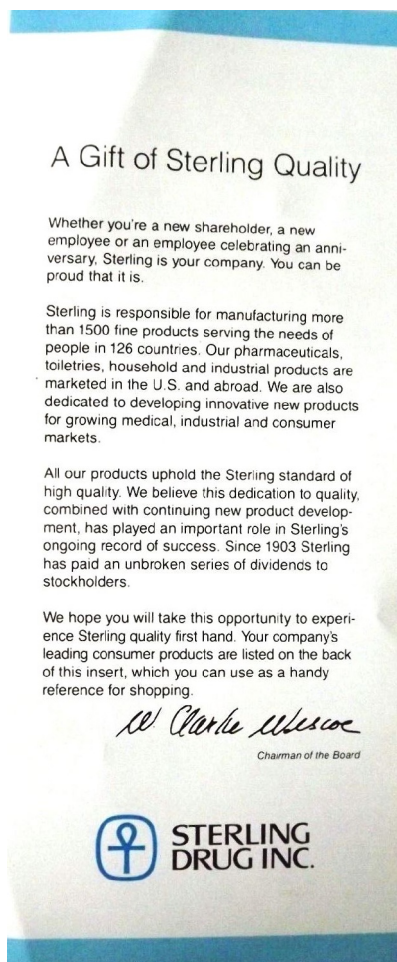


Sterling Drug, Inc. (XIII) Final Acquisitions & Dissolution



As the U.S. economy boomed in the post World War II era, there were lively markets for many over-the-counter remedies, beauty products and household goods. In the mid-Twentieth Century, Sterling and other pharmaceutical companies vigorously competed in these fields and all managed to grow and thrive, even though American Home Products Corp. and Bristol-Myers Co. (one of which had begun as a division of Sterling and the other of which had been part of Sterling's brief, monstrously ambitious Drugs, Inc. combine) had become serious competitors to Sterling, at least in the market to sell aspirin and related ache relief medicine. As previously stated, it is not the intention of this column to recount or review the management decisions of the Twentieth Century corporate leadership of Sterling, particularly after the creators and innovators had left the scene, and decisions became focused more and more on purely actuarial concerns.





1980c Sterling Drug, Inc. Gift Box

Rather, this series has focused on the inexorable pull of consolidation that has converted the pharmaceutical industry from thousands of single product vendors to a handful of surviving multi-national corporate behemoths. Even as Sterling expanded its reach from the 1950s through the 1970s, mostly by organizing new manufacturing and sales entities in places where it had not previously competed - until it eventually possessed offices in about 40 countries operating roughly 70 plants and selling goods in approximately 130 countries - direct acquisitions became more selectively targeted to bolster certain specialized fields. Yet, Sterling retained its special predilection for purchasing established over-the-counter nostrums and goods - the kind promoted by the Nineteenth Century entrepreneurs exemplified by James Ballard - that seemed to remain a part of the company's culture from first to last, for, after absorbing Ballard's empire in 1944, it engaged in another takeover of an old-time firm that had barely outlasted its creators when in 1946 it acquired Fairchild Bros. & Foster, already previously profiled in this series.



Lehn & Fink Battleship Cancel Types Recognized in BDR2

Sterling's next and final major acquisition of a firm founded in the Nineteenth Century took place in 1966. It purchased Lehn & Fink, which by then also included the A. S. Hinds Co. of Portland, ME. Lehn & Fink was a wholesale drug firm founded in 1874 in New York City featuring the marketing skill of Frederick William Fink (1845-1924) and backed financially by Louis Lehn (1838-1915) of Brooklyn. A. S. Hinds Co. was the brainchild of Aurelius Stone Hinds (1844-1929), a retail druggist in

Portland, ME who developed and - after disposing of his retail business - manufactured what became a line of skin care product, such as cold cream, deemed so vital by women that the Hinds name it is still used today to sell similar products on the internet.



1924 Photo of Frederick W. Fink

Concerning Lehn & Fink, F. W. Fink was another of those hard-charging self-made men of the Nineteenth Century. Born in Cassel in the German state of Hesse, he learned pharmacy there and emigrated to the United States in 1867 when Prussia annexed Hesse-Cassel. He worked for a number of wholesale drug firms in New York City, most notably Eimer & Amend (previously profiled), before striking out on his own. As a young man too poor to afford his own business, he found a financial backer in the person of Louis Lehn, a druggist who had maintained a drug store in Brooklyn from 1860 until he decided to fund Fink.

DEUTSCHE DRUGGEN-HANDLUNG. DROGUERIA HISPANOLA.
LEHN & FINK,
IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF
DRUGS AND CHEMICALS,
ESSENTIAL OILS, PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS, ETC.
128 WILLIAM STREET,
SPECIALTY: NEW YORK.
SACHSSE'S ESSENTIAL OILS.+

1887, 1894 and 1900c Ads for Lehn & Fink Imported Products

Fink constituted the company's entire sales force for the first six months, but gradually assembled a team of clever young men to aid him, most notably Albert Plaut (1857-1915). According to the company's own fiftieth anniversary celebratory publication, as he put his team in place, Fink gradually built the company's business by displaying at national trade shows, such as the annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, new drugs he was importing from Europe, such as cocaine and diphtheria antitoxin. When Lehn retired in 1886 to return to Germany, Plaut not only bought out his share of the business, but also brought his brother Joseph (1860-1949) into the company.

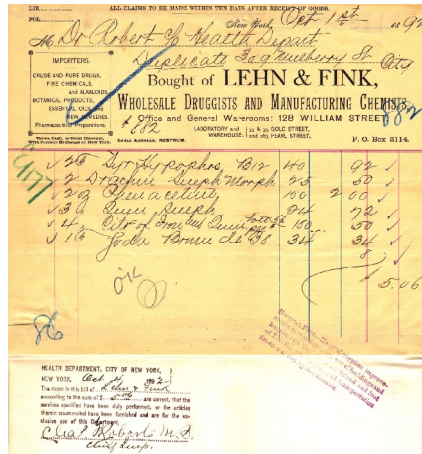


ALBERT PLAUT



JOSEPH PLAUT

To cement relations with the foreign companies from which he was importing goods, Fink traveled frequently to Europe. On one of these trips, in 1889, he visited the Paris Exposition where he met a German chemist, Dr. Gustav Raupenstrauch (1859-1943), who had developed a water-soluble disinfectant called Lysol. He signed an agreement with Raupenstrauch's firm, Schulke & Mayr of Hamburg, Germany, to import it to the United States. Although it was sold only to doctors, it quickly became one of the company's most important products. After 1893, the firm also developed a relationship with another German company, P. Beiersdorf & Co. also located in Hamburg, which represented a Dr. Paul G. Unna (1850-1929) who had invented a tooth powder and cream, then called Beiersdorf's Dentifrice, but later renamed Pebeco, derived from the initials of the company. The dentifrice soon became a second leading seller for Lehn & Fink as well.



1892 Lehn & Fink Invoice



1905 Lehn & Fink Cover Advertising Lysol and Pebeco

In 1898, Fink sold his share of the business. The Plauts purchased it and took charge of the entire firm. Several significant events occurred over the next decade and one half. After a devastating (but insured) fire in 1901, the firm constructed and moved

Lehn & Fink Ads As Agents for Various Products

BLOOKER'S DUTCH COCOA

—FOR—
Soda Water Fountains.

DRUG TRADE ONLY.

Sold in 6 lb. Cans, - - - Price, \$3.75.
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " 0.80.

An absolutely ripe and unadulterated Cocoa. On account of its strength and purity it goes twice as far as any other Cocoa. Try it and convince yourself.

LEHN & FINK, Agents. - 128 William Street New York

1890

CHLORALAMID possesses undoubted advantages over other similar preparations, and the many trials made and reported show the comparative great superiority have been unanimously favorable. A 48-page descriptive pamphlet to any physician on request; a 5-line sample sent by mail, prepaid on receipt of 25 cents in stamps.

Chloralamid-Schering

THE
New Hypnotic.

Dose: 30 to 45 Grains, in powder form or in cold alcoholic solution.

SOLE AGENTS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA,
LEHN & FINK,
Importers, Wholesale Druggists and Manufacturing Chemists.

1890

**TOUSSAINT'S
LIQUID MALT TONIC**

A NEW ARTICLE.

It is an agreeable tonic and valuable nutrient, containing a much larger percentage of extractive matter (13 per cent., as against an average of 8.55 per cent.) than all other known brands, and can therefore be recommended to the public and physician with more confidence than the cereals advertised on barn doors and hoarse-logs.

SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS

We aid dealers in the sale of the preparation by supplying, Free of Charge, Illustrations, Sample Bottles, etc., with first order as follows:

8 DOZEN IN BARREL, AT \$1.35 PER DOZEN
2 DOZEN IN BOX, AT \$1.50 PER DOZEN

(including 3 dozen sample bottles, circulars and one Two-Inch Nickel-plated Roll Paper Cutter (with bars) orders) with one tea-pound roll of white wrapping paper free of charge.

COSTS LESS THAN OTHER BRANDS AND CAN BE SOLD FOR LESS WITH A BETTER PROFIT

**LEHN & FINK
MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS
NEW YORK**

**LEHN & FINK'S
RIVERIS TALCUM**

(White and Flesh)

TO destroy the odors of a perspiration—to soothe and heal smarting, chafed skin—to refresh after exercise—to keep the body sweet and the skin healthy—you will find greater comfort and efficiency in Lehn & Fink's Riveris Talcum.

It brings a touch of talcum necessary afforded by no other powder, because it is the one kind in which the soapy properties usually present in talcum have been thoroughly overcome.

As a Face Powder it is so smooth and "luscious" that it may be used with a puff, leaving a velvety, beautified surface, radiant glow or flush. Especially desirable for such use because obtainable in both fresh tint and white. Its perfume is unusually delicate and refined.

To thousands of women Lehn & Fink's Talcum is the one indispensable toilet article. Just why this is true you can best appreciate if you

Write for Free Sample

Charitably sent everywhere, this invaluable talcum is in extra large glass jars.

**LEHN & FINK
108 William St., New York
Ask our Agents about Talcum.**

1898

1911

Particularly in
VENEREAL DISEASES
The New Ointment Base
EUCERIN
Will Play An Important Part

The invaluable properties of Eucerin stand out most clearly in venereal treatment. Medical men have always expressed the highest interest in mercury ointment because of its use in syphilis. To prepare an ointment with a very high mercury content has been the aim. Efforts in this direction have been only partially successful. The discoverers of Eucerin recognized this difficulty. Here the disintegration of the metallic mercury is simple and sure.

Simultaneously another important property was discovered. While investigations made with the mercury ointment of the Pharmacæa took about 25 to 30 minutes to be absorbed, experiments made with Eucerin ointment in several German hospitals has shown that 5 to 6 minutes were sufficient to make the mercury disappear to the skin.

Eucerin fulfills all the requirements for an ideal or perfect ointment base. It has all the advantages of the other ointment bases without any of their defects.

We will be glad to send you samples of Eucerin itself and also made up into ointments. Your druggist will supply you with Eucerin when you prescribe it.

LEHN & FINK 120 William Street, New York

1914

to larger quarters. In 1903, the Plauts negotiated a license from Beiersdorf to manufacture the tooth care products in the United States with ingredients imported from Germany and built a separate laboratory in Brooklyn for that purpose. They incorporated Lehn & Fink in 1910 with stated capital of \$600,000. In 1912, the Plauts bought the rights to manufacture Lysol in the United States as well, and, in 1914, Beiersdorf licensed them to act as their American agent for a new line of skin care products called Nivea. Everything seemed to be moving in an upward arc.



Lehn & Fink Cancels on U. S. Government 1914 Proprietary Issues

Then World War I began in 1914, cutting Lehn & Fink off from the ingredients they had been importing from Germany even though the United States had not yet entered the War, and, even more significantly, Albert Plaut died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1915. Albert had risen so fast in the industry and was so well regarded in the field that, among other positions he had held, he had served as president of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association. As relations with Germany grew worse in the United States, sales of Pebecco suffered and the sales campaign for Nivea never really launched. Albert's brother Joseph succeeded him a president of the company, and his son Edward (1892-1972) joined the company after his death. Edward saw a major new sales opportunity for the company by extending the sale of Lysol to the general public instead of just doctors. Although some, particularly certain physicians familiar with it, strongly opposed making so strong a chemical generally available insisting it might be ingested accidentally, or deliberately, as a poison, sale to the public was warmly received and produced the expected increase in revenue. Despite these objections, Lehn & Fink also promoted Lysol as an personal product suitable for use as a feminine douche.



EDWARD PLAUT

The entry of the United States into World War I further complicated Lehn & Fink's relations with its German suppliers. Beiersdorf had assets in the United States which were seized by the U. S. government's Alien Property Custodian's office. In 1919, Lehn & Fink purchased Beiersdorf's trademark for Pebeco from the Custodian for \$1 million and stopped paying royalties to the German company, leading ultimately to about a decade of complex and complicated litigation between Lehn & Fink and Beiersdorf as well as a shredding of the relationship between the companies.



1920c Lysol Ad & Pebeco Manufactured At Lehn & Fink's New Factory in Bloomfield, NJ

Still Lehn & Fink continued to grow. Its expanding operations caused it to announce plans in 1919 to relocate both its offices and its laboratories to a new location, a single campus in Bloomfield, NJ. To tighten its control of the manufacture

of Lysol, after World War I, Lehn & Fink also purchased the English firms that possessed rights to manufacture Lysol. In 1922, Joseph Plaut moved up to the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lehn & Fink and Edward Plaut became President. Edward reorganized the company to produce only Lysol and Pebecco, and by 1925 had determined that the future lay with these two products, abandoning the wholesale drug business and the manufacture of other pharmaceutical goods. The company also began to look for opportunities to acquire other proprietary cosmetics and toiletries, and soon found a complementary business in A. S. Hinds Co. of Portland, ME which manufactured a line of products that had grown around its Hinds (originally Hinds') Honey & Almond Cream.



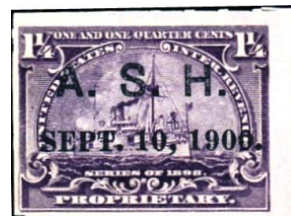
A. S. HINDS.

A. S. Hinds was born in 1844 in Livermore ME, a town in central Maine not too far northwest of its capital Augusta, but trained as a pharmacist by working for prominent druggists in Portland, ME after 1864. In 1870, he opened his own drug store in Portland and began to experiment, possibly as early as 1872, with compounds for the protection and enhancement of the skin, which because of their short shelf life were commonly mixed as needed by local druggists applying well known and circulated formulas. He found that both these formulas and then-current products tended to be greasy and sticky, and his research drew him to emulate ancient Egyptian recipes that featured grinding almonds and bees' honey together into a lotion that could be spread on the face to protect and to beautify women's skin.



Hinds Trade Card & 1892 Ad

When Hinds hit upon a formula that he and his customers liked, he claimed that he did not attempt to sell his new discovery broadly, but found that demand grew little by little, particularly after he moved his drug store to a more residential part of Portland in 1877. Yet even as he did not seek rapid growth of his product, by the 1880s, he had established agents for the sale of his lotion in Hawaii, Australia, South America, South Africa, London and Montreal, and even operated a branch laboratory in the last location. By 1888, Hinds decided to devote his energy entirely to manufacturing his lotion. He sold his drug store and opened a factory. In 1904, he was forced to move into a bigger plant to keep up with demand for his product.





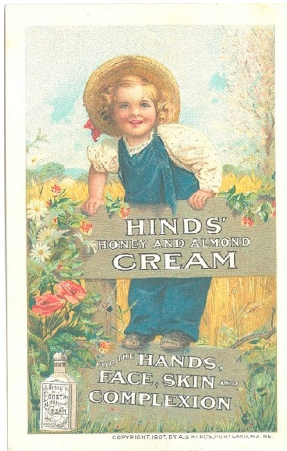
A. S. Hinds Co. Cancel Types Recognized In BDR2

Although Hinds Honey & Almond Cream was initially promoted as a medicine as well as a beauty product, by 1906, when Hinds began to actively engage in advertising by creating his own advertising department, he had largely decided to position it as a cosmetic rather than a medicine. He might well have embarked upon this strategy because of the ferment surrounding the passage of the Pure Food & Drug Act that year and the growing reluctance of some national magazine, such as *Ladies Home Journal*, to accept patent medicine advertising. Hinds did run his business differently than most of his contemporaries in one significant respect. Although he engaged in the usual production of trade cards, booklets, leaflets, pamphlets, folders, and window display materials for retailers, except for a brief experiment in the period between 1908 and 1910, he never employed a sales force to solicit retailers to carry his goods.



THE SUPERIORITY OF
HONEY AND ALMOND CREAM
 consists in its wonderful purifying and healing prop-
 erties and effectiveness in preparation for the skin, in
 that it is entirely free from all oils, Greasy, Starchy or
 Stagnant ingredients or chemicals and all the ob-
 scurest factors found in Cold Cream, Castor Oil,
 Kerosene, Coal-oil, etc. and Water or Lotion con-
 taining Mineral Poisons.
 It is fast and easily, readily absorbed, leaving no
 visible trace of its use; will not clog or stain the most
 delicate and tender skin; it is the most delicate and
 sensitive skin.
 For SOFTEN OR HARD SKIN it softens, cleanses,
 purifies and brings in healthy action.
 For STITCHES, in the effect upon the skin from cold,
 sun, wind, or any other cause, by a single use will
 soothe.
 It is especially recommended for Chafing and Irritated
 Skin of Infants, and gives immediate relief.
 For RAZOR AND SHAVE OR FRODORE DISTRESS it
 affords instant relief by cravering the fire and soothing
 the inflammation.
 For CRACKED HANDS AND FACE we would call
 special attention to the value of the Cream, in that it
 brings in action, especially those exposed to sun or
 wind, it is a positive cure, it never does more for the
 skin than for everything else it is recommended for.
 Guarantee Entire Satisfaction.
 TRIAL BOTTLE FREE TO ANY ADDRESS.
 PREPARED BY
 A. S. HINDS, - - - Portland, Me.
 DAVIS & LAWRENCE CO. (LTD.), MONTREAL,
 CANADA, SOLETS THE CANADA.
S. S. PIERCE & CO.

Hinds Trade Card



1907 Hinds Postcard



1920 Hinds Ad



Hinds Advertising Poster Stamps



A.S. Hinds Cancel on U. S. Government 1914 Proprietary Issues

In 1910, Hinds formally dropped the possessive apostrophe after his name in the Honey & Almond Cream name, and also began to expand to add other cosmetic products as well to complement it, and it was soon added Cold Cream, Disappearing Cream, Cre-Mis Face Powder, Cre-Mis Talcum Powder and Cre-Mis Soap to its roster of offerings. Increased demand led to new manufacturing facilities being constructed in 1920 in Portland. Hinds incorporated his business as a Delaware corporation in 1922 and, since he was growing older, sold it to Lehn & Fink in 1925.

Try These Generous 10: Demonstration Sizes of HINDS Beautying CREAMS

HINDS Honey and Almond CREAM will improve the complexion but longer than any other beautying cream.

It softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

HINDS Cold CREAM softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

HINDS Disappearing CREAM softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

HINDS Cre-Mis Face POWDER softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

HINDS Cre-Mis TALCUM POWDER softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

HINDS Cre-Mis SOAP softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

A. S. HINDS CO., Dept. 35, Portland, Maine

Please write us For Winter Comfort

As you stand you are sure and warm in the winter months - a "Beauty Cream" which softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

As you stand you are sure and warm in the winter months - a "Beauty Cream" which softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

As you stand you are sure and warm in the winter months - a "Beauty Cream" which softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

HINDS WEEK-END BOX softens the skin, maintains and restores softness. It is a substitute for the diamond, the ruby and the pearl. It is a beautying cream that is not only perfect in its own right, but also and after several washings, it also softens the skin.

A. S. HINDS CO., Dept. 35, Portland, Maine

1922 & 1923 Hinds Ads

Lehn & Fink moved the manufacture of the Hinds goods to its factory complex in Bloomfield, NJ and created a new company, Lehn & Fink Products Co., to hold the stock of both Lehn & Fink and A. S. Hinds Co. This entity, together with Pebeco Co. and two other later acquired cosmetics companies - Dorothy Gray, a New York firm

Lehn & Fink Ads For Its Principal Products

Lysol
Disinfectant



Still "the girl he married"

WHEN they were first married, five years ago, they had to dance together, get together, play golf together, they still like to do those things together today. She is still the girl he married.

During the year, following his marriage, she has practiced how to be being, how to be kind and polite, how, and "stayed away" with him for the correct practice of feminine hygiene.

For feminine hygiene, she uses Lysol Disinfectant. Using the wrong disinfectant will result in skin eruptions, itching, and other annoyances.

Remember, this, the makers of "Lysol" Disinfectant have prepared a booklet called "Lysol's Guide to Healthful Living" which will tell you in a plain, easy-to-read way, how to keep your home clean and healthy. Buy a bottle of "Lysol" Disinfectant at your drug store, or your favorite department store. It will come with every bottle.

Write to Lysol, Incorporated, 1000 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. for your free copy of "Lysol's Guide to Healthful Living".

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____

1928 Lysol



CHAPPING
Weather the skin

A chapped skin adds years to your looks



for chapping weathers the skin unmercifully

When you get your chapped and rough skin, Hinds Cream will soothe and heal it. The pure, rich Cream has been known for curing this.

For do you get the Hinds Cream really *protects* against chapping? Before going outdoors, you use it as a base for your powder. This will make your skin the soft, supple, and healthy skin you will keep in every season.

It's important to take these precautions about chapping skin. For chapping weakens the skin. And it's more than just your skin—it's your years.

Protect it for yourself!
By buying Hinds Cream today at your drug store. Recognize it with the color of your skin or face. Quite

a difference, however. A probably natural difference caused by weathering. The skin of your forehead has not been exposed. Consequently, it is sun-dried, rough. The skin of your face and hands need protection too. It is so easy using Hinds Cream. Get a sample, try it, you'll see the difference.

Send for it—free, at night in the morning. Every time you wash your face do a pinch too. Use it on your hands too (the veins for hands).

Then your skin will keep its usual texture. It will look—definitely that the progress can be seen. It'll make your chapped skin—so smooth.

Now use Hinds Cream daily. Use it on your face, neck, and hands. Use a generous sample bottle on the top. Use it on your arms and add it on the creases below.

Get a Free Skin Report—Write for it now. Get your report from Hinds at 10 N. State Street, Chicago, Ill.

© 1928 H. W. H.



1929 Hinds

PEBECO PETE SAYS:

*"I specialize in budget stretching—
And help to make your smile more fetching!"*



1. PEBECO Tooth Powder gives you 40% more than average of 6 other leading tooth powders... stretches your budget further!
2. Makes teeth sparkle. No other dentifrice cleans teeth better than PEBECO.
3. You get no grit in PEBECO Powder! It cleans sensitive teeth enamel.
4. Tastes peppery, too... makes mouth feel clean and minty-fresh. Get PEBECO Powder today!

GIANT SIZE ONLY 25¢
Big 10¢ size, too

ALL PEBECO TOOTH POWDERS ARE PREPARED BY PEBECO TOOTH POWDER CO., NEW YORK, N.Y.

1944 PEBECO

in 1927, and Lesquendieu, a French firm whose goods Lehn & Fink sold under the trade name Tussy, in 1929 - each operated separately until changes in the U.S. tax laws making inter-company dividends taxable brought about a massive reorganization, which, after some further corporate reshuffling led the consolidated company back to the name Lehn & Fink Products Co.



1949 Display of Lehn & Fink Products


After the end of World War II, Lehn & Fink finally purchased the rest of the worldwide rights to manufacture Lysol and leased a large manufacturing plant in Lincoln, IL. It expanded its cosmetics division by buying several hair care products companies. It also tried to expand its range of cleaning products centered around Lysol with less success.



1954 Ray Bolger [1904-1987] and Edward Plaut on the set of 'The Ray Bolger' show. Assorted Lehn & Fink products are displayed on the table.

Lehn & Fink also tried to open out its advertising by entering into the new market of television by sponsoring a television show, but the one it chose, the *Ray Bolger Show*, was not a hit.

Love-quiz... For Married Folks Only



WHY DOES SHE SPEND THE EVENINGS ALONE?

A. Because she keeps her home immaculate, looks as pretty as she can and really loves her husband, BUT she neglects that one essential... personal feminine hygiene.

Q. Is this really important to married happiness?

A. Wives often lose the precious air of romance, doctor says, for lack of the feminine disciplines dependent on effective disinfecting. For this, look to reliable "Lysol" brand disinfectant.

Q. Is "Lysol" safe and gentle as well as extra effective?

A. Yes, the proved germicidal efficiency of "Lysol" requires only a small quantity in a proper solution to destroy germs and odors, give a fresh, clean, wholesome feeling, restore every woman's confidence in her power to please.

Q. How about home-made disinfecting solutions, with no real need?

A. They have no comparison with the scientific formula of "Lysol" which has proved efficiency in contact with organic matter.

ALWAYS USE "LYSOL" in the solution to help give the convenience that comes with perfect grooming... confidence in feminine appeal.

Check these facts with your doctor. "Lysol" is non-toxic to skin, safe with your baby, disinfects, kills germs, kills odors, kills bacteria. Highly concentrated, "Lysol" is economical in use. Follow Hygiene. Menstrual, genital, etc.

For Feminine Hygiene—always use **Lysol**

FREE BOOKLETT from the new color brochure. Ask for it from the nearest Lysol distributor. Ask for it from L. S. & F. W. Dept. C-287, 147 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N.Y.

NAME _____
 STREET _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____

© 1953 Lysol Disinfectant Co., Inc. Printed in U.S.A.

1953 Lysol Ad Still Promoting it as a Feminine Hygiene Preparation

To tap new revenue sources, Lehn & Fink determined to invest more heavily in domestic and industrial cleaning supplies and in the late 1950s, purchased several companies which produced such products. It also continued to pursue its strategy that would come to be ridiculed only a few decades later as extremely sexist and dangerous by advertising Lysol as a feminine hygiene preparation.

Up to 30 times more disinfectant power than bleach!

YET AMAZING NEW LYSOL NEEDS NO POISON LABEL!

Use It With Confidence For Every Disinfectant Need

Here is important news for every disinfectant user: "Lysol" brand disinfectant is America's No. 1 disinfectant. It's the most powerful "Lysol" disinfectant on the market. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Bureau of Health, Education and Welfare. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

New "Lysol" Has A Lighter, Cleaner Smell!

The new "Lysol" disinfectant has a lighter, cleaner smell. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

New "Lysol" Is The Disinfectant of Choice for Every Disinfectant User!

Disinfectant users everywhere are now turning to "Lysol" brand disinfectant. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

SAFE TO HANDLE!

"Lysol" is safe to handle. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Effective 7 Full Days!

"Lysol" disinfectant is effective for 7 full days. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

THE UNITED STATES TESTING COMPANY CONDUCTED RESEARCH ON NEW "LYSOL"

The United States Testing Company has conducted research on the new "Lysol" disinfectant. The results show that "Lysol" is the most powerful disinfectant on the market. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It's the only disinfectant that's been approved by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Lysol

Another 1953 Lysol Ad Emphasizing That It Wasn't Poisonous

By 1966, when it was acquired by Sterling, it had organized itself into three divisions: Consumer Products, including cosmetics for domestic consumption and Pebecco; Industrial Products, built around Lysol and similar products; and International Products, built around cosmetics for export. When it went to buy Lehn & Fink, Sterling apparently saw Lysol as a significant acquisition in a field where it did not have a competing product as well as a good fit for Lehn & Fink's International Products division with its own developing overseas sales agencies, specifically in the area of expanding its sales of cosmetics.



1965 Display of Lehn & Fink Cosmetics

By the mid-Twentieth Century, even growth by acquisition had become more complicated and Sterling's purchase of Lehn & Fink did not go unchallenged. After carefully studying how Sterling had fitted the pieces of the two companies together, in August, 1969 - more than two years after the actual merger - the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") filed a complaint against Sterling alleging violations of anti-trust law. The FTC charged that by merging with Lehn & Fink, Sterling had substantially lessened competition in the "health and beauty aid market" as well as in two specific product lines within that market - "acne aids" and "external antiseptics," by eliminating Lehn & Fink as a competitor. The FTC further asserted that Sterling's acquisition of Lehn & Fink's Lysol gave it a monopoly position in the "household aerosol deodorizer market."



1967 Lysol Ad

As an agency belonging to the federal executive branch, the FTC has both a staff responsible for investigating and filing complaints and a completely separate office for hearing and adjudicating such complaints, both operating under the aegis of the Commission itself, which is ultimately responsible for issuing the final administrative ruling on the complaint. After a number of pre-hearing conferences stretching over approximately a year to establish the shape of the hearing, trial of the complaint before an FTC Hearing Officer took place in December, 1970 and January, 1971. A good share of the testimony at these hearings had to do with establishing the proper economic context for weighing the complaint - whether, for example, there was a definable “health and beauty aid market.” Both sides called economic experts. The FTC staff’s expert explained the factors he had weighed and the product categories he included in the markets he claimed Sterling was dominating, and Sterling’s experts offered evidence rebutting the application of what they claimed were artificially created boundaries.



1971 Lysol Ad

After carefully reviewing the manner in which the staff’s expert had attempted to establish the relevant “health and beauty aid” market, the Hearing Officer rendered

his opinion that such a market was too broad and there were too many competitors to find that Sterling's acquisition of Lehn & Fink had lessened competition in either the market overall or the specific product lines the FTC staff had charged violations, and moreover, that Sterling, which had not previously had a product entry in that field at all, had not become a monopolist by acquiring Lysol. In an opinion published in May, 1971, he found no violations of federal anti-trust law and dismissed the complaint.

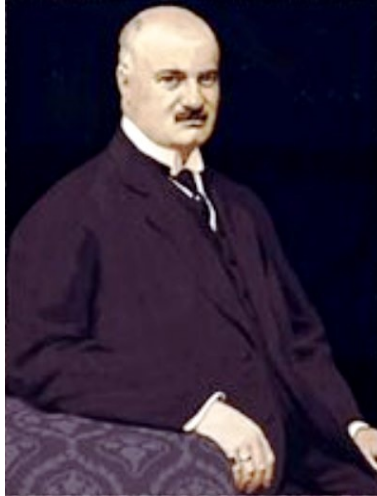
For odors and germs. No job is too thick
(or too thin) for Lysol Spray.



1972 Lysol Ad

The FTC then appealed the denials by the Hearing Officer of the two major violations. After extensive briefing by both sides, the Commission itself issued its decision in April, 1972. It noted that the FTC staff's economist had applied a more modern "supply side" analysis of the economics to the Sterling merger, which emphasized more sharply than in the past the future potential of a company like Sterling to dominate a market, as opposed to the more commonly applied "demand side" analysis based principally on the potential reduction of competition in a market that might occur as a result of the merger. While carefully finding that such an analysis might be appropriate in the proper circumstances, nevertheless, the Commission itself found that the Hearing Officer's findings of fact as applied to the Sterling merger with Lehn & Fink were correct and that the merger had produced no anti-trust violations. It affirmed the dismissal of the complaint.





1918 Portrait Fritz Hoffman-LaRoche

Through the 1970s and into the 1980s, Sterling continued to flourish. Yet as economics of scale continued to pressure the pharmaceutical industry, ultimately, Sterling itself was caught up in the maw of industrial consolidation. In early 1988, it became the target of an acquisition attempt by the Swiss pharmaceutical company Hoffman-LaRoche, founded in 1896 by Fritz Hoffman-LaRoche (1868-1920). Balking at a takeover by a foreign management that would not be compatible with its current thinking, Sterling's executives sought their own merger partner - a so-called "white knight" - and, in what in retrospect proved to be an egregious error in judgment - turned to Eastman Kodak of Rochester, NY as its savior. Within about two months in early 1988, in the course of a furious bidding war, Sterling went from being an independent entity to being a division of Eastman Kodak.



Portrait of George Eastman & 1954 Commemorative U.S. Stamp

Eastman Kodak Co. was the brainchild of George Eastman (1854-1932). It was created to exploit the Nineteenth Century invention of photography by making it

possible for everyone to take photographs. Eastman conceived the idea of placing photographic film in an easily affordable camera that anyone could operate and then having the customer return the camera and exposed film to the company to develop and print. Beginning in 1888 with the slogan “You press the button and we do the rest,” Eastman created a film business that flourished in Rochester, NY (the author’s home town) for over one hundred years. By 1988, Kodak was looking to diversify its operations. Working with chemicals to develop film over the years, it had created many new compounds that it wished to exploit to the fullest. It viewed Sterling, with divisions manufacturing both serious medicines carried over from its interactions with the Germans and over-the-counter brands it had acquired and accumulated over the years, as possessing the right blend of chemical operations to merge with its own.



Kodak Headquarters in Rochester, NY

Unfortunately, Kodak picked just the wrong moment to attempt to expand its chemical business because its core film business was then coming under competitive attack. It had failed to divine emerging trends and changes in the photographic industry, and had already missed the boat on instant photographs. Quite soon after its merger with Sterling, Kodak was obligated to pay patent infringement damages to the Polaroid company. Moreover, it was increasingly being undercut in its core film developing business by Japanese competitors led by Fuji film. Worse trouble from the wholesale replacement of film by digital images was looming in the near future.



Kodak Industrial Park in Rochester, NY

Kodak soon realized that its venture into the business of manufacturing chemicals through its merger with Sterling would not lead it quickly enough to develop new drugs to sell. Its plan to bring all of the chemical research facilities of Kodak and Sterling together in a single new facility it had been building near Philadelphia was only partially realized when, in 1994, it decided to abandon the enterprise entirely and sell off the former parts of Sterling Drug, Inc. Like a giant whale being butchered, what had once been Sterling Drug, Inc. was speedily diced up into three parts and sold off. The over-the-counter products - formerly the proprietary part of the business - were sold to SmithKline Beecham (now GSK), another surviving amalgam of American and English pharmaceutical companies itself glued together from many tiny Nineteenth Century firms painstakingly assembled much as Sterling itself initially had been. SmithKline Beecham then promptly resold the Bayer Aspirin part of Sterling's business back to the German Bayer company, thus completing the reuniting of the worldwide Bayer aspirin business after a seventy-five year division. Sterling's last acquisition of the Lehn & Fink business, principally the Lysol brand, was sold to Reckitt & Colman (now simply Reckitt), an English chemical firm, which swiftly sold off its Colman mustard half to finance the transaction. Sterling's serious medicine business, a holdover from its collaboration with the Germans after World War I, was sold to Sanofi S. A., a French chemical firm originally created in 1973 as a subsidiary of a French oil company. Thus, Sterling ended not with a "bang," but with T. S. Eliot's proverbial "whimper."

While Sterling as an entity has ceased to exist, its legacy can be measured today by the availability on the internet of products that once were controlled by its constituent parts. Illustrations of examples of some of these products conclude this study of Sterling Drug, Inc.:

Sample Of Products Once Controlled By Sterling Drug, Inc.
Still Available For On-Line Purchase Today

