

May 1917

Apothecaries Hall 1810

Thomas Desbrisay was the son of the Rev. Theophilus Desbrisay.

He was married to Helen M<sup>rs</sup> Neutt and out of this marriage there were 12 children of these a son Theophilus chose pharmacy as a career.

Thomas Desbrisay died in the year 1857 and his son Theophilus took over the business.

Apothecaries Hall was opened for business in the year of 1810.

when Charlottetown became a city in 1855

Theophilus was one of its first councillors and also held the office of Mayor and senior court magistrate.

Thomas Desbrisay built his own home on Hillsboro Street which still stands and was purchased by the ~~Foundation~~ <sup>Do. Mow, Phasant</sup> and is repairing it as an old land mark.

One of the most interesting facts about this house is that it seems to have been built around a smaller building inside the present structure and the walls are built with square logs and placed in a vertical position.

Apothecaries Hall was room, storaged for its reliability and large stock of medicine.

In the year 1811 a large ad appeared in the Weekly Record which carried this notice:

Low Box Inoculation

Heads of families for their children and all other persons desirous of availing themselves of this benefit are informed that the subscriber has lately received a supply of genuine matter.

The poor will be inoculated free of expense.

In an other add the Hall advertised a number of items they had on sale which included Jamaica Spirits, moist sugar, soap, men's and women's cotton stockings, pantaloons and short drawers, collars, snuffers with trays, gills and ready made pens.

Apothecaries Hall was operated by the DesBrisay family until year of 1874 when it was sold to George E. Hughes.

George E. Hughes attended St. Dunstons University for two years and then studied medicine for a while under Dr. Frank Jones.

He had a keen interest in government affairs resulting in twelve years as a city councillor and later twenty-two years as a member of the Provincial Legislature when he served under seven premiers.

The Apothecaries Hall was first built of wood structure but the ravages of time it had to be replaced and it was done so with the brick and stone structure you see to-day.

The curved oak fixtures which you can see from inside are the original ones when the building was built in year 1901.

The architect was W. C. Harris and a tender was called for in the Daily Examiner Aug 1900 and it was given to Lower Jones contractors.

George B. Hughes was the Dean of Pharmacy in P. E. I. and was instrumental in the formation of the P. E. I. Pharmaceutical Association and was President for many years.

The Desbrisay block in which there has been a drugstore since 1810 was purchased in 1924 by the Hughes Drug Co and George B. Hughes as its President.

His son Gordon joined him in the business in the year 1910, who carried on after his father was unable to continue to work and he had 7

Mr H. L. Bethune as Manager of the prescription dept.

In those days a great many drugs came from England and a particular one was a bale of Penny Leaves that had to be cut in half before they could get it through the door.

Mr H. L. Bethune was President of the P. E. I. Association and also secretary & Registrar for 15 years. He served in the first world war and returned in the year 1919 and resumed his job as Pharmacist in the Hughes Drug Co.

He can recall as early as called Pigeon's Milk or Mint. Mag. cum Mag.

Magn. Carb- ʒ  $\frac{xii}{i}$   
Magn. Sulf. ʒ  $\frac{iv}{i}$   
aq. Mint. Ref. ad ʒ  $\frac{Lxv}{i}$   
Dose. a wineglassful.

Another one was quite a favorite one of the Drs. was called Formula 76

Ferric Reduct. grs  $\frac{Lx}{i}$   
Defin. Boric grs  $\frac{xxxvi}{i}$   
Zinc Phos. grs  $\frac{xviii}{i}$   
Glycerine q.s.

H. Mix & divide in pill No  $\frac{xxv}{i}$  Dose one at dinner & supper

I have here an interesting bill made out against  
Dr. S. R. Jenkins dated Jan 1892  
to amt of acct \$6.01

An interesting land mark concerning the drug  
store, immediately in front of the store there is  
a cannon barrel imbedded in the concrete of the  
sidewalk. It was supposed to be destined  
for the use in the Mexican War but became a casualty  
while being dismantled on the island Thomas DeBrisay  
rescued the weapon and placed it in front of the  
Apothecaries Hall where it still stands. In the  
early days it was used as a hitching post but is  
now used as a most interesting flower pot.

At this time I might mention of few of George C.  
Nagles famous remedies for animals that he concocted  
himself.

Blister for Horses

Hydroxy Iodide

Paleo Lanthanides

Lard

Condition powder for Cows

Chick Lintian

New Vom

Grind Shell

Foenugreek

Aniseed

Beans in Horses

F. E. Stearnon

F. E. Lobelia

Tanler Solution

Horse Cut Lotion  
 Zinc Sulph.  
 Blumbi Acet  
 Bulb Alum  
 Acid Carbolic  
 aq. ad.

These are just a few of many preparations that  
 the Hughes Drug Co. were noted for.

In the year 1949 Gordon Hughes sold out the  
 business to J. C. Baker and at that time  
 Mr. H. L. Bethune was still the pharmacist and in  
 his 70s. He became suddenly ill about a month after  
 J. C. Baker bought the business and died some days  
 later.

At this time if you hear with me for a few moments  
 I would like to give a brief history in how I became  
 interested in Pharmacy.

I started to work with the Johnson's Phoenix Drug store  
 one of the oldest drug stores in the year 1929 with my  
 employer <sup>being</sup> Mr. R. E. Pelviel worked as a parcel boy.  
 For first year at the magnificent fund of \$5000 and in  
 those days a week comprised 75 hours you worked  
 from 8 to 6 on day and 8 to 4 next day. Saturday  
 was 8 to 11 and you worked every second Sunday.  
 There were no days off then except in July & August we  
 received Wednesday afternoons.

I worked with the R. E. Pelviel for a period of two  
 years but received quite a shock when he died suddenly  
 in the store shortly after I had left him one night after  
 work.

His brother Mr. Sam Pelviel who had been working  
 in Boston at that time came home and took over the  
 business.

Mr. R. E. Colwell who was a Pharmacist took a keen interest in me and started to teach me the fundamentals of dispensing on the nights I worked with him but on his passing I seemed to have lost interest in continuing my studies in Pharmacy.

Mr. Fred Colwell who was not a Pharmacist but had Mr. Ralph Jenkins who perhaps most of you know or had heard of him.

I worked with Johnson & Johnson until the year 1940 when I changed my job and went with the Colt. Express and worked with them until year 1943. In the meantime I met the young lady who was to become my wife and her name is known to all our friends as Rossie.

Some time later Mr. Fred Colwell had to retire on account of ill health and Max Eigh Bryerton who was then the Pharmacist brought out the business. In the meantime I had been doing some relief work at the drug store so Mr. Bryerton approached me and asked if I would like to go back into full time at the drug store with the purpose of receiving my diploma in Pharmacy which I did. I sent my application to the P. E. F. Association and asked what my requirement would have to be and I was informed that I would have to update my credits in English & Chemistry which I did and took a two year course at St. Anthonys Monastery going out to the University two nights a week.

I <sup>studied</sup> ~~studied~~ wrote my Pharmacy exams before a board of examiners and might add that one of <sup>my</sup> examiners who is with us to-day and refers to Mr. Ernest North one of our most respected Pharmacists and citizens of our fair city this was in the year of 1948.

When Mr H. L. Bethune died Mr E. Q. Baker approached me and asked if I would be interested in becoming the Pharmacist of the Hughes Drug Co.

And so began my career with this Co. in the dispensary was Miss Rosa Bell who at that time was a certified Clerk but a few years later received her <sup>DIPLOMA</sup> degree in Pharmacy the same as I did writing her exams before a board of examiners

Some years later the store was enlarged by adding an addition which at that time was occupied by the clothing firm of Tif Top Tailors their lease had run out and Mr Baker did not renew it. A brick wall had to be cut out and made an arch which joined the two parts together and so we have to-day the old and a modern which people find very interesting.

In the year 1969 the store changed hands again and my new employer was Mr Peter Sartori and served with him until 1976 when it was sold again and my present employer is Mr Henry Phillips.

I might mention that about ten years ago a Hughes Drug received the E. R. Squibb award for selling one million of

Also in the year 1975 Miss Rosa Bell was appointed <sup>by the State</sup> to receive the A. H. Robins award of the Board of Hygiene and in 1976 I received the same award

And so from 1929 to 1977 I have seen many changes in the profession of Pharmacy from making your own mixtures from the pure chemical, also the making of Cocket, pills, suppositories to the present day when our <sup>own</sup> manufacturers do the for us.

I have with me here to-day some of the old books dating back to the late 1800 which give you an idea how they did those day business.

The day-book was used to rewrite all the prescriptions of that day into it and many of you will recognize some of the old preparations used in that period.

It would be my pleasure to have you inspect these at your leisure.

I would like to mention that Miss Rosa Bell returned first of this year and has now associated with me in the Pharmacy Mrs. Clara Cheung a graduate of Dalhousie University.