

The B. L. Hudson

Medicine Company,

Prophetstown, IL

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by

Fred South
The Prophetstown Area Historical Society
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Introduction

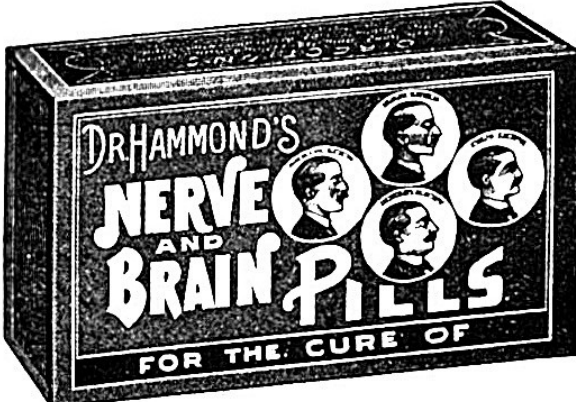
Yes, Prophetstown had a medicine company. The company produced what we call patent medicine. The one producing the medicine was Mrs. B. L. Hudson. She was the wife of Bert Leon Hudson. Bert was born in 1869, died in 1907 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery. In 1897 he married Katherine Emily "Katie" Adams. In the 1900 US Census they were living on East 3rd St. in the home of William H. Adams, his father-in-law, where Bert's occupation was listed as physician.

Later, you will notice that Bert died quite young.

Patent Medicine Ads from the Sears Catalog

Dr. Hammond's Nerve and Brain Pills.
GUARANTEED THE HIGHEST GRADE ON THE MARKET.
A BOON FOR WEAK MEN.

Retail price.....	\$1.00
Our price, each.....	\$0.60
Our price, per dozen.....	6.00

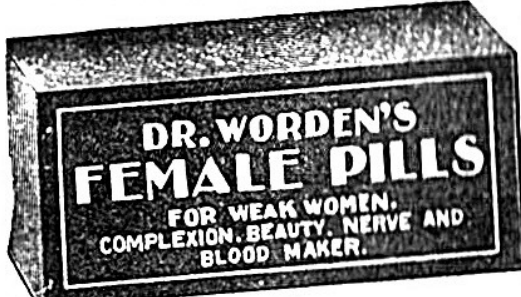


SIX BOXES POSITIVELY GUARANTEED TO CURE ANY DISEASE for which they are intended. This will cure you if you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical, among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feeling of fullness like bloating after eating, or sense of goneness or emptiness of stomach in morning; flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes; lassitude, throbbing, gurgling or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally; palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood, cold feet, pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning, and a constant feeling of dread, as if something awful was going to happen.

Jr. Worden's Female Pills for All Female Diseases.

Retail price.....	80c
Our price, per box.....	\$0.35
Our price, per dozen boxes.....	3.00

This is acknowledged as one of the **GREATEST REMEDIES** of the age.



A GREAT BLOOD purifier and nerve tonic.
 Cures all diseases arising from a poor and wasted condition of the blood, such as pale and sallow complexion, general weakness of the muscles, loss of appetite, depression of spirits, lack of ambition, anemia, chlorosis or green sickness, palpitation of the heart, shortness of breath on slight exertion, coldness of hands and feet, swelling of the feet and limbs, pain in the back, nervous headache, dizziness, loss of memory, feebleness of will, ringing in the ears, early decay, ALL.

The History of Patent Medicine*

The term "patent medicine" has become particularly associated with drug compounds in the 18th and 19th centuries, sold with colorful names and even more colorful claims.

In ancient times, such medicines were called *nostrum remedium*, "our remedy" in Latin, hence the name "nostrum." Also known as proprietary medicines, these concoctions were, for the most part, trademarked medicines but not patented.

Origins of Patent Medicine

Patent medicines originally referred to medications whose ingredients had been granted government protection for exclusivity. In actuality, the recipes of most 19th century patent medicines were not officially patented. Most producers (often small family operations) used ingredients quite similar to their competitors - vegetable extracts laced with ample doses of alcohol.

Proprietary, or "quack" medicines could be deadly, since there was no regulation on their ingredients. They were medicines with questionable effectiveness whose contents were usually kept secret.

Originating in England as proprietary medicines manufactured under grants, or "patents of royal favor," to those who provided medicine to the Royal Family, these medicines were exported to America in the 18th century. Daffy's Elixir Salutis for "colic and griping," Dr. Bateman's Pectoral Drops, and John Hooper's Female Pills were some of the first English patent medicines to arrive in North America with the first settlers.

The medicines were sold by postmasters, goldsmiths, grocers, tailors and other local merchants.

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Medicine Becomes an Industry

By the middle of the 19th century the manufacture of similar products had become a major industry in America. Often high in alcoholic content, these remedies were very popular with those who found this ingredient to be therapeutic.

Many concoctions were fortified with morphine, opium, or cocaine. Sadly, many of these concoctions were advertised for infants and children. Parents seeking relief for their babies from colic or fussiness often administered these remedies with tragic results.

Remedies were available for almost any ailment. These remedies were openly sold to the public and claimed to cure or prevent nearly every ailment known to man, including venereal diseases, tuberculosis, colic in infants, indigestion or dyspepsia, and even cancer. "Female complaints" were often the target of such remedies, offering hope for women to find relief from monthly discomforts.

From the beginning, some physicians and medical societies were critical of patent medicines. They argued that the remedies did not cure illnesses, discouraged the sick from seeking legitimate treatments, and caused alcohol and drug dependency.

The temperance movement of the late 19th century provided another voice of criticism, protesting the use of alcohol in the medicines. By the end of the 19th century, Americans favored laws to force manufacturers to disclose the remedies' ingredients and use more realistic language in their advertising.

These laws met with fierce resistance from the manufacturers.

Advertising

The Proprietary Association, a trade association of medicine producers, was founded in 1881. The Association was aided by the press, which had grown dependent on the money received from remedy advertising.

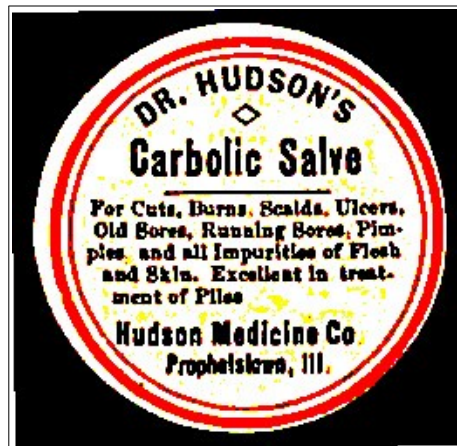
The pivotal event occurred when North Dakota passed a limited disclosure law, which included patent medicines. Proprietary Association members voted to remove their advertisements from all state newspapers.

With strong support from President Theodore Roosevelt, a Pure Food and Drug Act was passed by Congress in 1906. It paved the way for public health action against unlabeled or unsafe ingredients, misleading advertising, the practice of quackery, and similar rackets.

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From Hagley.org

The Dr. Hudson Medicine



For Health and Happiness

HUDSON'S HERB COMPOUND TABLETS

STOMACH AND NERVE TONIC
ALTERNATIVE, LAXATIVE AND DIURETIC
Purely Herbal, Perfectly Harmless

DIRECTIONS
An adult may begin by taking one tablet 2 or 3 times daily, 20 minutes before meals, gradually increasing the dose to 5 or 6 tablets daily. Children over 5 years 1 tablet once or twice daily

HUDSON'S Herb Compound Tablets

THE ACME OF PERFECTION IN
VEGETABLE COMPOUNDS
Superior to all Liquid or Tea Preparations
Unequaled as a general System Tonic

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

MRS. B. L. HUDSON, Prop., Prophetstown, Ill.

HERB COMPOUND TABLETS

HUDSON'S CATARRH SALTS

Excellent in relief, treatment and cure of Catarrh, Cold in Head, Catarrhal Deafness, etc. Heals up the inflamed mucous surfaces, destroys ulcer and cures that hawking, spitting and dropping of mucous into the throat.

MRS. B. L. HUDSON, PROPHETSTOWN, ILL.

Guaranteed by the U. S. Food and Drug Act, June 30, 1906
Serial No. 21969

PRICE \$1.00

DR. HUDSON'S Tooth Soap
ANTISEPTIC
A DELIGHTFUL DENTRIFICE

Cleanses the Teeth, Hardens the Gums and
Purifies the Breath. Apply with brush
two or three times daily.

MRS. B. L. HUDSON, PROP.
Price 25 Cents. Prophetstown, Ill.

**HUDSON'S
HERB COMPOUND
TABLETS**

THE GREAT

Restorative Tonic

PURELY HERBAL
PERFECTLY HARMLESS

NATURE'S BEST REMEDIES
Scientifically Formulated

USE IT AND YOU WILL FIND IT
NERVE BUILDING,

BLOOD PURIFYING,

LIVER REGULATING,

KIDNEY STRENGTHENING
AND STOMACH CORRECTING

Just what you need. It simply
assists nature in her grand
work of sustaining
human life.

MRS. B. L. HUDSON
PROPHETSTOWN, ILLINOIS

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR HUMANITY

**HUDSON'S
HERB COMPOUND**

A REMEDY FOR

**RHEUMATISM
NEURALGIA
BILIOUSNESS
DYSPEPSIA
HEADACHE
NERVOUSNESS
SCROFULA
CATARRH**

And kindred ailments
caused by

**WEAKNESS OF THE DIGESTIVE
AND URINARY ORGANS**

Resulting in Impure Blood,
Nervousness and Debility

This compound is of the Pure Extract
of Wild Cherry, Gentian, Stillingia,
Prickly Ash, Dandelion, Aloe Senna,
Bloodroot, Pokeroor, Black Cohosh,
Burdock, Buchu and Prairie Brava.

Prepared only by

B. L. HUDSON MEDICINE CO.
PROPHETSTOWN, ILLINOIS

HUDSON'S HERB COMPOUND

Bert Leon Hudson

BIRTH	1869 Illinois, USA
DEATH	5 May 1907 (aged 37–38) Kane County, Illinois, USA
BURIAL	<u>Riverside Cemetery</u> Prophetstown, Whiteside County, Illinois, USA  Add to Map
MEMORIAL	125712768 · View Source

Katherine Emily Hudson

BIRTH	9 Apr 1874
DEATH	6 Feb 1961 (aged 86)
BURIAL	<u>Riverside Cemetery</u> Prophetstown, Whiteside County, Illinois, USA  Add to Map
MEMORIAL	181184128 · View Source
ID	