

Sir Stuart Threipland's medicine chest: list I

An alphabetical list of contents, constructed from the original list of 1766, together with an examination of the contents of the chest. There are some discrepancies between the original list and the contents, which may have been caused by the items having been moved. These are noted. The names of the medicines are those used in the original list where they are legible.

The items bear a label with a number and they are stored in six divisions in the box. In addition there is a drawer in the front left division. The original list indexed the contents in accordance with their position, using the letters and numbers D1 and D2 for the front divisions, left and right and D3, 4, 5 and 6, for the divisions at the back of the chest. The drawer is numbered D7. This index lists the items consecutively, but also shows the original index numbers.

EP: listed as a preparation in the *Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia* 1722

EPS: items listed as a 'simple' in the *Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia* 1722



FIGURE I Sir Stuart Threipland's medicine chest (RCPE).

Number	Item	Original number	D Section	Notes
1 EP	Acet scyllit	12	D1	Acetum scillae – vinegar of squills expectorant, diuretic, cardiac tonic
2	Amygd dulc	7	D2	Amygdala dulcis – sweet almond, the ripe seeds of prunus amygdalus, demulcent and nutrient
3	Aq reg h–er	15	D5	Aqua reginae hungariae (there are two items with this number the other is spt rosmarin)
4	Aq ad verruc	21	D4	
5	Arcaei liniment	9	D7	Unguentum elemi (see no. 54). Elemi resin part, simple ointment four parts – applied to old wounds
6 EPS	Argent vivum	4	D4	Mercury – cholagogue, purgative and externally for parasitic skin disease, syphilis
7 EP	Balsam anodyn	11	D3	Balsamum anodynum, batai. Preparation of soft soap, opium powder, camphor, oil of rosemary and rectified spirit
8	Balsam capivi	12	D3	Balsam of copaiba. Oleo resin from trees of the species copaifera – antiseptic, diuretic
9	Bal frat	16	D4	Balsam fratrum, balsam of the brothers
10	Balsam gilieadense	8	D6	Resin from the tree amyris gileadensis
11 EP	Bal luc	5	D1	Balsam lucatelli, turpentine, yellow wax, red sandalwood – for internal complaints

Number	Item	Original number	D Section	Notes
12 EP	Balsam peruvian	9	D6	Balsam of Peru – from myroxylon pereitreae, – internally an antiseptic and expectorant, externally a pesticide
13 EP	Balsam sulph terebin	17	D4	Balsamum sulphuris terebinthatum. Oil terebinth and sulphur, common Dutch drops – stimulant, diuretic
14 EP	Balsam toluatan	2	D1	Balsam of tolu, from the trunk of myroxylon toluifera, an ingredient of cough mixtures
15 EP	Borax in pulvere	11	D7	Borax powder (in metal box) – antiseptic, parasitic
16	B–		D7	Illegible, an item in the drawer
17 EP	Butyl antimony	6	D4	Butyrum antimonii
18	Cantharides	7	D4	The dried beetle cantharis vesicatoria – rubifacient
19	Caustic lunare in calamo	5	D4	Silver nitrate – astringent, antiphlogistic, antispasmodic, externally a caustic
20	Cerat C lap calamina	5	D3	Wax with calamine. A light coloured ointment (in metal box) – mildly astringent
21	Cerussa in chartula		D7	Lead carbonate in paper – <i>British Pharmacopoeia</i> 1885 – astringent
22	Cinnabar nativ	15	D6	Mercuric sulphide
23	Clysteridium	12	D1	This is a bottle labelled acet scil
24 EP	Cons ros	8	D2	Conserva rosarium, conserve of roses
25 EP	C C opt	19	D2	Best cornus cervi (hartshorn) – horn from the sika deer, Japan
26 EP	Cremor tartari	16	D2	Cream of tartar, acid potassium tartarate – cathartic, diuretic
27 EP	Croc angl	1	D3	English crocus – for colour and flavour
28	E diascord	3	D2	Electuarium diascordium – stomachic and astringent
29 EP	Electuar linitiv	10	D2	Electuarium linitivum, confection of senna – purgative
30 EP	Elixir propts	13	D4	Elixir proprietatis, compound elixir of aloes – purgative
31 EP	Elixir vitrioli	22	D4	Elixir of vitriol, dilute sulphuric acid – intestinal astringent
32	Empl epispat			Emplastrum epispasticus, blistering plaster
33	Essentia aromatica	10	D5	
34	Extract L campechens	9	D2	Extract of logwood, haematoxylon campechianum – astringent
35	Extract telle lod	14	D2	
36 EP	Extract opii in pil gr I	10	D1	Pill opii gr I – analgesic, sedative
37	Extract opii in pil gr 1/2 gr 1/4	9	D1	Pill opii gr 1/4 & 1/2
38	Extract pepae alb in pil	3	D3	Possibly papae
39 EPS	Gum aloe socotr	1	D7	Socotrine aloes, the juice of aloe perryi and other species – purgative
40 EPS	Gum ammonae	3	D1	Possibly ammoniacum, the gum resin from dorema ammoniacum – expectorant
41 EPS	Gum arabic	1	D4	Gum acacia, the hardened sap of A. senegal and other species – demulcent

Number	Item	Original number	D Section	Notes
42 EPS	Gum assafoetid	4	D1	Asafoetida, a gum resin from the root of <i>Ferula narthex</i> – antispasmodic, stimulant
43 EPS	Gum camphor	20	D4	Camphor, from the wood of <i>cinnamomum camphora</i> – stimulant
44 EPS	Gum guaiac	2	D4	Guaicum resin. The resin from the stem of <i>guaicum officinale</i> or <i>G. sanctum</i> – diaphoretic used for gout and rheumatism
45	Gum mastich	14	D7	Resin of <i>pitacia lenticus</i> (in two paper packs) – temporary tooth stopping
46 EPS	Gum myrrh	14	D7	Oleo-resin exudates from the stem of <i>balsamodendron myrrh</i> – used in perfume
47 EPS	Gum sang draconis	13	D7	Dragons blood. A resin from the fruit of <i>calamus draco</i> – colouring agent for plasters and tooth powder
48 EPS	Insect cantharid	7	D4	Dried insects of <i>cantharis vesicatoria</i> – rubefacient, irritant
49	Infusum croci matallor	10	D3	Infusion of <i>crocus mettalorum</i> , liver of antimony, <i>antimony sulphuratum</i> – diaphoretic, emetic
50 EP	Lap infernal vid caust lauer (lap septicus)	18	D6	Fused silver nitrate (bottle with silver powder) – caustic
51	Lap calamin pp in chartulis		D7	Calamine precipitated – in paper. Used in face lotions and dusting powder
52	Laud liq vid tinct opii	15	D3	Laudanum, tinct opii. See no. 135 – analgesic
53 EPS	Lini semen	8	D4	Linseed. Dried ripe seeds of <i>linum usitatissimum</i> – demulcent
54 EP	Liniment arcei	9	D7	Unguentum elemi, an ointment containing <i>maica elemi</i> an exudate from <i>canarium commune</i> – a soft resin
55	Man cal	8	D1	Manna calabria an exudates from <i>fraxinus ornus</i> – mild laxative
56 EP	Mercur praecip fl in calamo	8	D1	<i>Mercurius praecipitatus flavus</i> , yellow mercury precipitate
57	Mercur fuse in calamo	13	D1	
58 EP	Mercur rubir in calamo	8	D1	<i>Mercurius praecipitatus ruber</i> , red mercury precipitate
59	Me prae: p: se	5	D4	Mercury precipitate
60	Mercur virid calami	3	D4	<i>Mercurous praecipitatus viridis</i> , green mercury precipitate
61	Mercur	5		
62	Me subcor	3	D4	<i>Mercurous chloride</i> – purgative, diuretic, antiseptic
63	Mistura antifebrif	7	D3	<i>Mistura antifebrifuge</i> – fever mixture
64	Mi ant p gin	18	D4	<i>Mistura antiscor p gingivitus</i> – mixture for scurvy
65	Mistura pro odontalgia	13	D3	Mixture for toothache
66	Oboli in chartula		D7	
67	Ol hillet absynthii	1	D6	Oil of wormwood – <i>ol artemesia absinthium</i> – anthelmintic
68 EP	Ol anisi	2	D6	Aniseed oil, oil from the dried ripe fruit of <i>pimpinella anisum</i> – carminative, aromatic

Number	Item	Original number	D Section	Notes
69 EP	Ol garyo	3	D5	Ol caryophyllorum, oil of cloves distilled from the fruit of eugenia caryophyllata – prevent nausea and flatulence
70 EP	Ol carvi	1	D5	Caraway oil, oil distilled from carum carvi – aromatic, ingredient of pills
71 EP	Ol cinn	2	D5	Oil of cinnamon, oil distilled from cinnamon bark – carminative
72 EP	Ol CC	3	D6	Oleum cornu cervi, oil of hartshorn
73 EP	Ol juniperi	4	D6	Oil of juniper, distilled from the ripe fruit of juniperus communis – diuretic
74 EP	Ol lavandule	4	D5	Oil of lavender, distilled from the flowers of lavandula vera – aromatic
75	Ol ligni rhodii	8	D5	Oil of rosewood
76 EP	Ol mac exprenum	16	D7	Expressed oil of nutmeg – aromatic, carminative, used in chronic rheumatism
77 EP	Ol menth	6	D5	Oil of spearmint – carminative
78	Ol menth piperitid	7	D5	Oil of peppermint, oil from the flowering plant of mentha piperita – carminative, antispasmodic
79 EP	Ol nuc moseh	5	D5	Oil nucis muschate, oil of nutmeg – carminative
80	Ol rhod	8	D5	Ol rhodiola rosea – antidepressant
81	Ol sabe	9	D5	Possibly oil sabinae – uterine stimulant
82 EP	Ol succini	6	D6	Oil of amber, distilled from amber – stimulant, rubifacient
83	Ol sassaphe	5	D6	Oil of sassafras, distilled from the root or bark of sassafras officinale – aromatic used in soap
84 EP	Ol terbinthin	9	D3	Bottle labelled as spt tereb. Oil of turpentine, obtained by distillation from the oleoresin of pinus sylvestris and other species – antiseptic, diuretic, anthelmintic, haemostatic
85	Ol vitrio	7	D6	Ol vitrioli, sulphuric acid – dilute as a tonic
86	Opium in pill gr I			Pill opii gr I – analgesic
87	Opium in pill gr ¼, gr ½	7	D1	Pill opii gr ¼, ½
88	Pil aloctic	5	D2	Pill Aloes and colocynth – purgative
89 EP	Pil coccia	2	D7	A pill with aloes and scammony – purgative
90	Pil diuret	2	D2	Pill diuretic
91 EP	Pil gummos	3	D7	Pilula gummosa
92	Pil jalap	6	D2	Pilula jalapae – a cathartic
93 EP	Pil Ma–hei	4	D7	Pilula matthaei Pilula pacificae
94	Pil odontal pib calami	20	D2	Pil odontalgi – for toothache
95	Pil purg & DCN	1	D2	Purgative
96	Pil scy–tic	5	D7	Tin with illegible label
97 EP	Pil e styrac	6	D7	Pil of gum benzoin – expectorant, antiseptic
98	Pulv subtiliss rad jalap	8	D3	Powdered jalap – cathartic
99	Pulv subtiliss cort peruvian	6	D3	Powdered cinchona bark – antifebrifuge
100	Pulv subtiliss rad ipecac	13	D6	Powdered ipechacuana – expectorant, diaphoretic
101	Pulv castor rusic	14	D6	Castoreum, extract of beaver glands

Number	Item	Original number	D Section	Notes
102	Pulv cinnabar nat	15	D6	Red mercury sulphide, vermillion
103	Pulv serpentar virgin	16	D6	Powdered Virginian snake root, aristolochia serpentaria – as an infusion, tonic and diaphoretic
104	Pulv styptic in chartula		D7	A packet in the drawer, possibly pulv stypticus
105	Pulv valer syl	17	D6	Powdered valerian sylvestris. Probably valerian officinalis – nerve stimulant, antispasmodic
106	Rad rhei opt	1	D1	Rhubarb root – cathartic, astringent
107 EP	Sacch saturni in chartula		D7	Lead acetate in paper – reduces mucous and natural secretions
108 EP	Sal absynthii	10	D6	Potassium carbonate – antacid, diuretic, lotion for eczema, urticaria
109 EP	Sal ammoniae crud	17	D2	Crude ammonium carbonate – expectorant, antacid
110 EP	Sal glauberi	9	D1	Sodium sulphate – saline cathartic
111	Sal nitiri	18	D2	Potassium nitrate – gargle
112 EP	Sal polychrest	13	D1	Sal. polychrestum, potassium sulphate – a mild saline and cathartic
113 EP	Sal succini vol	11	D6	Possibly amber
114	Sal tartari	19	D4	Potassium carbonate – eczema as lotion
115	Sapo venet in chartula		D7	Venetian soap in paper
116 EP	Senna folia	4	D2	Senna leaves, a purgative. EP lists Alexandria leaves, cassia senna
117 EP	Spir sal ammoniaci	11	D5	Spirit of ammonium chloride
118	Spir ang vol	12	D5	
119 EP	Spir C C	17	D5	Spiritus cornu cervi, spirit of hartshorn
120 EP	Spt lavand C	14	D5	Spiritus lavendulae compositus – aromatic, carminative used in hysteria
121 EP	Spir nitri dulc	16	D5	Sweet spirit of nitre – stimulant, diaphoretic, used in dropsy
122 EP	Spir salin aromat	13	D5	Spiritus salinus aromaticus
123	Spir rosmarini	15	D5	Spirit of rosemary – aromatic, stimulant used in hair lotion
124	Spir terebinthin vid, ol tereb vitrioli	15	D4	No label
125	Spermaceti	15	D2	Spermaceti, cetaceum from the head of the sperm whale – emollient
126 EPS	Suce: allii inspisat	14	D4	Garlic juice
127 EPS	Tamarind fructus	13	D2	Fruit of tamarindus indica – used as a drink in febrile conditions
128 EP	Tartar emet	2	D3	Tartarus emeticus, tartar emetic, potassium antimony tartarate – expectorant and treatment of parasitic infections
129 EPS	Terebenth veneta	12	D2	Venice turpentine, larch turpentine, extracted from pinus larix
130	Ter Japonica	13	D7	Terra Japonica, pale catechu, the juice of uncaria gambier – astringent
131 EP	Theriac eds	11	D2	Theriac edinensis, an electuary with many ingredients
132	Illegible		D7	Item in the drawer

Number	Item	Original number	D Section	Notes
I33	Tinct assafetid	9	D4	Tincture of asafoetida – nerve stimulant
I34 EP	Tinct cantharid	10	D4	Tincture of cantharides – arrests haemorrhage of the kidney
I35 EP	Tinct castor	12	D4	Tincture of castorei, dried follicles and the secretion of the beaver – stimulant used in hysteria
I36 EP	Tinct croci	14	D3	Tincture of saffron – colourant
I37	Tinct ipecacua	10	D1	Tincture of ipecachuana – expectorant, diaphoretic used in whooping cough and bronchitis
I38 EP	Tinct myrrh	11	D4	Tincture of myrrh – carminative
I39 EP	Tinct opii EDS	15	D3	Edinburgh tincture of opium – laudanum
I40 EP	Tinct sacra	11	D1	Vinum aloes (BP 1885) – purgative
I41 EP	Ung basilica flav	8	D1	Yellow basilicon ointment, resin ointment – for boils
I42	Ung basilica niger	7	D7	Black basilicon ointment
I43 EP	Ung epispast	4	D3	Ung epispasticus, blistering ointment
I44 EP	Ung mercurial	15	D7	Unguentum hydrargyri, mercury ointment – for parasitic skin diseases, syphilis
I45 EP	Ung tutiae	10	D7	Zinc oxide ointment – eczema
I46 EP	Ung saturn	6	D1	Ung saturnin, lead acetate ointment (in a tin box) dessicant, astringent
I47 EP	Vin emet, vid inf croci metal			Vinum emeticum, croci metallorum and vini albi
I48	Vitrium antimony cerat	12	D6	Glass of antimony, fused antimony oxide – diaphoretic, emetic
I49 EP	Vitriol alb	12	D7	Zinc sulphate (in a metal box) – tonic, astringent used in epilepsy and chorea and whooping cough
I50	Ar vivum	4	D4	Argentum vivum (this number also listed as Vitriol romanum in calamo)

The drawer contents in the list	D7 Not all of the items are present
Mortar and pestle	
A pair of scales, weights and standard	
A gilding box of ivory	
A pair of scissors	
A forceps	
A spatula	
A portaguille (handle for needles) and stitching needles	
A probe and directory of silver	
Paper, pens, ink stand and sand	
A brass key to the back divisions	