



Perfumery: Its manufacture and use. Instructions in every branch of the art and recipes for all fashionable preparations. By Campbell Morfit. 1st edition. 285 pages. Carey and Hunt, Philadelphia, 1847.

One of the earliest technical books printed in America on the subject of perfumery as then practiced, this book was intended for the manufacturer of perfumes and perfumed products, as well as a guide to the purchaser against "all improper and deleterious compositions." Its popularity is evidenced by the fact that a second edition appeared six years later in 1853.

The author acknowledges his work to be based mostly on the work of Mme. Clenart and other French authorities. This fact should not detract from the value of this book as it brought to American readers, probably for the first time, a goodly number of French processes used in the manufacture of various pomades, oils, and resins as well as formulas for finished products.

A perusal of the short history of perfumery in the introduction elicits the fact that perfume and perfumed products were very popular in the United States where they "have warehouses for its exclusive sale" and that a "drug shop is con-

sidered incomplete without an extensive inlay of perfumery." The use of perfumes pervaded the entire American community, "for while the elite and wealthy purchase the delicately fragrant extracts, the more humble require and are content with an economical and musked cologne water."

Not only are complete instructions, enhanced by illustrated woodcuts, given for the manufacture of various pomades, oils, soaps, and other products then associated with perfumery but complete details are given for the manufacture of apparatus for distillations, enfleurage, soap kettles, a soap press for the making of cakes of soap, and other necessities.

A discussion of the various raw materials used shows that then the perfumer was expected to make his own distillations and extractions from the raw material. Today's practice is that each company make an aromatic not only for its own use but also to sell to its competitors for their use in a finished product. The main concern was the widespread use of adulterants in many of the raw materials. Evidently everything from cedarwood shavings and olive oil to brick dust was used in one product or another as an adulterant.

In his discussion of the manufacture of various pomades by the enfleurage method, the author discusses the use of the addition of benzoin to the pomade of jasmine and the use of a few drops of amber and vanilla in the pomade of tuberose. The justification for this practice is that the retention of "only the odor of the true flower is well enough but it makes the pomade very costly, requiring a longer time for preparation and a greater proportion of flowers, which are difficult to be had in quantity." Thus adulteration of basic raw materials is objected to, but the adulteration of aromatics by the perfumer is justified. (Sic.)

The book is replete with formulas for perfumed powders, cosmetics for gloves as well as for skin and lips, rouges, distilled waters, colognes, and aromatic spirits. The chapters on the manufacture of various soaps are rather extensive and, as with all other products, carefully detailed as to the use and manner of preparation. There is an interesting chapter on pharmaceutical products including one on "sundry remedies for trifling accidents."

Perfumery: Its manufacture and use provides us with a very detailed and accurate picture of the perfume industry as it existed over one hundred and thirty years ago. For the manufacturer, chemist, and perfumer it answers many questions on the origin of various processes and uses still in existence to this day and for the cosmetic chemist and marketing people it provides a wealth of ideas for new products based upon old concepts on the use of "natural products" for the human body. In brief this book is a milestone in the annals of perfumery literature written in English, with its indebtedness to the French readily acknowledged. It belongs in any library of books on perfumery. **Octavo**