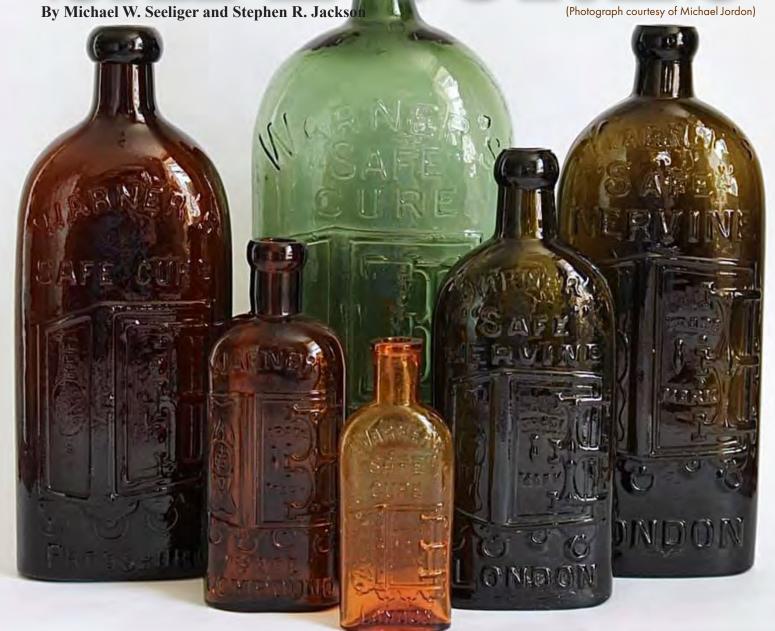
OUR FAVORITE

WARINES





egardless of what types of bottles you collect, bitters, flasks, or sodas, there comes a time when almost every collector will take stock of what he or she has sitting on the shelf. The question invariably becomes what are the best bottles in my collection and, are there others that I need to add to my collection to make it better? Between the two of us, we have collected Warner's Safe Cures for decades and, at one time or another, have owned or handled some of the rarest Safe Cures known. But, as any serious collector will tell you, rarity can be a transient thing. What is extremely rare today, may be common tomorrow. Rarity is, at best, a snapshot in time, that is open to second opinions or even outright disagreement. With that caveat in mind, our objective with this article is to give you our opinions based upon our experience. We will resist the temptation to call this our list of the rarest or the best Safe Cures and, instead, give you a list of our favorite Warner's Safe Cures along with our rationale.

A CONCISE HISTORY

At the outset, there are some important historical markers that we need to provide to give you context for what we have chosen and why. Prior to 1879, Hulbert Harrington Warner had been a very successful sales agent for fireproof safes for the Mosler, Bahmann & Co. of Cincinnati. As the story goes, Warner became gravely ill from Bright's Disease and was spared thanks to a concoction developed by Dr. Charles Craig of Rochester, New York. Warner was so grateful for his recovery that he bought the rights to Craig's Kidney Cure and entered the patent medicine business. He started with Warner's Safe Kidney & Liver Cure, Safe Nervine, Safe Bitters, Safe Tonic, Safe Pills and Diabetes Cure. In the ensuing years, he combined the Bitters and Tonic into a Safe Tonic Bitters and finally replaced the bitters line with Tippecanoe. In 1882, he added a Safe Rheumatic Cure. He added a Safe Yeast and a 40-ounce "Animal Cure," which was sold as a special order product and provides collectors with a truly fantastic bottle. In 1887, Warner created a new line of products called the "Log Cabin Remedies," which included a Log Cabin Sarsaparilla, Extract, Hops & Buchu, Cough & Consumption, Scalpine/Hair Tonic, Rose Cream, Plasters and Liver Pills.

In addition to his headquarters in Rochester, Warner opened offices or sole agencies in Toronto, London, Melbourne, Frankfurt, Pressburg, and Dunedin and claimed many others including Kruezlingen, Switzerland, Brussels and Rangoon. Warner prospered for the better part of the 1880's and was, arguably, the most successful patent medicine manufacturer in the world. However, by the early 1890's, he began to succumb to his own bad investments and a collapsing economy and by 1893, he was bankrupt. His company, however, lived on well into the 1930's before it disappeared. Warner died in 1923 in Minneapolis after several attempts to re-enter the patent medicine business.

OUR METHODOLOGY AND CRITERIA

The process of compiling our list required us to look at the known examples of Safe Cure and related products and to determine which ones we thought were the most difficult to find. By its very nature, this was a subjective process, because no one actually knows how many of these variants exist in the world,

whether discovered or undiscovered. Over time, some formerly rare variants have surfaced in greater numbers. Perhaps the best example is the amber Pressburg Safe Cure. When Michael originally published H. H. Warner: His Company & His Bottles in 1974, the amber Pressburg Safe Cure was exceedingly rare and sought after by collectors. The only known example was in Jack Stecher's collection. However, in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the opening of Eastern Europe, many more examples have surfaced and this formerly rare bottle is relatively easy to acquire.

In addition to rarity, we also looked at other criteria, including color, the presence of a label and embossing errors. These criteria certainly contribute to or, in some cases, detract from the rarity of particular Safe Cures. In the end, we thought it best to separate out these categories instead of trying to combine them. We hope that our system will better allow collectors to compare "apples to apples" as it were.

Certain Safe Cure bottles are rare, purely by virtue of the fact that few of them are known to exist. These are our favorite rare Warner's. Of course, by the term "rare," we mean that few are known.

RARE BOTTLES

1. WARNER'S SAFE NERVINE FRANKFURT PINT. Since Warner only had the pint size during the first year of operation in Germany in 1887, this bottle is extremely rare. It may be the rarest of the known bottles. The known example is amber.



No. 1 - Warner's Safe Nervine, Frankfurt Pint (Photograph courtesy of Steve Jackson)

- 2. WARNER'S SAFE DIABETES CURE PRESSBURG PINT. This is a truly rare bottle. Being from Pressburg first of all and then being the Diabetes Cure makes it a rare commodity. The Warner branch did label the Safe Cure with the Diabetic Cure label, but we believe it was after the H. H. Warner & Co. Ltd. started to let druggists label their own bottles. The known example is amber.
- 3. WARNER'S SAFE REMEDIES MELBOURNE PINT. Only a few of these exist and the Aussies have been digging for a long time. This makes this bottle rare even though produced around 1910 and so very collectible. The known examples are amber.
- 4. WARNER'S SAFE BITTERS ROCHESTER HALF PINT. These were sold as trial sizes and only for the first year or two in 1879-1880, so they are very rare. The known examples are amber with a square medicine lip.

5. WARNER'S SAFE DIABETES CURE 3-CITIES (TORONTO) PINT.

Only a few of these exist, although the Canadians have not dug as extensively as the British and Australians. The known examples are amber with a double collar lip.



No. 5 - Warner's Safe Diabetes Cure, 3 Cities, Toronto (Photograph courtesy of Steve Jackson)

6. WARNER'S SAFE NERVINE 3-CITIES (TORONTO) PINT. This bottle is rarer than the half-pint size, which is also very hard to find. More examples of the half-pint Nervine have surfaced and they are not favored by cure collectors given the absence of the embossed word cure. The known examples are amber with a double collar lip.

7. LOG CABIN SCALPINE ROCHESTER.

Probably the hardest bottle to get in the Log Cabin Remedies line. This bottle is followed in scarcity by the Hops and Bucchu Remedy, which is nice but exists in larger quantities. The Scalpine was sold as the hair tonic but Warner must not have sold much of it and the name was changed to Hair Tonic. Like most of the other Log Cabin Remedies, Scalpine is in the amber paneled bottle.

8. WARNER'S SAFE CURE "NO CITY" PINT.

As the name suggests, these bottles have no city embossed at the base of the bottle. They have surfaced in the last five years. While the origin and purpose of this bottle is not specifically known, we surmise that these bottles may have been used to market Safe Cure in markets claimed by Warner such as Kreuzlingen, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium. No labeled example has surfaced to help solve this mystery. There are four known examples and they are amber with a blob lip and were all found in Switzerland.

9. WARNER'S SAFE DIABETES CURE FRANKFURT PINT. Again a very hard to find bottle. The scarcity of this bottle may be explained by the fact that it was limited to the German market and because so much of Germany was devastated by World War II. The known example is amber with a blob lip.

10. WARNER'S SAFE COMPOUND LONDON STRAP-SIDED (LONDON).

This product was offered to consumers to allow them to dilute its contents to make regular strength Safe Cure. This was likely produced after 1900 and was not embossed with the word "LONDON". It contained about 4 ounces. There is also a Safe Compound that is not strap-sided that is more common. The known examples are amber with a flat blob lip.

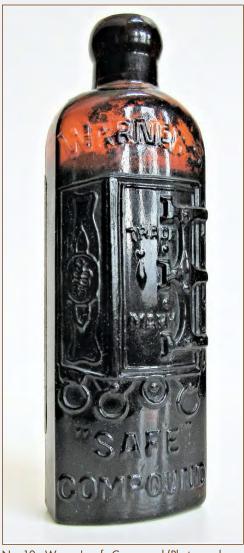
11. WARNER SAFE ANIMAL CURE DOUBLE COLLAR LIP. Warner added the 40-oz Animal Cure to his line as early as 1882; however, most known examples feature the blob lip. The double collar lip was characteristic of other early Safe Cure bottles and is extremely rare on Animal Cures. The Animal Cure was special ordered from druggists for horses and other livestock and was not a stock item, which accounts for the relative rarity of the bottle in general. The known example is amber.

12. WARNER'S SAFE CURE SAMPLES LONDON.

Unlike its American cousin, the London Safe Cure sample was a 4 ½" version of the Safe Cure bottle. It appeared in two colors, amber and green; however, the green variant seems harder to get and correspondingly costs more. Both samples are considered rare.

13. WARNER'S SAFE CURE 3-CITIES WITH REVERSED "N's".

This is the typical 3-Cities Safe Cure with one major exception,



No. 10 - Warner's safe Compound (Photograph courtesy of Terry McMurray)

the "N's" in LONDON and TORONTO face the wrong direction. This is the only error bottle we have included. Only a couple examples are known to exist.

14. WARNER'S SAFE CURE SAMPLE TINS.

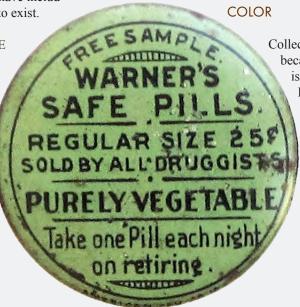
While the Rochester sample bottles in the amber cylinder are relatively common, the Safe Cure Company offered a sample in a round tin. Examples of the tin sample are all but non-existent.

The above choices are our opinion and we know that other collectors may disagree or feel that we left out their particular choice. Certainly, there is plenty of room for "honorable mentions" and we hope this will produce some robust debate. In addition to the relative rarity of a particular Safe Cure bottle, we thought that it was appropriate to reflect on color. Indeed,



No. 11 - Warner's Safe Cure, Double Collar Lip (Photograph courtesy of Steve Jackson)

some of our favorite Warner's are based upon color.



No. 14 - Warner's Safe Cure Sample Tins (Photograph courtesy of Terry McMurray)

Collectors often admire Warner's bottles because of their variety of colors. This is particularly true of bottles from the

London Office. However, color variation was not an idea supported by H. H. Warner. Indeed, it was not until after he left the company in 1893 that we begin to see a trend toward Safe Cure bottles in colors other than amber. The reason for this is simple. The amber bottle was part of Warner's trademark and he advertised it and followed it completely. Warner needed to secure his patent and to protect against fraud and the refilling of his bottles. He accomplished this by producing bottles exclusively in amber, sealing the bottles with a stamp, labeling them as genuine and

enclosing them in a paper caddy.

Warner was exceedingly protective of his trademark and many of his almanacs devoted a page to warning his customers to "Beware of Fraud." His concerns were not unfounded. While they may have had their origin in his ongoing battle with Craig, there are other documented examples of others trying to make a quick buck at Warner's expense. When he lost control of the company in 1893, things began to change, although the changes were not quick.

When the Safe Cure Company purchased the rights to produce the Cure in 1896, it still maintained the amber bottle requirement. By 1909 and in response to the Pure Food & Drug Act, the Company had dropped the word "Cure" and replaced it with "Remedy". By this time, we begin to see more color variation, beginning with the example of green Tippecanoes, as well as green and clear Kidney & Liver Remedy bottles, green, clear and aqua mixed Safe Diabetes Remedy and a clear small sized Safe Remedy. These color changes would never have appeared on Warner's watch. The advent of the "Safe Remedies Co." bottles gave us three distinct colors: amber, clear and aqua. The various remedies offered in these bottles were distinguished only by their labels and the products seem to appear in all of the bottles,

although amber bottles seem to be the most common.

Colored Safe Cure bottles appeared in Europe earlier than in the United States. By late 1889, Warner struck a deal to sell the company to British investors. The company became known as H. H. Warner & Co. Ltd. In 1894, they began to use the green glass and by the 1900's, they produced a variety of colors ranging from olive greens to straw colored ambers. By the 1920's, the London Safe Cure, Safe Nervine and Safe Diabetes Cure were sold in bottles that were clear to light aqua. Surprisingly, these bottles are remarkably crude and are often thought to be early bottles when, in fact, they are not. All the colored Warner's are much newer bottles than the crude amber ones that were produced in the early 1880s. This may be due to cost or just the result of poor quality control. Whatever the cause, it is something appreciated by modern collectors. Some of the rarer colors are:

LONDON.

Safe Cure, Safe Nervine, Safe Rheumatic Cure and Safe Diabetes Cure in clear to ice blue are rare despite the fact that they were likely not produced until the 1920's. Other highly desirable color variations include bright green to emerald green.

FRANKFURT/PRESSBURG.

The Safe Cures from these cities followed London to some extent, although their color variation is much more limited. While the amber and olive greens are more common, the bright green and emerald or teal Frankfurts are particularly rare. Only the aqua Pressburg Safe Cure is considered rare. H.H. Warner & Co. Ltd. likely gave druggists a license to produce the cures as they saw fit. This latitude included the color of the bottles and well as label design. Some labels deviated from the standard Safe Cure label and included bland labels with large white spaces, spaces that Warner would have filled with advertising were he in charge.

KRUEZLINGEN

There are no known bottles embossed with this Swiss city; however, Warner regularly claimed to have an office there as well as in Brussels, Paris and Rangoon. The "No City" Safe Cure, discussed above, and which has appeared only in amber, may have been marketed in these locations. The "No City" bottle has appeared with two different molds.

MELBOURNE/DUNEDIN (4-CITIES). Not much color variation in the bottles from "down under." Indeed, like their cousins from Rochester and Toronto, these bottles typically appear in amber. A few examples of greenish amber and green have surfaced over the years and these are particularly rare. There has always



Warner's Safe Nervine, London (Photograph courtesy of Michael Seeliger)



Warner's Safe Cure, Warner's Safe Nervine, Warner's Safe Cure and Warner's Safe Rheumatic Cure London in Clear (Photograph courtesy of Michael Seeliger)

been some question about the origin of the Melbourne/Dunedin bottles. Although we do not have a definitive answer, it has been suggested that the early bottles, with the embossed iron safe, were made elsewhere, possibly in the United States, and shipped to Australia.

LABELED BOTTLES

In most cases, labels on Safe Cure bottles are an interesting addition, which may add value or even make a particular Safe Cure bottle rare. Take, for example, the ubiquitous Rochester Kidney & Liver Cure. The bottle, without a label, routinely sells for \$20-25. However, the addition of a label in good condition or a rare label (e.g., the label with a \$2.00 price) can elevate the value many times over. Also, Kidney & Liver Cures with transition labels from 1895 with the "Canadian Proprietary Medicine Act" stamped in red over the label are rare.

1.HULBERT WARNER ON ORIGINAL WARNER BOTTLE.

This strap sided oval bottle is embossed "The Original Dr. Craig's Kidney Cure/ Rochester, NY". This bottle shows that Warner and Craig jointly produced a bottle before Warner shifted to his bottles with the embossed iron safe. This bottle was likely sold only between March and June, 1879. Only one example of this labeled bottle is known to exist.

2.WARNER'S SAFE KIDNEY & LIVER CURE WITH \$2.00 PRICE.

This was one of the earliest examples of the Safe Cure bottles with the embossed iron safe and slug plate and was used between June and December, 1879. Most pint-sized Kidney & Liver Cure bottles bear the price of \$1.25. The price was reduced by Warner from \$2.00 to \$1.25 in January, 1880. The Diabetes Cure also sold for \$2.00 a bottle, but no examples have surfaced to date.

3.WARNER'S SAFE CURE WITH FRENCH LABEL.

This bottle is a common London Safe Cure, but with a French language label. It would suggest that the London Office shipped Safe Cure to France with only a modification to the labelling. The bottle would be post-1883, but the specific date is unknown. Warner intermittently claimed to have an office in Paris, but no bottles embossed "Paris" are known to exist. This is the only example of the French labeled bottle known to exist.





Warner's Safe Cure in strong green color. Frankfurt (Photograph courtesy of Terry McMurray)



There are some bottles whose labels put them on our list of favorite labeled Safe Cures. (Photograph courtesy of Steve Jackson)

4.WARNER'S SAFE CURE FOR ANIMALS (40 OZ.).

Animal Cures are desirable on their own, but add a label with the great graphic of the cow and you have one terrific bottle. These bottles are scarce because they were special order from druggists. Only two of these labeled Animals Cures are known to exist.

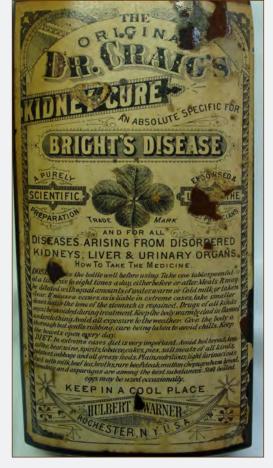
5.WARNER'S SAFE BITTERS (PINT OR HALF PINT).

Like Animal Cures, the Safe Bitters are desirable in their own right. Labeled versions are very hard to come by and only 1 or 2 are known.

6. WARNER'S SAFE TONIC (PINT). Another of the early Warner's bottles, the labeled Safe Tonic pint is a rare bird.

7.WARNER'S SAFE TONIC BITTERS. The Safe Tonic Bitters replaced the Safe

Image to the right - No 1. - "The Original Dr. Craig's Kidney Cure/Rochester, NY". This bottle shows that Warner and Craig jointly produced a bottle before Warner shifted to his bottles with the embossed iron safe. (Photograph courtesy of Mike & Kathie Craig)



Bitters and the Safe Tonic; however, Warner used the Tonic Bitters label on both the discontinued Bitters and Tonic bottles. Ultimately, the bitters line was replaced by Tippecanoe.

8.LOG CABIN SCALPINE/HAIR TONIC.

Although a significant number of labeled Log Cabin Remedies bottles exist, the labeled Scalpine or later, Hair Tonic are the hardest to come by. The hair remedies did not find much traction and were not good sellers, hence their rarity. Perhaps 4 or 5 examples of this bottle exist.

9.LOG CABIN ROSE CREAM.

This product was not packaged in the paneled amber bottle, but rather in a clear cylindrical bottle with a metal screw cap. The cap was embossed but the bottle was labeled only. An extremely rare bottle, especially with a label.

10.WARNER'S SAFE DIABETES REMEDY AND SAFE NERVINE SAMPLES.

Samples of Warner's Safe Cure and Safe Remedy were not introduced until after



No. 4 - Warner's Safe Cure for Animals Only (Photograph courtesy of Terry McMurray)



No. 5 - Warner's Safe Bitters (Photograph courtesy of Michael Seeliger)

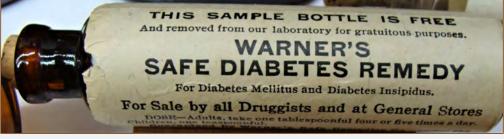
1900 in the familiar amber cylinder. Labeled versions of the Diabetes Remedy and Nervine are unique. The Sample Nervine is a label only over a clear vial

11.WARNER'S SAFE CURE PRESSBURG WITH "DIABETIC" CURE LABEL.

A number of labeled Pressburg Safe Cures have surfaced over the years in both amber and green; however, there is only one know bottle with the "Diabetic" Cure label. Truly rare.

12.TIPPECANOE WITH "XXX BITTERS" LABEL.

Tippecanoe was produced in two strengths, "XXX Bitters" and "The Best". The "XXX Bitters" was discontinued by Warner after the first couple of years and is the rarer





No. 10 - Warner's Safe Diabetes Remedy and Warner's Safe Nervine Sample Bottles (Photograph courtesy of Michael Seeliger)



No. 8 - Warner's Log Cabin, Hair Tonic (Photograph courtesy of Michael Seeliger)

of the two. More labeled examples of "The Best" exist, but the labeled "XXX Bitters" are hard to come by and are more sought after by collectors.

13.WARNER'S SEDATIVE.
Labeled versions of the Safe Remedies Co. bottles are fairly common with the "Diuretic" being the most common. Of these later Warner's remedies, the Sedative is he most difficult to find, because it was a transition from the Nervine.

14.WARNER'S SAFE COM-POUND (LONDON).

This bottle also appears on our list of rare bottles above. Needless to say, the labelled version is exceedingly rare. In this case, a labeled version of either of the two Safe Compounds would be hard to find.

ERROR BOTTLES

There are a variety of Safe Cure bottles with embossing errors that set them apart from the pack. The best know example is, perhaps, the left-handed safe, which is not a rare bottle, but one which is treasured by Warner's collectors. Other error bottles include Tippecanoe bottles with the word "Rochester" misspelled on the base and Safe Remedies Co. bottles, where the word "Safe" is missing. With so many varieties of errors, it is difficult to say which are common and which are rare. Suffice it to say that Safe Cure bottles with errors would likely be more uncommon that their error-free counterparts.

THE UNICORNS

In some cases and based upon our research, we know that Warner produced certain products and advertised those products. Despite that fact, examples of those products have yet to surface for whatever reason. Here are a few of our favorite examples.

1.WARNER'S SAFE THROATINE (1884).

This product, packaged in a tin, was the predecessor to Warner's Safe



No. 8 - Warner's Safe Compound (Photograph courtesy of John Ault)

Asthma Cure. Tins for the Asthma Cure, Asthma Remedy and Asthma Powder are rare, because the product was burned in the container. It is not clear why the name "Throatine" was discontinued by Warner, but it may have been because it was unclear what the product was designed to do.

The American Reformer, December 20, 1884

2. WARNER'S SAFE BAKING POWDER (1885).

Most Warner's collectors are familiar with Warner's Safe Yeast. It may have been second only to the Kidney & Liver Cure in terms of gross sales. In 1885, Warner also marketed a Safe Baking Powder. To our knowledge it appeared only in one almanac and was then dropped. While we have example of Safe Yeast containers, we have seen no examples of Safe Baking Powder containers.

3.LOG CABIN PLASTERS (1887).

Warner's ads for his Log Cabin Remedies line included eight different products. Among those products were Log Cabin Plasters. Plasters were used in early American medicine for a variety of reasons. Generally, there were a dry mix of ingredients contained in a cloth bag. The bag was then dampened and applied to the patient's skin. Since such a product was not packaged in a glass container, once disposed of, there was nothing left to find. To date, no examples have surfaced.

4. WARNER'S SAFE YEAST IN SMALL SOUARE BOX.

While some examples of the Warner's Safe Yeast cylindrical cardboard container have survived to the present day, the same cannot be said for the small square box of Safe Yeast in which the product was offered.

As we said at the outset of this article, the bottles we have highlighted as our favorites are purely our opinion. It is fair to say that even we disagree about some of the bottles included, so we don't expect readers to take this as gospel. Indeed, it is our hope that this article provides fuel for debate among collectors. If we do that, our work is done.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Jack Stecher, Kathie and Mike Craig and Terry McMurray for their expertise and encouragement in the preparation of this article.

THE AMERICAN REFORMER

HAY FEVER, INFLUENZA, BRONCHITIS, CROUP, COLDS, AND ALL THROAT, NASAL AND BRONCHIAL DISORDERS

WITH WARNER'S "SAFE" THROATINE. CURED

A STHMA is a disease characterized by the breathing, previously natural, becoming difficult, accompanied by wheezing and a distressing sense of tightness of the chest, accompanied by paroxysms. The disease generally appears after some inflammatory affection of the respiratory organs; in other cases it is hereditary. The spasms occur most frequently in the early morning hours, suddenly awakening the patient from sleep, who is obliged to assume an upright position to prevent suffocation, while with fixed head and elevated shoulders he labors for breath like a dying man. If the spasm is protracted, the oxygenation of the blood is imperfect, owing to the scanny supply of air, and his extremities get cold and blue, but at the same time the violent muscular exertion coverts his body with sweat. The paroxysms are generally preceded by languor, flatulency, headache, a feeling of anxiety, and a sense of tightness and fullness about the chest. Physicians generally distinguish three kinds about the chest. Physicians generally distinguish three kinds of Asthma—the humid, dry and spasmodic, according as they are or are not attended with ough or expectoration.

The disease is a most distressing one, and any relief is

they are or are not attended with lough or expectoration. The disease is a most distressing one, and any relief is gladly hailed by the asthmatic. H. H. Warner & Co., of Rochester, N. Y., believing it to be their duty to relieve suffering humanity as much as is in their power, have placed on the market, in addition to their "SAFE" REMDIES



and TIPPECANOE, a preparation the relief and cure of Asthma and WARNER'S "SAFE" THROATINE.

53

I is no new remedy, having been tested in a limited way for years. Knowing of its virtues, H. H. Warner & Co. have scientifically perfected it, and now place it within the reach of all, with the assurance that it will do exactly a-

represented.

Below are a few of the hundreds of Testimonials freely given, attesting the virtues of WARNERS "SAFE' THROATINE. It will be noticed that most of them are concerning its effects with asthmatics. If it will cure and relieve this extreme and obstinate disorder, our readen may well know that with milder disorders of the throat nasal passagers and lunes, its operation is enually effective.

ay well know that with minute to a country and the same and lungs, its operation is equally effective. Ince thoroughly tried, it will always be the favorite house-old remedy for such disorders. THROATINE sells for \$1.00 to \$1.00 Apparent One-Half Size Box. of any similar preparent the top cover, defective wrapper.

No. 1 - The American Reformer, December 20th, 1884, Warner's Safe Throatine





No. 2 - Warner's Safe Baking Powder from Warner's Telephone Book (Photograph courtesy of John Ault)