

**20750. Misbranding of Sister Mary's compound. U. S. v. William R. Griffin (Stanley-Griffin Co.). Plea of nolo contendere. Fine, \$25. Sentence suspended. (F. & D. no. 28059. I. S. nos. 36001, 40321.)**

Examination of the drug preparation, Sister Mary's compound, disclosed that it contained no ingredient or combination of ingredients capable of producing certain curative and therapeutic effects claimed on the bottle and carton labels and in a circular shipped with the article. Analyses showed that the article was not a mixture of simple natural ingredients, or a combination of nature's remedies, as claimed in the circular.

On February 8, 1933, the United States attorney for the District of Massachusetts, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for the district aforesaid an information against William R. Griffin, trading as the Stanley-Griffin Co., Lowell, Mass., alleging shipment by said defendant in violation of the Food and Drugs Act as amended, on or about May 28, 1931, from the State of Massachusetts into the State of Wisconsin, and on or about October 4, 1931, from Massachusetts to Iowa, of quantities of Sister Mary's compound that was misbranded. The article was labeled in part: "Sister Mary's Compound \* \* \* Stanley-Griffin Co. Roche & Griffin, Mfgs. Lowell Mass."

Analysis of a sample of the article by this Department showed that it consisted essentially of small proportions of extracts of plant drugs, sulphur, cream of tartar, charcoal and menthol, glycerin, sugar, and water.

It was alleged in the information that the article was misbranded in that certain statements, designs, and devices, regarding its curative and therapeutic effects, appearing on the labels of the bottles and cartons, falsely and fraudulently represented that it was effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for ailments of the stomach, throat, and lungs, and as a blood purifier and body builder; effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for indigestion, dizziness, biliousness, nervousness, auto-intoxication, catarrh and other poisonous and irritating conditions and ailments of the throat and mouth, bronchitis, laryngitis, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, and other throat ailments, thin and impoverished blood, pimples, sallow skin, wasting diseases of the stomach, throat, lungs, and kidneys, coughs, whooping cough and worms; effective as a preventive in diseases of children; effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for ailments of the stomach, throat, lungs, bowels, and blood; effective as a general tonic for loss of flesh; and effective as a treatment for consumption. Misbranding was alleged for the further reason that certain statements, designs, and devices regarding the curative and therapeutic effects of the article, appearing in the circular, falsely and fraudulently represented that it was effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for nerve diseases, stomach trouble, indigestion, sourness, burning, gas, nausea, and bloating, disease of the heart, liver and kidneys; effective as a remedy to restore that vigorousness that means health; effective as a preventive of tuberculosis; effective as a blood purifier and body builder; effective as a remedy for worms; effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for throat and bronchial troubles; effective as an ideal healing agent for all irritations of the throat; effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for bronchitis, hoarseness, croup and bronchial asthma, stomach and lung trouble; effective as a preventive treatment and remedy for children's diseases; effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for stomach and intestinal trouble; and effective as a treatment, remedy, and cure for coughs, and for consumption. Misbranding was alleged for the further reason that the following statements appearing in the circular, "Sister Mary's Compound is a mixture of simple, natural ingredients. This preparation is a combination of Nature's remedies", were false and misleading, since the article was not a mixture of simple, natural ingredients, and was not a combination of nature's remedies.

On March 13, 1933, the defendant entered a plea of nolo contendere to the information and the court imposed a fine of \$25, which sentence was suspended.

R. G. TUGWELL, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*