PHARMAZIEMUSEUM
UNIVERSITÄT BASEL

animalistic! From animal to active pharmaceutical ingredients

3 December 2021 to 5 June 2022

The theme of the exhibition in the Pharmaziemuseum deals with the question of how animals have been used as raw material, symbol and artifact in the history of pharmacy.

Deer testicles (testiculi cervi), "Vitrisol mit Testes" (Testicle extract)
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Since ancient times, there existed many popular remedies derived from raw materials of animals and their body parts. For example, horn, skin, excrement or offal were prepared in various ways with the aim of curing diseases. Some raw materials (e.g. from the bee) are still used today in a medical context. Without large quantities of slaughterhouse waste, on the other hand, the development of industrial hormone production, for example cortisone, would hardly have been possible. The variety and origin of the animal preparations developed throughout history are impressive. The exhibition not only focuses on different methods of using animal materials that have changed little over long periods of time, it also reports on economic problems of material procurement as well as medical explanations of the mode of action of animal drugs.

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