

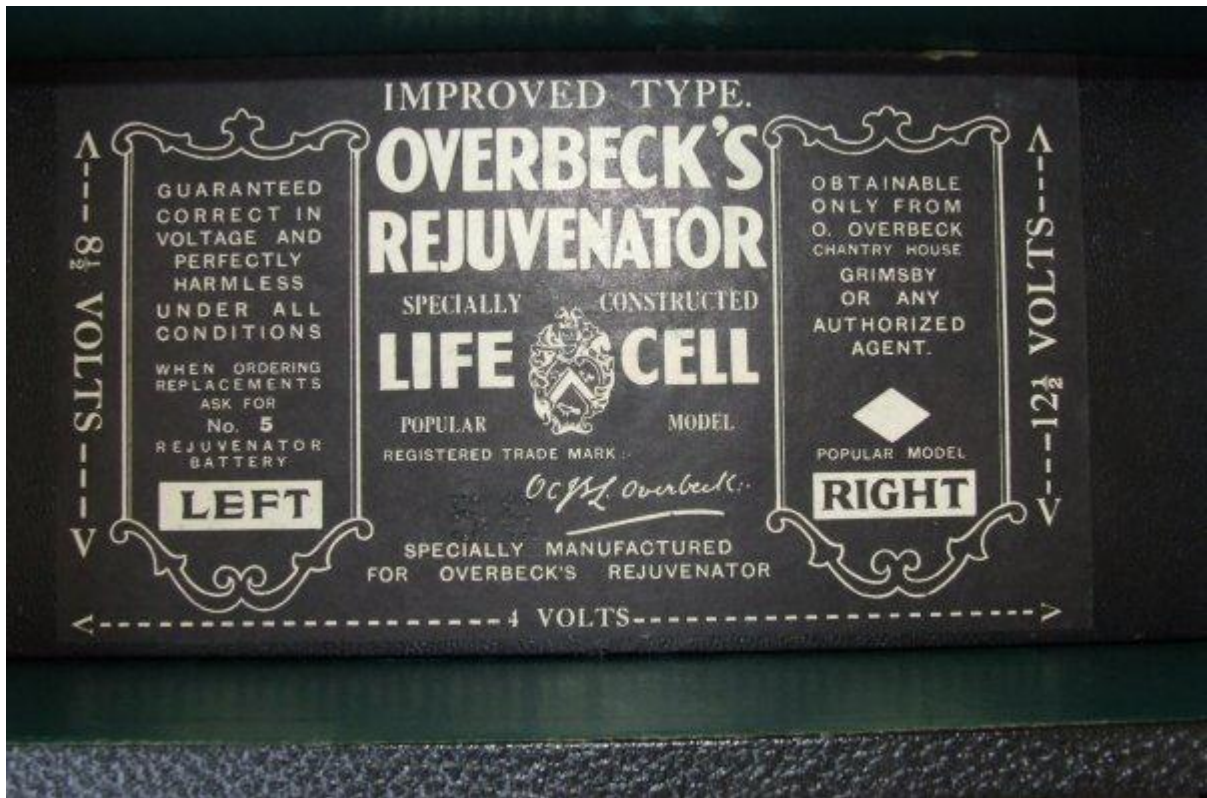
<http://www.cchs-nb.ca/html/Overbeck.html>

Carleton County Historical Society, Inc.
128 Connell Street, Woodstock, N. B.

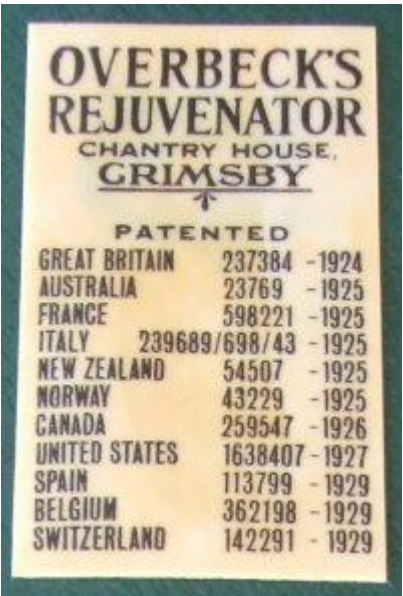
Overbeck Rejuvenator #2006.12



An electric shock treatment device, the unit consists of leatherette-covered case, 31 cm. by 12.6 cm., 14 cm. high, containing a tray holding four probes and a pair of connecting wires. Beneath the tray, the lower half of the case contains a battery pack with three selectable outputs of 4, 8½ and 12½ volts.



External sockets are provided for each voltage level, into which a pair of fabric-covered wires, terminating in banana plugs on each end, are inserted to provide power to the probes. Each probe has an appropriate socket on one end, an insulated handle, and either a tubular or comb-shaped head. All metal probe parts are chromed brass. This specimen appears to have been manufactured *circa* 1930.



While the Rejuvenator is in remarkably fine condition, except for a dead battery, the usage instructions that originally accompanied it are missing.

The 1925 Canadian patent application (which seems to cover only the comb probe) explains that the double-sided



comb probe is placed atop the head, while the second probe is placed on the afflicted area of the body, allowing voltage to pass from the patient's head, through the body, to the area to be treated. The length of the teeth on either side of the comb permit firm contact with the patient's scalp, regardless of hair growth.

Dr. Otto Gerhardt Christop Ludwig Joseph Overbeck, a native of England, was a chemist, researching yeasts in the brewing industry. He patented his first Rejuvenator in England in 1924 and continued to expand his patent base over the next five years, at least. The admonition to "ask for No. 5 Rejuvenator battery" may indicate this specimen was the fifth model in a continuing design series.

In the absence of a manual or instruction booklet, the claims to benefits offered by the Rejuvenator are unknown. Dr. Overbeck published a 246-page book, "*Overbeck's electronic theory of life*," but the only copy located to date (a 3rd edition, published 1931) is in the Bakken Library and Museum, Minneapolis.

It is apparent that the Rejuvenator achieved some market success. Whether it was a major contributor to Dr. Overbeck's finances cannot be determined at present, but he was able to purchase a quite stately residence in Salcombe, Devon, in 1928. At his death in 1937, the property was left to the National Trust and now, as the [Overbeck Museum](#), houses his various collections and samples of his instruments.

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/billsmoorfoot/6989659865/>

Overbeck's Rejuvenator "Life Regenerator" Quack Medical Electric Therapy c1920's

Overbeck's Rejuvenator "Life Regenerator"

Quack Medical Electric Therapy Device

Made in England c1920's

A galvanic treatment device first patented in 1924 and the subject of Otto Christop Joseph Gerhardt Ludwig Overbeck's two treatises, "A New Electronic Theory of Life", 1926, and "The Secret of Life, Health and Rejuvenation, 1934.

The unit consists of leatherette-covered case, containing a tray holding four probes and a pair of connecting wires. Beneath the tray, the lower half of the case contains a battery pack with three selectable outputs of 4, 8½ and 12½ volts.

This example comes complete with all the electrodes, cables, spanners and a bulb device to test the battery. External sockets are provided for each voltage level, into which a pair of fabric-covered wires are inserted to provide power to the probes. There are four electrodes with phenolic handles.

There are no instructions, but apparently the double-sided comb probe is placed atop the head, while the second probe is placed on the afflicted area of the body, allowing voltage to pass from the patient's head, through the body, to the area to be treated. The length of the teeth on either side of the comb permit firm contact with the patient's scalp, regardless of hair growth.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a digital museum page. The page title is "Overbeck's Rejuvenator". The main content area features a map of the region around Oslo, Norway, with a red square indicating the location of the device. To the right of the map is a photograph of the device, which is a leatherette-covered case containing a tray with four probes and a battery pack. Below the photograph is a video player with a play button icon. The page also includes a "Relaterte ressurser" (Related resources) section with links to "Overbecks Museum & Garden" and "Carleton County Historical Society". A "Kommentarer" (Comments) section is visible at the bottom right, with several user comments and timestamps. The website's navigation bar includes "Nasjonal oversikt", "Avansert søk", and "spost". The page is dated 28.05.2009 and is located in Oslo.