Zinc ⁹²	.12
1 tin box Cowage ⁹³	.12
3 6 Gum aloes ⁹⁴	.12
1/4 lb Cardamon Seed ⁹⁵	.25
1 1/2 lbs Sulphuric acid & bottle	.50
one Gallon bottle & vi[negar?]	.25
1 qut Tincture with Spirits	.37
1 large Tinct with alcoho[l]	.75
1 bott[l]e & Sal Tartar ⁹⁶	.25
1 bottle olive oil	.62
1 large vial & Tinct Lytta ⁹⁷	.25

⁹² Zinc sulfate used internally acts as an emetic; it is used externally as a styptic and astringent. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. Z-1.

⁹³ Cowhage (mucuna, cowage) is efficient but no longer in vogue because it is too disagreeable to take. At one time it was given to adults and children to destroy roundworms. The heavy, thick syrup was administered "every morning for three days, and then followed by a brisk cathartic." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1448.

⁹⁴ Gum aloes was another drug offered to the pioneer's intestinal tract. According to the amount given, aloe is a laxative, cathartic, or purgative. Pills are a favored means of administration. Action takes place largely in the large intestine. The drug is still deemed beneficial for men of the atomic age. Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 15.

⁹⁵ Cardamon (cardamom) is used as a stomachic, carminative, and aromatic. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. C-16; Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 80.

⁹⁶ Salt of tartar (potassium carbonate) is too irritating to body tissues to be of any value as an antacid. Years ago it was given as a diuretic and systemic alkalizer for gouty and rheumatic conditions. Today potassium carbonate is used for chemical and pharmaceutical manipulations. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 887-889.

⁹⁷ Lytta (cantharides, Spanish flies). Blister beetles, often in the form of a plaster, were used to produce redness, irritation, and blisters on the skin in order to give relief for internal inflammations such as pleurisy, neuritis, peritonitis. Cantharides are not used to any extent today. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. C-10; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 252-254.

1 Bottle & spts nitr ⁹⁸	.50
1 Bottle & spts Hartshorn ⁹⁹	.25
1 Bottle & Ether	.25
1 Bottle & spts Lavender	.75
2 Bottles Balsam Copaba ¹⁰⁰	1.00
1 Tinct Bottle & Rhu & Aloes ¹⁰¹	.62
1 Tinct Bottle & assafoetida ¹⁰²	.31
[7?] Tinct & Vinegar Squills ¹⁰³	.75
	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$463.69

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Amt up	\$463.69
1 Tinct & Elix Pargorc ¹⁰⁴	1.00

⁹⁸ This drug refers to sweet spirit of niter (spirit of ethyl nitrite), which, according to the *New Domestic Physician*, was used as a diuretic. It also has been used to lower blood pressure. In recent times, however, the most common usage has been for vasodilation and as a diaphoretic to reduce mild fevers. Gunn, *New Domestic Physician*, 778; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1014-1016; Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 167; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. N-29.

⁹⁹ Spirits of Hartshorn (ammonia water, solution of ammonium hydroxide). The fumes, taken by inhalation, have been used for decades as a stimulant in cases of sudden fainting spells. Ammonia water combined with various oils has been used also in stimulating liniments, e.g., ammonia liniment (hartshorn liniment). Gunn, *New Domestic Physician*, 776; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 597, 606-607.

¹⁰⁰ Balsam copaiba was used externally in the treatment of ulcers and wounds, but is seldom used for this purpose today. Internally, it has been administered for gonorrhea and other chronic conditions of the mucous membranes—such as hemorrhoids, chronic diarrhea, and chronic bronchitis. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 343-345.

¹⁰¹ Mixture or tincture of rhubarb and aloes. Although this combination in the form of pills is still listed today as an official preparation, the tincture is not frequently listed. But since both elements have been noted for their cathartic action, it seems as if the early doctors had another drug to combat the pioneer's constipation. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 91-95, 935-937.

¹⁰² Asafoetida again; this time in the form of a tincture. See n. 64.

¹⁰³ Vinegar of squill (*acetum scillae*). During the nineteenth century, the medical profession used this solution as a nauseate and diuretic, but more recently it has been employed for its cardiac action. Also, the solution is still utilized in making syrup of squill, which has usefulness as an expectorant. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831) 45, 225; Gunn, *New Domestic Physician*, 780; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 10-11, 962-963, 1078-1079.

¹⁰⁴ Elixir paregoric (paregoric elixir, camphorated tincture of opium) is used in small doses for abdominal pains, coughing, and nausea. It has been used successfully in larger doses as an antidiarrheal drug. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1157-1159; *United States Maritime Service Hospital Corps School Manual* (Washington, D.C., 1945), 157-158.

1 Tinct & Ess. pepert ¹⁰⁵	.37
1 Tinct & Ant Wine ¹⁰⁶	.50
1 Tinct Saponica ¹⁰⁷	.50
1 Tinct & Laudanum ¹⁰⁸	.37½
1 Bottle & Tinct valerian ¹⁰⁹	.37½
1 Tinct & Emenagouge ¹¹⁰	.75
3 pint Tinct Bottles	.50
1 qut Tinct D°	.25
6 pint Jars with cover	.75
2 qut Jars & covers	.37

¹⁰⁵ Essence of peppermint (*spiritus menthae piperitae*) acts as an aromatic stimulant and has proven itself for the relief of intestinal gas, pains, and nausea. Because of its agreeable flavor, peppermint (spirit, oil, and water) is an important addition to other medicinal mixtures. Oil of peppermint was used by the pioneers as a home remedy for the toothache. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 677-678; Buley, *Old Northwest*, I, 281.

¹⁰⁶ Some of the older antimonial preparations are now obsolete. Antimonial wine (wine of antimony) is one of them. *The National Formulary* advises the use of tincture of antimony (tincture of tartar emetic) whenever wine of antimony is ordered today. See n. 85 for a general idea of the usage. The *Pharmacopoeia* of 1831 gave the pioneer doctor these exact details concerning the preparation of antimonial wine: "Take of Tartrate of Antimony and Potassa a scruple; Wine ten fluidounces. Dissolve the Tartrate of Antimony and Potassa in the wine." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1140, 1265; *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 67; *The National Formulary* (Washington, D.C., 1942), 442.

¹⁰⁷ Evidently this preparation was a tincture made from one of the many saponins which have foaming action producing a soapy lather and aid in the "emulsification and suspension of finely divided precipitates." Several saponins have been useful as cleansing agents. "They are irritating and produce vomiting and diarrhea if taken internally." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1508-1509; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. S-11.

¹⁰⁸ Laudanum (tincture of opium) was prepared during pioneer days from the following instructions: "Take [of] Opium, in powder, two ounces and a half; Diluted Alcohol two pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and filter through paper." The preparation was used whenever a sedative was required—such as in cases of indigestion, diarrhea, bronchial spasms, nervous conditions, and for relief of pain. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 219; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, pp. O-15-16; Gunn, *New Domestic Physician*, 777.

¹⁰⁹ Tincture of valerian, made from valerian roots, was employed primarily as a sedative. See n. 79. *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 27; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1212-1214; *National Formulary*, 463.

¹¹⁰ An emmenagogue is "an agent that stimulates the menstrual function." There is no way to determine what drug was listed here in the inventory as an emmenagogue. Perhaps it was sabina (savin) in tincture form. See n. 83. Sabina has also "been much used for the purpose of producing criminal abortion." Needless to say, in such doses, it is extremely dangerous to the patient. The editor wants to point out here that he is merely stating that a drug was available to the pioneer physician for both uses described above. In no way whatsoever is he implying that Dr. Rodgers misused sabina. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. E-22; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1505.

26 Bottles Empty	.50
Blistering ointment & Jar	.75
Mercurial Ungt & Jar ¹¹¹	.75
Citron ointment & Jar ¹¹²	.50
strong Mer Ungt & Jar	.12
3 Empty Jars	.19
3 v G. Myrrh	.25
	<hr/>
	\$472.49

16

Amt over	\$472.49
1/2 Gross vial corks	.10
5 lb Salts & Keg	.60
10 lbs Pearl ash & Keg ¹¹³	1.20
6 lbs Sulphur Roll & Keg ¹¹⁴	.75
3 Boxes Seidlitz powders ¹¹⁵	1.50

¹¹¹ This preparation obviously refers to mild mercurial ointment (*unguentum*), whereas the item listed two lines farther down refers to the strong mercurial ointment; the difference is in the percentage of mercury in each. The mild mercurial ointment, often called "blue ointment," has been used against the body louse—especially the *pediculus pubis*. This infestation, *pediculosis pubis*, was probably referred to by the pioneers, as it has been by later generations, as the "crabs." The strong mercurial ointment was rubbed into the skin with the hope that enough would be absorbed by the body to be beneficial in the treatment of syphilis, venereal bubos, and chronic glandular swellings. *U.S.M.S. Hospital Corps School Manual*, 138; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. P-31; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1193-1195; Hatcher, *Useful Drugs*, 151.

¹¹² Citron ointment (citrine ointment, ointment of mercuric nitrate) was "formerly extensively employed as a parasiticide in various skin diseases—as impetigo, sycosis, ringworm, etc.—but is less frequently used today." *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 235; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1195-1196.

¹¹³ Purified potash is referred to as "perlash," which is in turn the common expression for an impure form of potassium carbonate. During the pioneer period, potassium carbonate was undoubtedly procured from wood ashes. See n. 96 for an idea of the use of this item in the inventory. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. P-105.

¹¹⁴ Sulfur roll was a roll of cloth impregnated with sulfur which was ignited and burned for fumigation purposes. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. S-119.

¹¹⁵ Seidlitz powder is composed of sodium and potassium tartrate, sodium bicarbonate, and tartaric acid. It is a mild cathartic and is taken in a state of effervescence. This preparation was a stock item in the pioneer drug trade. Buley, *Old Northwest*, I, 314; Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. S-31; George B. Wood and Franklin Bache, *The Dispensatory of the United States of America* (Philadelphia, 1858), 57.

4 vials Godfreys cordial ¹¹⁶	.25
2 vials Thomsons Eye water ¹¹⁷	.25
2 Jars Judkins ointment ¹¹⁸	.44
10 vials British oil ¹¹⁹	.50
3 Medica m[entems?] ¹²⁰	.38
1 Worm Seed oil ¹²¹	.12
1 Batemans Drops ¹²²	. 6
5 Turlingtons Balsam ¹²³	.50
3 i Sponge	.18
3 6 Liquoice	.18
1½ lb G. aloes	.38
½ G. Foetida	.50
	<hr/>
	\$480.38

¹¹⁶ Godfrey's cordial was "intended as a preparation for exhibiting opium in children." It was used for years chiefly as an antidiarrheal agent. Although it is now a preparation of the past, the editor has seen it in stock (half-ounce bottle for 25¢) and understands that some of the old-timers of today still call for Godfrey's cordial. Joseph P. Remington and Horatio C. Wood, Jr., *U.S. Dispensatory* (Philadelphia, 1918), 1818.

¹¹⁷ The editor assumes that Thompson's eye water was some type of mild eye wash. It was advertised locally in the newspapers. See *The Indianian* (Charlestown, Ind.), November 6, 1839.

¹¹⁸ Dr. William Judkins' Specific Ointment was advertised in the *Madison Republican and Banner*, August 29, 1833, as being good for sore legs, sore eyes, ulcers, tumors, burns, sprains, and ringworms.

¹¹⁹ British oil was at one time a very popular remedy—a liniment used to stimulate the supply of blood to a local area. One of its basic ingredients was crude oil or petroleum. Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1474-1476; Remington and Wood, *U.S. Dispensatory*, 796.

¹²⁰ *Medica mentems* is an elusive item which cannot be located in the various medical reference works and which seems to be advertised in only one of a dozen contemporary newspapers. In this advertisement it is not identified but is merely included in a list of drugs offered for sale. See *The Indianian* (Charlestown, Ind.), November 6, 1839.

¹²¹ Wormseed oil (oil of American wormseed, oil of chenopodium) was used almost "exclusively as an anthelmintic." It was efficient against hookworm and roundworm, but wormseed oil was "less efficacious against tapeworms." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 752-754.

¹²² Bateman Pectoral Drops were popular as a medicine to relieve coughing and chest conditions; they were, however, "more useful in intestinal than pectoral complaints." Remington and Wood, *U.S. Dispensatory*, 1836.

¹²³ Turlington's Balsam was sometimes used for chronic dysentery, but it was principally employed as an inhalant and expectorant in chronic bronchitis. Remington and Wood, *U.S. Dispensatory*, 1133.

Amt up	\$480.38
¾ ii Bitter almonds ¹²⁴	.12
¾ 10 Verdigris ¹²⁵	.50
17 shoemakers heel Balls ¹²⁶	.25
½ lb Peruvian Bark	.50
1 Tin & 1 glass funnel 1 pt Measure	.37
1 Tumbler & 1 Cupping glass ¹²⁷	.25
5 Doz Batemans Drops	3.75
2 Doz & 9 Liquid opodeldoc ¹²⁸	3.44
1 Doz & 10 Solid opodeldoc	1.62
7 Boxes Lees pills ¹²⁹	.87
½ Doz Curtis Ink powder	.25

¹²⁴ Bitter almond oil (oil of bitter almond) acts physiologically like hydrocyanic acid—potent stuff and a deadly poison. The oil has been employed in a very weak solution for "cases of troublesome itching" and to soothe and soften the skin. It has sometimes been used "to conceal the taste of cod liver oil and of castor oil." Gunn, *New Domestic Physician*, 773; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 739-740.

¹²⁵ Verdigris, a "mixture of various basic acetates of copper," is rarely used today for medicinal purposes. It was used locally for its "astringent, caustic, and fungicidal properties." Gunn lists it as being "violently emetic." Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 1335; Gunn, *New Domestic Physician*, 780.

¹²⁶ Shoemaker's heelball is a composition of lampblack and wax. Shoemakers use it for polishing. Antiquarians use it for copying inscriptions on stone.

¹²⁷ The cupping glass was a glass vessel that was applied to the skin to create suction and draw blood to the surface. Cupping was used to stimulate the local area, to lessen pain, and to relieve congestion. Taber, *Medical Dictionary*, p. C-115.

¹²⁸ Opodeldoc (camphorated soap) was composed of soap, camphor, alcohol, etc. Dr. Rodgers had opodeldoc in the solid and liquid form. The liquid was used as a liniment; the solid as a soft ointment. Even the solid opodeldoc is often referred to as "solid liniment of soap." Recent authorities have no praise for it when they state that the "proportion of active ingredients is too small to exert any therapeutic effect." *Pharmacopoeia* (1831), 141; Wood and Osol, *Dispensatory*, 600; *National Formulary*, 232.

¹²⁹ Doctor Samuel H. P. Lee's New-London Bilious Pills were advertised during 1821 in a Louisville, Ky., newspaper. Even at that date, the ad stated that Dr. Lee's Pills had been in use for twenty years. They were the concoction of Dr. Samuel H. P. Lee, of New London, Conn., and the title indicates the nature of their use. *Louisville Public Advertiser*, October 19, 1821; *Louisville Daily Journal*, March 18 and December 7, 1831.

3 papers Sloughers bitters ¹³⁰	.75
1 Lanthorn & Sadlers Stool ¹³¹	.50
1 Silver Pencil	.75
1 Sign Board	.25
	<hr/> <hr/> \$494.55

[18]

We the subscribers after having been duly sworn by Alexander Mars a Justice of the Peace of Clarke County Indiana to make an Inventory and appraisment of the goods & chattles of Andrew Rodgers deceased, Certify, that the foregoing is the Inventory and appraisment made by us, in the presence of Patrick Welch, the Administrator of the Estate of said Rodgers—(Amount of appraisment errors excepted is four hundred & ninity four dollars and fifty five cents.) 31st day August 1833.

ANDW. P. HAY
JOHN WORK

[19]

one lot of Medicine from	
saddle bags	1.50
one syringe	.75

¹³⁰ Slougher's Bitters is an item as elusive as *medica mentem*. See n. 120. An array of references was also searched for Slougher's Bitters—but to no avail. The title indicates that the mixture was probably a tonic which was used for the intestinal tract; however, one cannot be positive.

¹³¹ "Lanthorn" is an archaic term meaning "lantern."