

**4398. Misbranding of "Wright's Rheumatic Remedy." U. S. \* \* \* v. The Wright Medicine Co., a corporation. Plea of guilty. Fine, \$50 and costs. (F. & D. No. 6160. I. S. No. 5300-e.)**

On November 12, 1915, the grand jurors of the United States within and for the District of Indiana, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, upon presentment by the United States attorney for said district returned an indictment against the Wright Medicine Co., a corporation, Peru, Ind., charging shipment by said company, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, as amended, on January 13, 1913, from the State of Indiana into the State of Missouri, of a quantity of "Wright's Rheumatic Remedy" which was misbranded. The article was labeled: (On carton) "Wright's Rheumatic Remedy Alcohol 6 Per Cent. Nit. Ether 2 Grs. In Fl. Oz. Trade Mark Registered The Great Canadian Medicine for Rheumatism, Sciatica and Kidney Troubles. Guaranteed under the Food and Drugs Act June 30, 1906. Serial No. 553. Patented in U. S. and Canada, 1883." (Back) "This Medicine is prompt in action—dissolving the grit in joint and tissue, clearing the 'brick-dust' sediment from the urinary tract. Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lamé Back, Gall Stones, Stiff Joints, or any kind of Kidney Trouble. The older you become the more you need it. Take internally, one dose in 24 hours. Price \$1.00 Per Bottle. The Wright Medicine Co Sole Proprietors, Peru, Indiana 1911 issue." (Sides) "Rheumatism, Sciatica Lamé Back and Kidney Disorders Yield Quickly to this Treatment. Uric Acid is the Cause of Kidney Trouble and Rheumatism. This Remedy is a Dissolvent of Uric Acid. Hence its Success." (Strip across top) "The original bears the Inventor's Signature S. T. Wright on every bottle. Beware of imitations and bogus remedies." (On bottle) "Wright's Rheumatic Remedy Alcohol 6 Per Cent Nit. Ether 2 Grs. In Fl. Oz. See that Every Package is fastened with a Label Bearing the Signature of S. T. Wright. Guaranteed under the Food and Drug Act June 30, 1906. Serial No. 553. Prepared by the Wright Medicine Company, Peru, Indiana, U. S. A." (Back) "Wright's Rheumatic Remedy Directions: 5 years of age—10 drops 10 years of age—20 drops 15 years of age—30 drops Adult dose, from one-half to one teaspoonful before retiring. Shake the bottle until thoroughly mixed. Can be taken in sugar or in a wine glass of water, never in milk, and once only in 24 hours. If the dose has too strong an effect on the kidneys, take less. Price,—\$1.00 Prepared by the Wright Medicine Company, Peru, Indiana." (Sides) "Take internally once during 24 hours Shake until well mixed." The circular or pamphlet accompanying the article included, among other things, the following: "The action of this remedy is so prompt that in all kidney and bladder trouble you will find relief after taking two or three doses of this specific remedy. One dose a day. One bottle often sufficient." "Thousands of women, particularly the middle-aged, bless this medicine. It takes out the backache, keeps the kidneys well and strong, cleans out the urinary tract, matters of vital interest to a woman. Women are the chief buyers of this treatment."

Analysis of a sample of the article by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed the following results:

Total solids at 100° C. (per cent)-----	29.9
Ash (per cent)-----	1.08
Sucrose by copper (per cent)-----	20.1
Gum (water-soluble, giving tests corresponding to acacia), (by difference) (per cent)-----	9.2
Iodid, calculated to KI (per cent)-----	0.59
Turpentine (per cent by volume, estimated)-----	15.0

Total salicylates, calculated to methyl salicylate (per cent)----- 1.4  
Emodin reaction----- Negative.  
Glucose reaction:----- Negative.  
Alkaloids:----- Not more than a trace.  
Phosphates:----- Negative.  
Iodoform test for alcohol in distillate:----- Positive.

Product is an emulsion composed principally of turpentine, methyl salicylate, sugar, acacia, and water, with probably some resinous or plant extractive matter.

Misbranding of the article was charged in the indictment for the reason that the following statements regarding the therapeutic or curative effects thereof, appearing on the label aforesaid, to wit, (On carton) "Wrights Rheumatic Remedy \* \* \* for \* \* \* Gall Stones \* \* \*," and included in the circulars or pamphlets aforesaid, to wit, "\* \* \* in all kidney and bladder trouble you will find relief after taking two or three doses of this specific remedy," "It \* \* \* keeps the kidneys well \* \* \*," were false and fraudulent in that the same were applied to said article knowingly, and in reckless and wanton disregard of their truth or falsity, so as to represent falsely and fraudulently to the purchasers thereof, and create in the minds of purchasers thereof the impression and belief, that it was, in whole or in part, composed of, or contained, ingredients or medicinal agents effective, among other things, as a remedy for gall stones, for the relief of, or as a specific remedy for, kidney and bladder troubles, and effective for keeping the kidneys well, when, in truth and in fact, said article was not, in whole or in part, so composed, and did not contain such ingredients or medicinal agents.

On November 29, 1915, the defendant company entered a plea of guilty to the indictment, and the court imposed a fine of \$50 and costs.

C. F. MARVIN, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*