

## Northamptonshire Record Office

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Records of P.R. Duncan,  
Chemist of the Rexall Pharmacy,  
7, Station Road, Irthlingborough.

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The first chemist in Irthlingborough was a Mr. Blott, who opened a pharmacy in the High Street in 1880, which continued until Mr. Coles took over the business in 1905.

In 1924 P.R. Duncan came from Aberdeen to Irthlingborough and started a new dispensing and photographic pharmacy at 7, Station Road, Irthlingborough. This was known as the Rexall Pharmacy, as Mr. Duncan was an agent for the Rexall Co. Ltd., who owned pharmacies in several towns. Mr. Duncan became the dispenser for doctors in Irthlingborough, Woodford, Little and Great Addington. Some customers, mainly businesses, doctors and a few individuals, held quarterly accounts with Mr. Duncan. Sales of goods were held twice yearly, with goods sold at two for the price of one plus a penny.

Mr. Coles chemist's shop in the High Street was sold to a Mr. Ingham in c.1949, who in turn sold the business in c.1956 to Summerfield and Sparkes, who still run the pharmacy today. The Co-operative Society also opened a pharmacy in 1948, but there being not enough trade in Irthlingborough for three chemists, the Co-operative Pharmacy was forced to close down in 1951.

Mr. Duncan sold the Rexall Pharmacy to Summerfield and Sparks on May 25th. 1963 and went into semi-retirement. During his time as a chemist in Irthlingborough, Mr. Duncan was very interested in pharmaceutical politics. He was chairman of the Northamptonshire branch of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1937/8, chairman of the Northamptonshire Pharmaceutical Committee from 1952-1973 and a member of the Northamptonshire Executive Council for the National Health Service from its inception.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

P.R. Duncan

- 1 \*Purchase Book: Jan 1950-April 1963  
A monthly record of purchases from suppliers, giving the name of the supplier, amount paid plus the amount of purchase tax and amount of any credit.
  
- 2 Receipts and Payments Book: 1930-1933  
Shows the daily, weekly and monthly cash receipts at the front of the book. Payments out are recorded at the back of the book.
  
- 3 Private Prescription Book: Feb 1932-Oct 1934  
(retained by Summerfield and Sparkes, High Street, Irthlingborough)  
A daily account of all prescriptions made up, showing the names and addresses of customers, what their prescriptions were and the price.
  
- 4 \*Customers Accounts Ledger: Aug 1927-Jan 1955  
Lists all the goods and their values bought on account by customers. Values totalled up and paid quarterly. Loose in the front are lists dated July 1954 and January 1955 of customers accounts with their values totalled.

\*Gift to the Record Office.

December, 1977.