

a great rage for mahogany,
varnish and expensive floor-cloth

A history of the pharmacy shop

Briony Hudson







W. Shakespear Inv^t

THE APOTHECARY

D^r Rock Sculp^d

I do remember an Apothecary,
And hereabouts he dwells, which late I noted
In tatter'd Weeds, with overwhelming Brows,
Culling of Simples; meager were his Looks,
Sharp Misery had worn him to the Bones:

And in his needy Shop a Tortoise hung,

Accord^d to y^e Act. To be had of T. Ewart facing Old Slaughters Coffee House S^t Martins Lane Long Acre.

An Alligator stuf, and other Skins
Of ill shap'd Fishes, and about his Shelves
A beggarly Account of empty Boxes;

Green earthen Pots, Bladders, and mufly Seeds,
Remnants of Packthread, and old Cakes of Roles

Where thinly scattered to make up a shew.

Price 6^d

...on both sides throughout is possessed
of grocers and apothecaries towards the
west end...



The 'Copper-plate Map' c.1556-58 (thanks to Nicholas Wood)



Drawn by Tho. H. Shepherd.
Pl. 149

Engraved by J. Hinchitt.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, PILGRIM ST.

BLACKFRIARS.


The Apothecary's Shop opened.





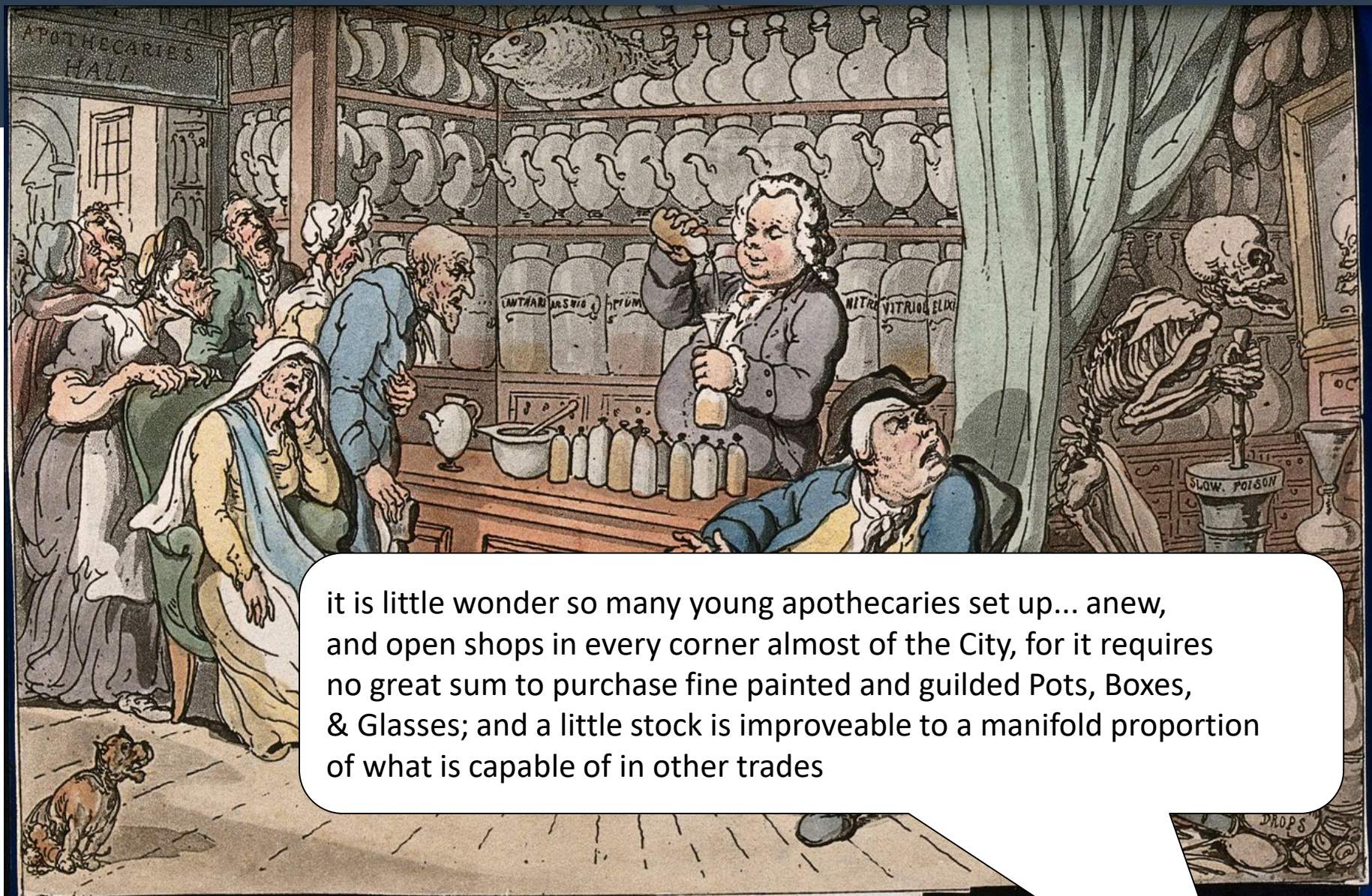
Wellcome Images



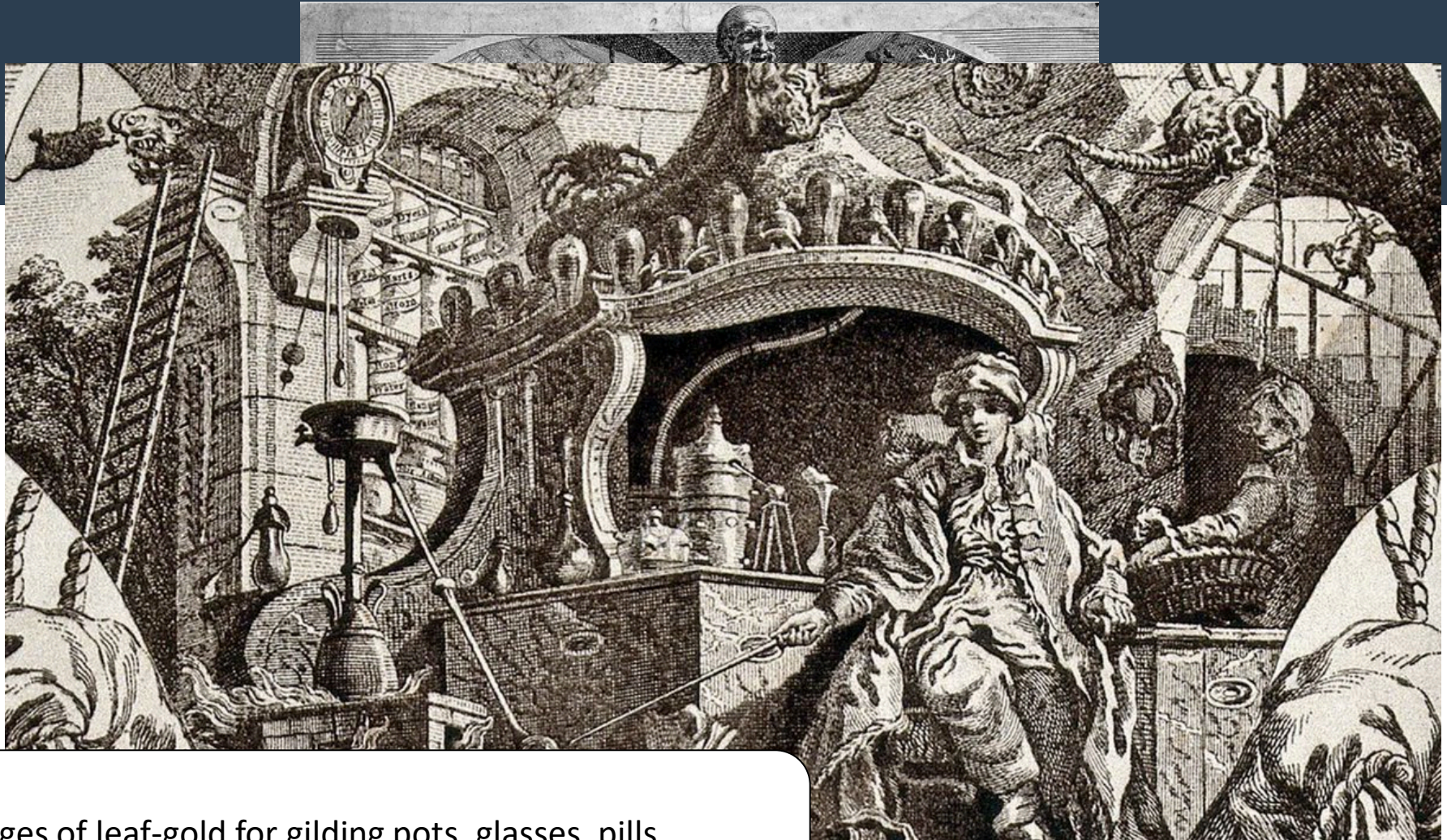


The CHEAPEST & SAFEST
Way of bringing forth y^e Venom of y^e
Secret Disease, and Perfectly Cu-
ring it in Man or Woman, By on-
ly y^e Paris Pill & a Balsamick
Electuary, without Prejudice to the
Body, or Hindrance of any Bu-
iness, & that so Privately
that a Friend in Bed
shall not know it
The Price of a Box of the Pills is 2. 6
and a Pot of the Electuary 1. 6 of n^o Pills
and Electuary two Boxes & one Pot will
be sufficient for any one not very far
gone in the Distemper and Double the
Number will heal the Patient if in great
Extremety. Sold by J. Sherwood
Book Seller at Popings aleys Gate Fleet
Street With a paper of Directions.

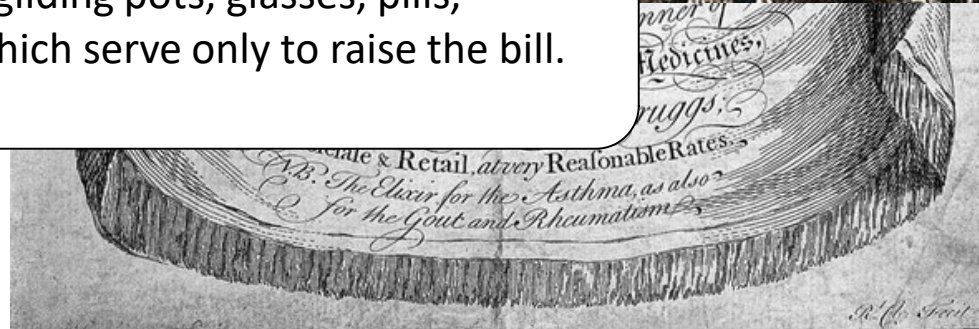
This Simple is so lately brought into Medicine, that there is little to be met with in Authors about it; and People's Notions seem yet so confus'd and undetermin'd concerning its Virtues and Efficacy



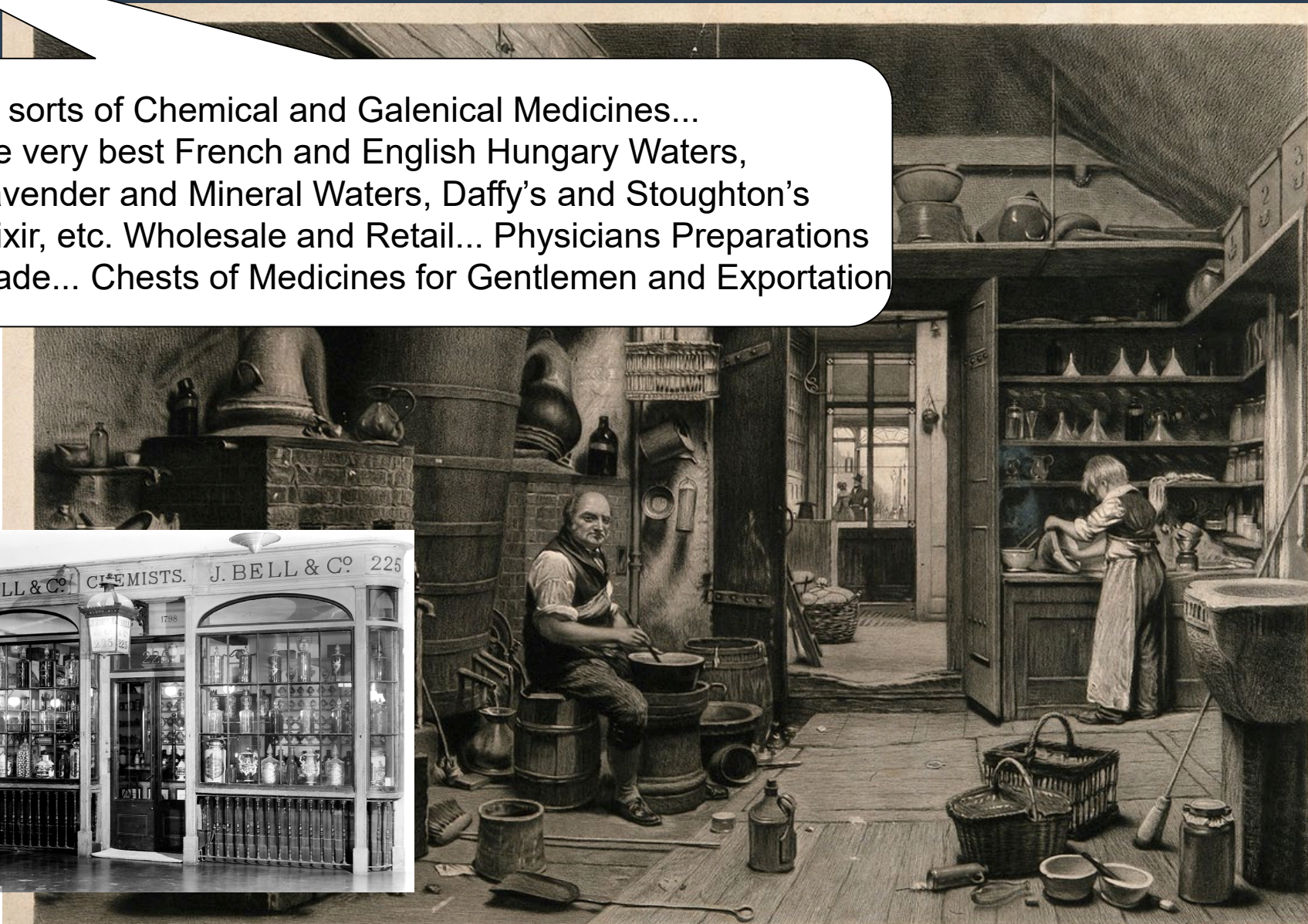
it is little wonder so many young apothecaries set up... anew, and open shops in every corner almost of the City, for it requires no great sum to purchase fine painted and gilded Pots, Boxes, & Glasses; and a little stock is improveable to a manifold proportion of what is capable of in other trades

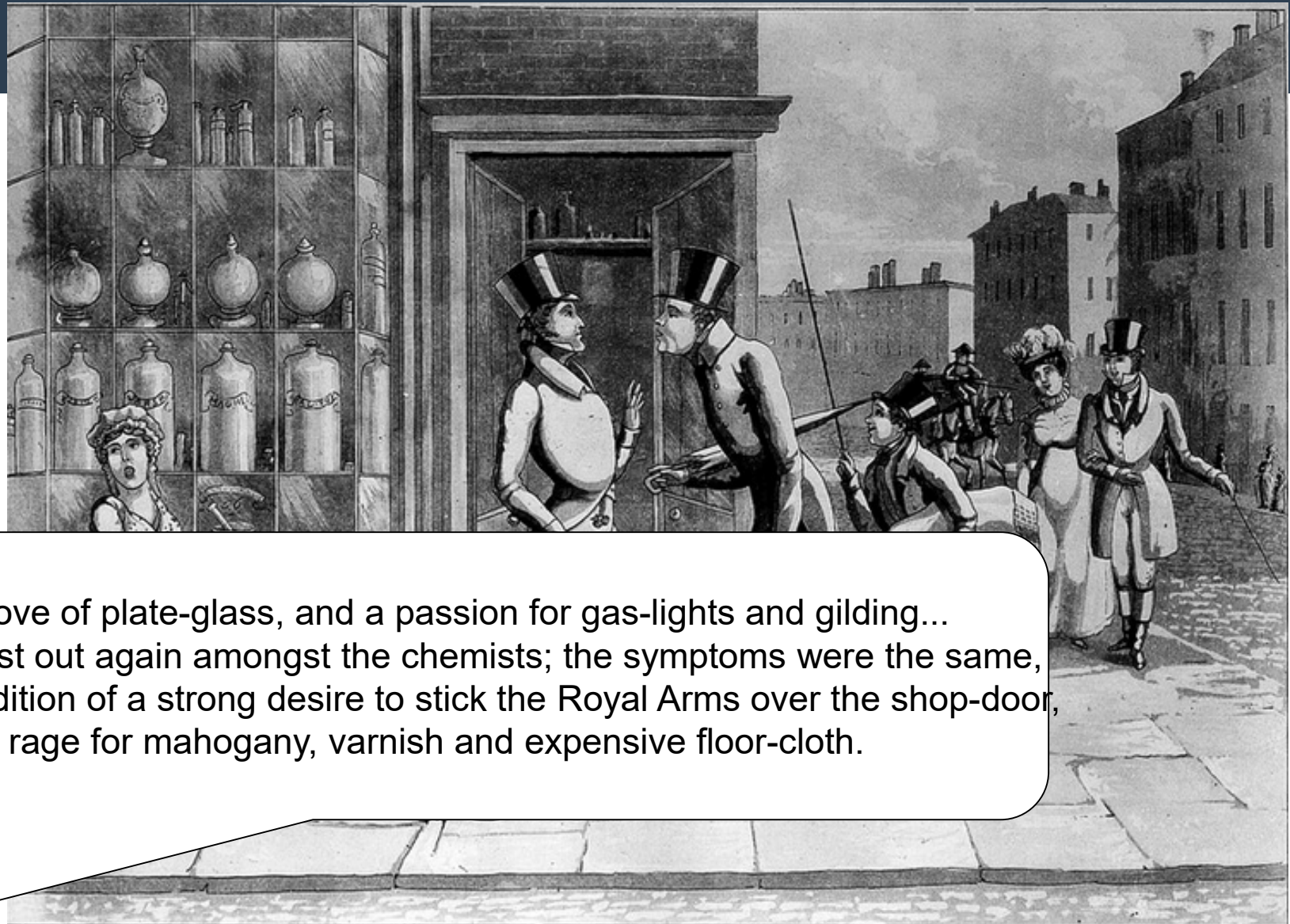


charges of leaf-gold for gilding pots, glasses, pills, electuaries, boles &c, which serve only to raise the bill.



all sorts of Chemical and Galenical Medicines...
the very best French and English Hungary Waters,
Lavender and Mineral Waters, Daffy's and Stoughton's
Elixir, etc. Wholesale and Retail... Physicians Preparations
made... Chests of Medicines for Gentlemen and Exportation



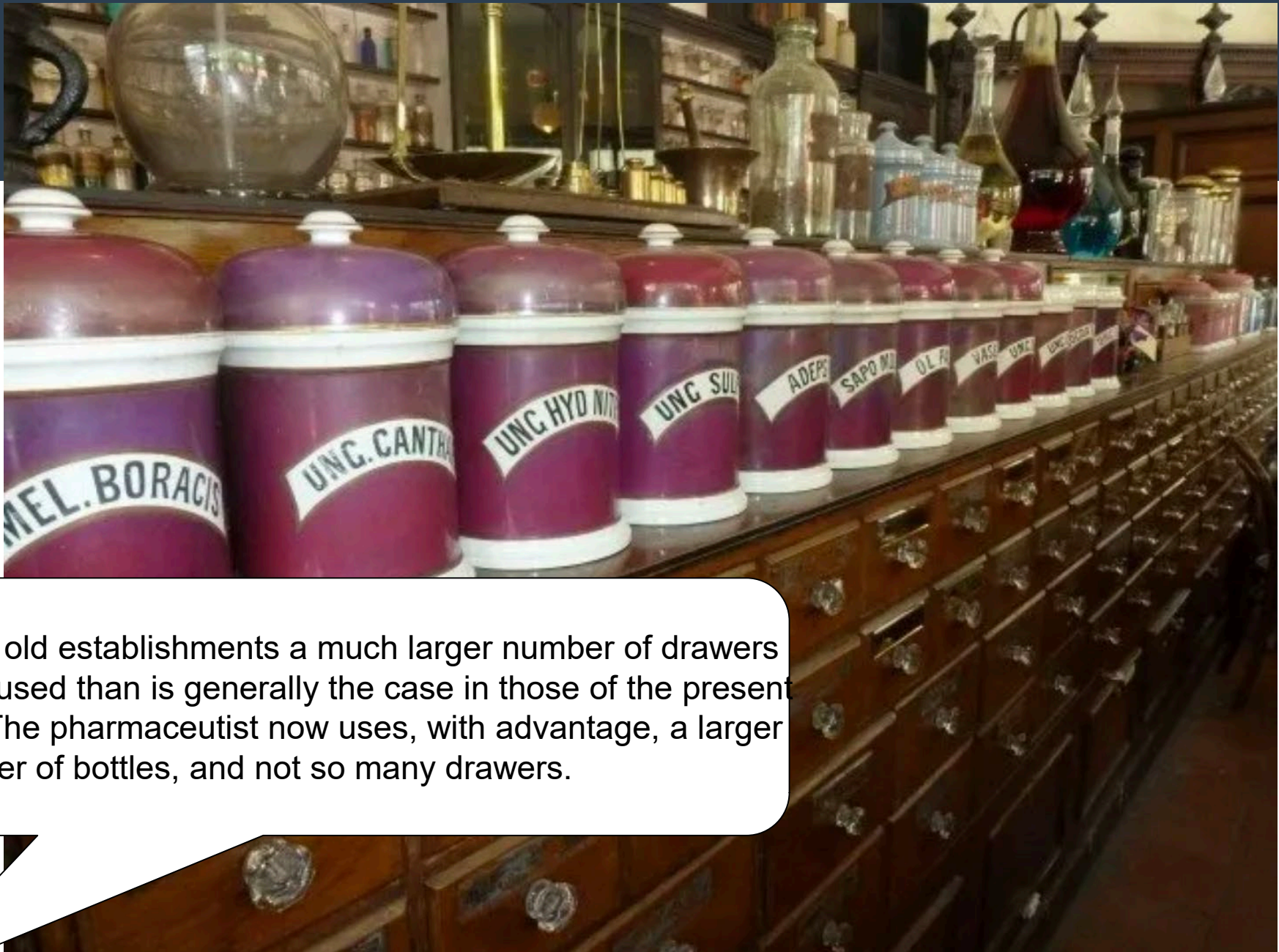


inordinate love of plate-glass, and a passion for gas-lights and gilding...
[it then] burst out again amongst the chemists; the symptoms were the same,
with the addition of a strong desire to stick the Royal Arms over the shop-door,
and a great rage for mahogany, varnish and expensive floor-cloth.





Swarms of chemists, who, without education, qualification, or experience, impudently take upon themselves to prescribe for all manner of ailments



some old establishments a much larger number of drawers were used than is generally the case in those of the present day. The pharmacist now uses, with advantage, a larger number of bottles, and not so many drawers.





long dispensing counter... is well hidden from customers by the upright showcase in the front of it, wherein are displayed brushes and many other toilet-articles



a most profuse array of knick-knacks,
not only such as pertain to 'doctors' stuff',
but lozenges, perfumery, soda-water powders, &c



R. Mellowes, Enfield, 1959 (RPS Museum)



Wallas & Co, 45 New Cavendish Street (Wellcome Collection)



Woodside Pharmacy, 2017 (Ben Gilbert/Wellcome Collection)



Continuity or change?

