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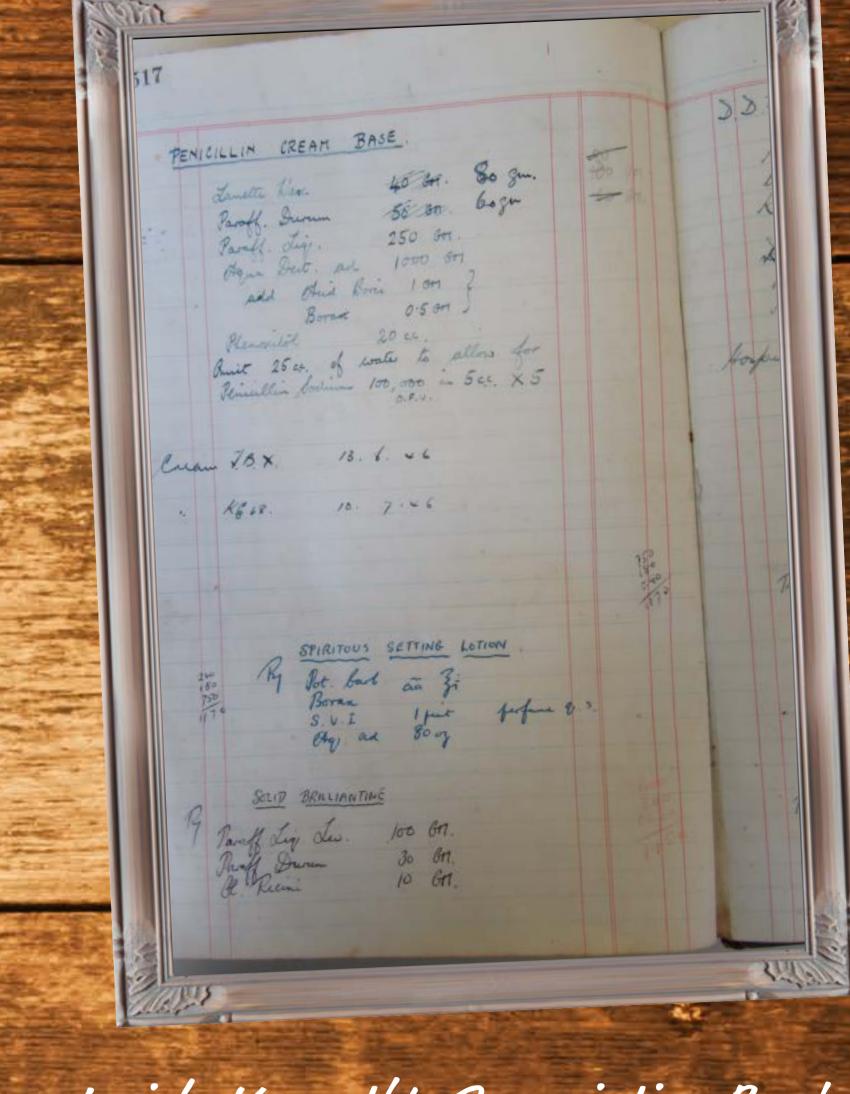
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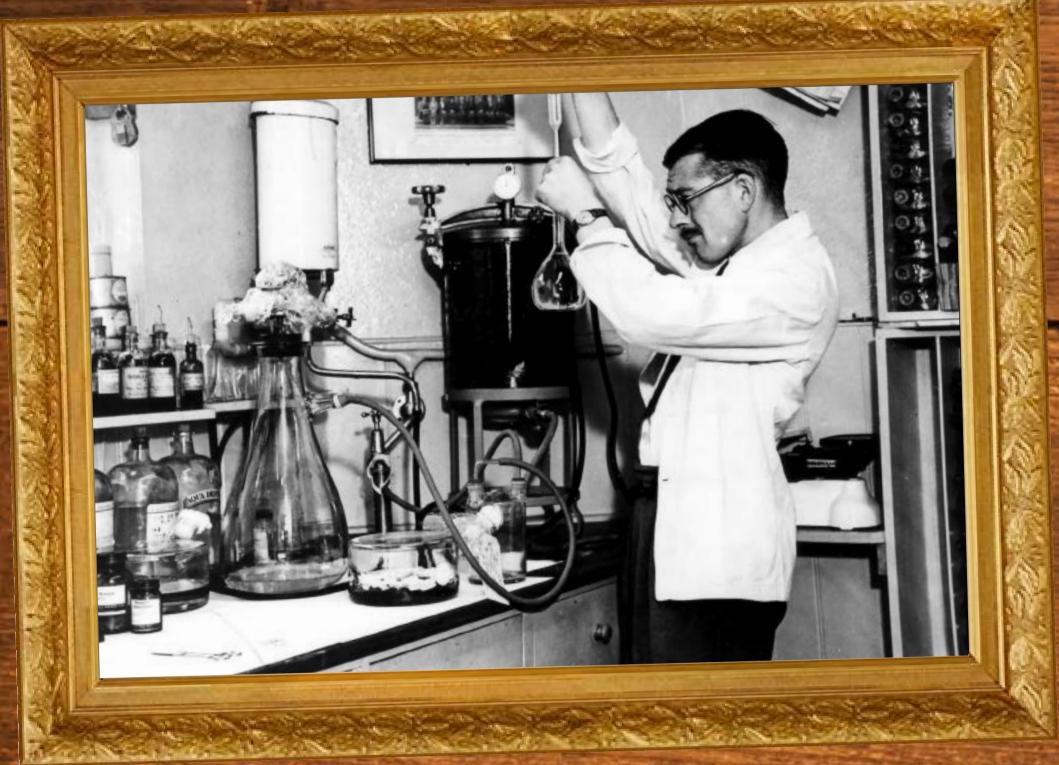
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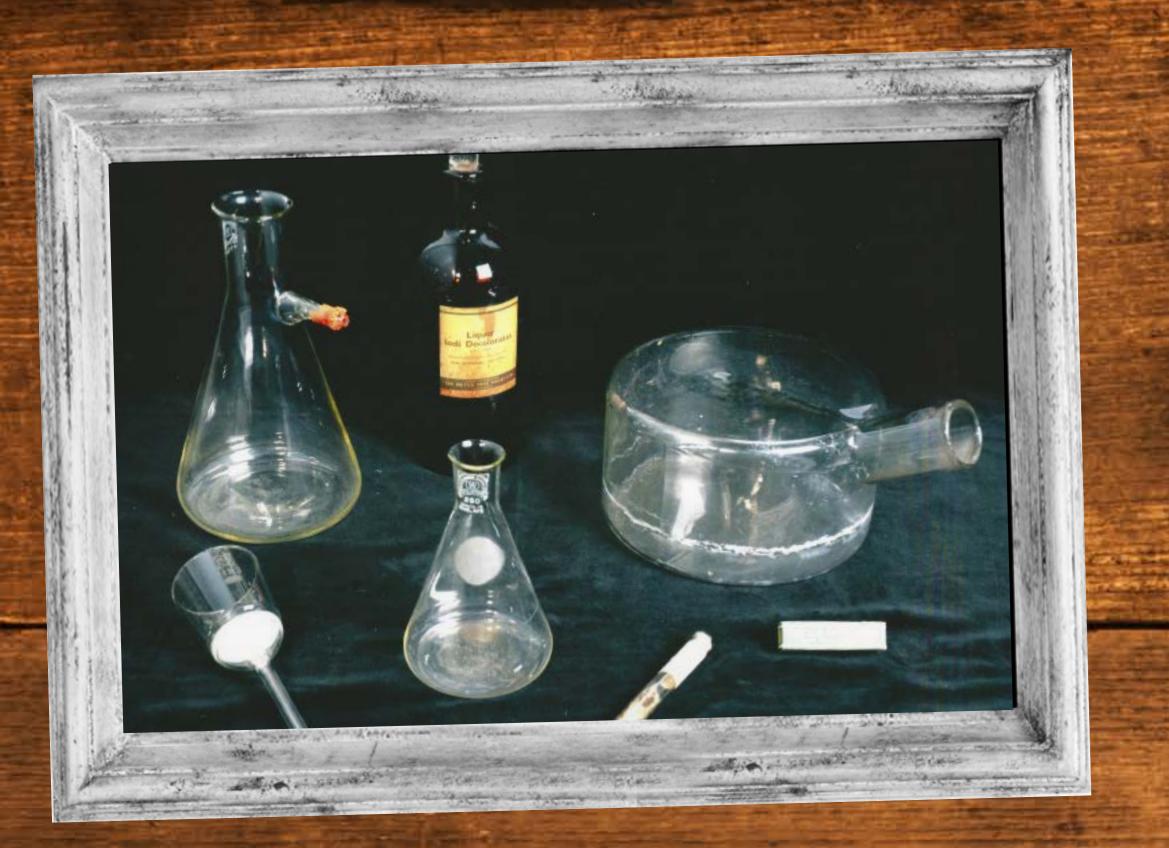
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One of the few photos of Kenneth White



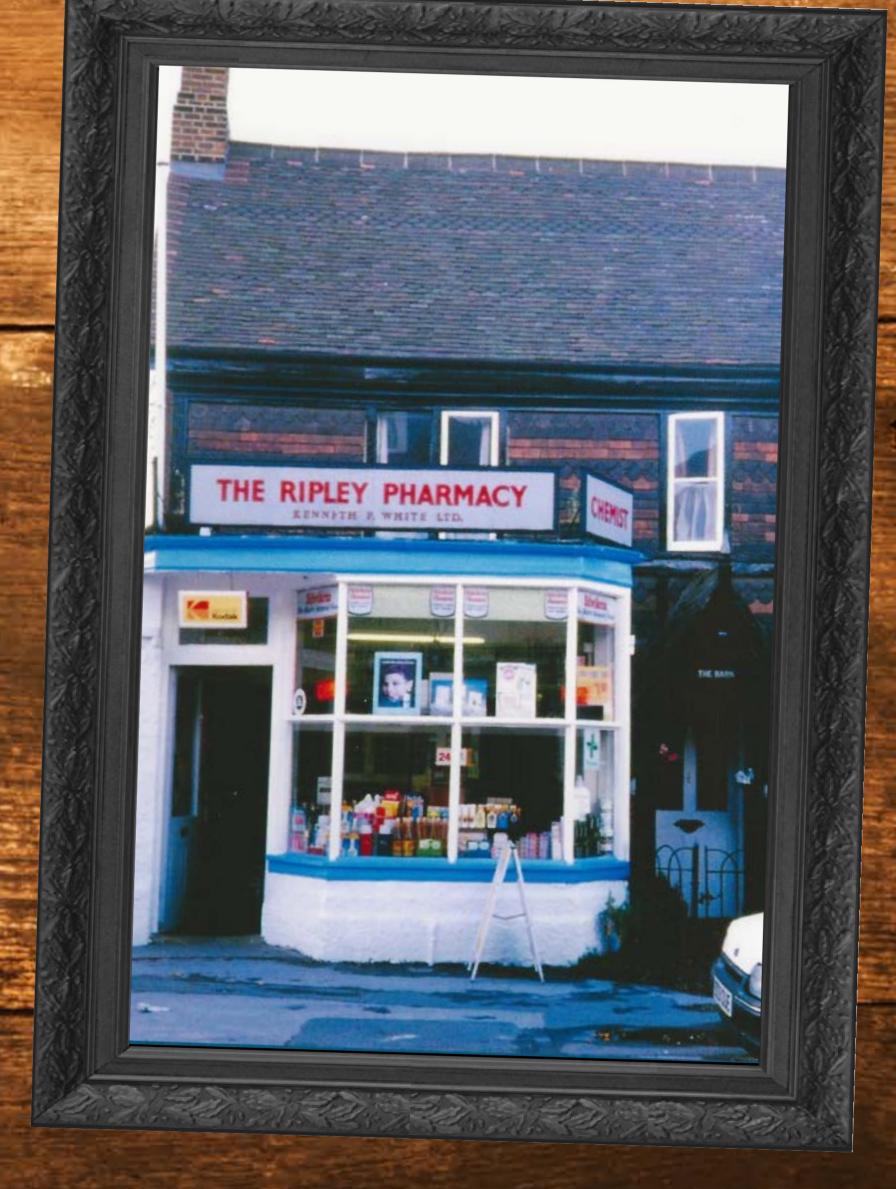
Some of Kenneth's Chemist/Pharmacy Items



Some of Kenneth's Chemist/Pharmacy Items



One of Kenneth's Signs



The Pharmacy, est 1980's



Some of Kenneth's Chemist/Pharmacy Items



John Hutson, assistant to Kenneth White

## The Send & Ripley History Society

Kenneth White - Not all war heroes are in uniform!

Kenneth White qualified as a pharmacist pre-war at Brighton Technical college. There is a suggestion he might have liked to be a doctor but he could not afford the training. At an interview for a grant Ken met his long-time friend and partner, Jack Ellard. They qualified as pharmacists in 1938 and soon after Jack went into the Navy. Ken's poor eyesight prevented him going on to active service so he went to work for a medical supplies wholesaler. He then formed his own medical company, Ken Chemical Company, based in Leicester and latterly in Ripley.

On December 1st 1943 he rented premises in Ripley, which were on the site of the old White Horse Inn and Allenby Chemists. The shop was old fashioned so he modernised it and ran it as a pharmacy. In the back room, which became the dispensary, he began producing penicillin in 1944, the 'wonder drug of those days. At the time all supplies were going to the armed forces. Much of the equipment he used was paid for out of his own pocket and some of it improvised, including the use of an ice cream refrigerator (which was donated). An incubator was made out of old packing cases by Mr Bill Weller, the local baker.

When Ken first arrived in Ripley he lodged at the Clock House which took in paying guests and was run by Mrs Harrison. A fellow resident was Kay Smith, who worked at RHS Wisley and who introduced Ken to Donald Green, a plant pathologist. The two men became friends and Donald advised Ken on chemistry. Ken got further information and encouragement from local doctor, Ralli Creet, who was also a surgeon at the Surrey County Hospital. Dr Matson, the pathologist at the hospital 'standardised' the penicillin which involved checking the strength and purity of the penicillin.

In 1944 his efforts came to the notice of the national press. To quote the article in the Daily Mirror, he was not satisfied with the dictum 'no penicillin for civilians' and resolved to do all he could to produce some. Having got no satisfaction from the Director of Medical Supplies he began making it unofficially. It was difficult, costly and time consuming to make and it is still something of a mystery where he got the original 'culture'. Rumour has it that he had a friend in a naval hospital in Portsmouth. However what we do know is that he supplied it free to local people and to Surrey County Hospital in the form of penicillin cream. Ralli Creet, reported that local people who had received the drug had benefited and it was clearing up old infections. Originally the official response was not favourable and Ken was summoned to London to face a 'Star Chamber Court' to explain himself. Once it became clear that he was giving the cream away then he was given permission to carry on. After leaving the Navy Jack Ellard went first to the Royal Berkshire Hospital before joining his friend Kenneth White who had developed a successful business in Ripley. However in 1951 Kenneth White sold the business due to ill health and travelled abroad. He went to both Australia and the Solomon Islands where he was involved with the pearl shell business. He also visited China and other Far Eastern countries before trying West Africa. He joined a German gum manufacturer, for which he travelled in Eastern Europe. Eventually he retired and settled in Horsley. He deserves to be a'Local Hero'for his work on the man-

ufacture of penicillin and to be remembered as possibly the first person (in the world?) to

produce Penicillin for civilian use. Kenneth White died on 5th January 1993 aged 78 and

was living in Horsley at the time.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL Penicillin Filtrate in General Practice and the following day all were heavily inoculated under aseptic conditions with the spores of P, notation. The flasks were incubated for 14 days at room temperature controlled as far as possible at 24° C.

A thick firm pellicle developed, which was visible after 24 hours. After 14 days the filtrate was separated from the mould and 0.5 per cent. Liq. Formaldehyd, was added as a stabiliser. The whole was then filtered through a Seltz filter, collected in a large sterile bouchner flask, and finally packed into sterile containers. Samples were submitted to Dr. Matson, pathologist at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, who assayed them for penicillin content using the established method of assay of comparing the inhibitive action of the penicillin upon the Oxford strain of Staphylococcus

No. 9 male (a), infection to too, with associated with acutely septic wounds. To overcome this distressing drawback, the use for three months. Penicillin cream on gauze.

Complete recovery in 21 days. (1200 O.F.U.)

No. 10 Mate (67) Sinus following resection of 2 per cent procaine hydrochloride has Gureus of known sensitivity to penicillin.

The filtrate was supplied to medical practitioners as filtrate or in the form of a water-incoll turns are litrate or in the form of days sinus completely healed. (300 O.F.U.) a water-in-oil type emulsion produced with Lanette wax SX (ref. Alston, Brit. Med. J., 1944, 1, 654). In making the emulsion the temperature of the filtrate was kept as low as possible to prevent loss.

The following were some of the assay results obtained:

Butch "A."—4 Oxford Florey Units per mil. This batch was stored for 18 days at 4° C. after separation from the mould and before assay. Total O.F.U. known to have

days sinus completely healed. (300 O.F.U.)

No. 11.—Female (23). Air raid casualty 1941, assaying at the end of 7 days a decrease of the end of 7 days and end of before assay. Total O.F.U. known to have been produced, 60,400.

Batch "B."—16 Oxford Florey Units per mil. Of this batch 50 per cent. was stored in contact with the mould for 20 casys at 4." C. Total O.F.U. known to have been produced, 60,400.

No. 13.—Male (57). Cellulities of foot and leg and Lyons and Co., Ltd., for making available a refrigerator.

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No. 13.—Male (57). Cellulities of foot and leg and Lyons and Co., Ltd., for making available a refrigerator. stored in contact with the mould for 20 easys at 4° C. Total O.F.U. known to have been produced, 201,600.

Batch "C."—10 units per r.il. Total O.F.U. known to have been produced, 105,000.

Batch "D."—15 units per mil Only ten. CONSIDERABLE amount of research Botch "D."—15 units per mil. Only ten culture flasks were used on this occasion. Total O.F.U. known to have been produced, 105,000.

Case Reports

Case Reports

Abbreviated reports of 17 patients treated with the filtrate will give an indication of the remarkable properties of the dication of the remarkable properties of penicillin. The number of units recorded at the end of each report represents the total number used in each case.

No. 1.—Female (45). Bilateral contusion introlving both thumbs of four months' duration.

Resistant to sulphsthiazele treatment. The be established for identification purpos