



Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup

<https://mhc.andornot.com/en/permalink/artifact8579>

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| Accession Number: | 1991.17.17 |
| Collection: | University Health Network - Academy of Medicine Collection |
| Category: | Pharmacy and Drug Artifacts |
| Classification: | Pharmacy, General |
| MeSH Heading: | Drugs, Non-Prescription |
| Description: | Transparent cylindrical green glass bottle with long straight neck; embossed product name on the side; missing cork closure; mould lines visible. |
| Number Of Parts: | 1 |
| Provenance: | Acquired from the Academy of Medicine; source: Dr. R. Josephson of Toronto. |
| Maker: | Curtis & Perkins |
| Site Made (City): | Bridge Banger |
| Site Made (State): | Maine |
| Site Made (Country): | United States of America |
| Dates: | 1849 1865 circa 1849-1865 |
| Material: | glass: green |
| Inscriptions: | Embossed on side: "MRS WINSLOW'S // SOOTHING SYRUP // CURTIS & PERKINS // PROPRIETORS // 8" |
| Permanent Location: | Storage Room 0010 0010-A4-7 Box 1 Row B |
| Length: | 13.0 cm |
| Diameter: | 3.0 cm |
| Unit Of Measure: | centimeters |
| Condition Remarks: | Overall cloudy surface; minor crack at lip goes to outside |
| Copy Type: | original |
| Reference Types: | Internet |
| Reference Comments: | Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup; Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology. |
| Research Facts: | The original formula was made by Mrs. Charlotte Winslow, the mother-in-law of Curtis; while she was a nurse caring for infants; many children died from this product from either designated or over dosage; contained morphine. Exact card found on p. 19 of "American Health Quackery" by James Harvey Young; started in 1830's; in 1906 dropped "soothing" from the name and eliminated the morphine, and was a mixture of carminatives and laxatives, previously also had alcohol, morphin sulphate, aniseed, caraway, etc.; original "recipe" was: sassafrass, cedar, opium, guaiac, capsicum, ammonia, camphor, turpentine, chloroform, alcohol. The dangers of unregulated patent medicines prompted the Canadian government to adopt drug control laws in the early 20th century. |

Images



Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup

<https://mhc.andornot.com/en/permalink/artifact14675>

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| Accession Number: | 014005034 |
| Collection: | Vechter Collection |
| Category: | Pharmacy and Drug Artifacts |
| Classification: | Pharmacy, General |
| MeSH Heading: | Drugs, Non-Prescription MM= Drugs -- patent, proprietary, over-the-counter -- container -- bottle |
| Description: | Transparent cylindrical green glass bottle with long straight neck; embossed product name on the side; missing cork closure; mould lines visible. |
| Number Of Parts: | 1 |
| Provenance: | Items belonged to donor, a physician from Ottawa. |
| Maker: | Curtis & Perkins |
| Site Made (City): | Bridge Banger |
| Site Made (State): | Maine |
| Site Made (Country): | United States of America |
| Dates: | 1849 1865 circa 1849 - 1865 |
| Date Remarks: | Online research |
| Material: | glass: green |
| Inscriptions: | Embossed on side: "MRS WINSLOW'S // SOOTHING SYRUP // CURTIS & PERKINS // PROPRIETORS" |

Permanent Location: Storage Room 0010
0010-A4-8 Box 1 Row D

Temporary Location: On exhibit "Quack: The Exhibit that cures all" at Museum of Health Care, 29 June 2017.

Length: 12.5

Diameter: 3.3

Unit Of Measure: centimeters

Condition Remarks: Overall cloudy surface; minor residue inside

Copy Type: original

Reference Types: Internet

Reference Comments: Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup; Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.

Research Facts: The original formula was made by Mrs. Charlotte Winslow, the mother-in-law of Curtis; while she was a nurse caring for infants; many children died from this product from either designated or over dosage; contained morphine. Exact card found on p. 19 of "American Health Quackery" by James Harvey Young; started in 1830's; in 1906 dropped "soothing" from the name and eliminated the morphine, and was a mixture of carminatives and laxatives, previously also had alcohol, morphin sulphate, aniseed, caraway, etc.; original "recipe" was: sassafrass, cedar, opium, guaiac, capsicum, ammonia, camphor, turpentine, chloroform, alcohol.

The dangers of unregulated patent medicines prompted the Canadian government to adopt drug control laws in the early 20th century.

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