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Pharmacies and their products in the Edo period

In April 1829, the Edo period *gesaku* author Kyokutei Bakin (1767-1848) noted in his diary the injury of a mouse bite, which caused him considerable trouble. The record of his following attempts to attend the wound presents not only some insights into the treatment methods he applied but shows also the availability of what has been considered as appropriate medicines at the beginning of the nineteenth century. In the medical landscape of early modern Japan, the pharmacy began to play an increasingly important role in providing means of health care for the population among other health initiatives. In this paper I therefore will discuss its beginning as a place, in which all sorts of ingredients for a recipe are cut, chopped, measured and sold to an establishment that offered a wide range of medicinal items from single and rare drugs to proprietary medicines.

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