

The genealogy book of pharmacists of Zhang-shu-zhen, in the Qing Dynasty, China

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Throughout the Qing dynasty, the commodity economy and domestic distribution in China developed dramatically. In this context, the market of Chinese medicines also expanded. At that time, the Zhang-shu-zhen pharmacists, in Jiangxi province, took the initiative in this market. This study explores their activities which were spread across China and it also examines the level of success or failure of their activities as well as the economical impact to the society of Zhang-shu-zhen. Some historical evidence documents their activity over the centuries. However, the most complete record of their passage through time were the genealogy books that the most prominent families kept. Chinese genealogy books are a Chinese tradition of recording various information about male family members. The information that is usually included is the name, the marital status, the person's occupation and his business activity.

40th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy, Berlin, Germany, September 14-17, 2011