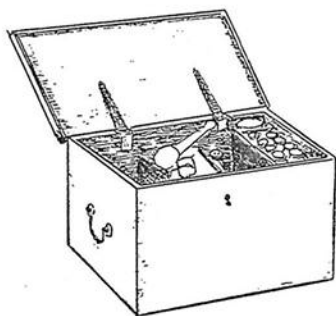


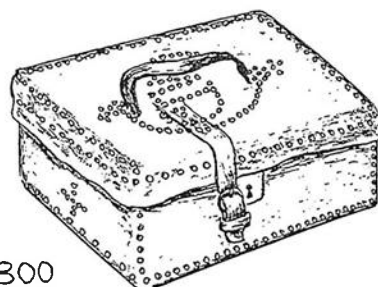
Wilbur



AMERICAN HALF CHEST OF THE TYPE USED IN THE REVOLUTION.
(WEST POINT MUSEUM, NEW YORK)

L 12", H 6", W 8"

Smaller field chests of the Revolution were 10-12 inches square and 8-10 inches in height. Some were partitioned with holes for medicine vials, and there were those with drawers for minor surgical instruments, a set of weights and scales, and a pill roller square of tile or glass. Many chests were sold by colonial apothecaries completely outfitted with medicines.



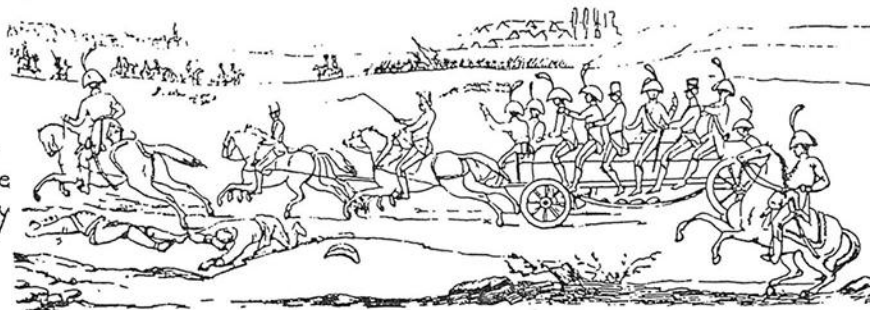
c1800
SMALL FIELD MEDICAL CHEST—WOOD AND LEATHER COVERED WITH M.D. DESIGN IN BRASS TACKS.
(DR. WILLIAM BEAUMONT HOME STEAD, LEBANON, CONN.)

NINETEENTH CENTURY CHESTS— Homeopathy was brought to New York City in 1825 by Dr. Hans Burch Gram. Some medicines, when used in excess, produced similar symptoms to those of a particular illness. Homeopathy held that minute amounts of those medicines that matched the symptoms should be given.

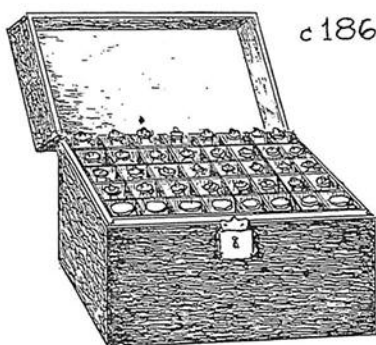
In a day when underlying pathology was unknown, symptomatic treatment was appealing. A large chest that would accommodate the hundreds of vials was a necessity.

Until medical diagnosis became more precise, many such chests were used in the Civil War.

Homeopathic medicine chests were also sold for home use well into the twentieth century. Each vial was usually labeled with the name of the drug and a number. A book was included so that the patient could match his symptoms with the numbered vials for a sort of cookbook therapy.



NAPOLEON'S ARMY PHYSICIANS RODE INTO BATTLE ON THEIR MOBILE MEDICAL CHEST.
(BETTMANN, PICTORIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE 1956)



CIVIL WAR FIELD CHEST.

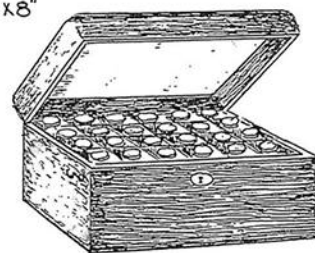
c1860



LEATHER MEDICINE CHEST.
(LENTZ & CO. SONS, PHILADELPHIA)

c1900

10"x6"x8"



HOUSEHOLD HOMEOPATHIC CHEST
SOLD BY WHITEALL TATUM.
(RICHARDSON, PILL ROLLERS, 1979)

c1910

CASES— In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, surgical sets were carried in elongated oblong wooden boxes with lid handles. The homeopathic emphasis in the early 1800's also produced multi-vial cases, then replaced by smaller containers as specific disease therapy became known.