

Hook's

DRUGSTORE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

HOOK'D ON HISTORY

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Hook's Drug Store Museum newsletter. We hope to add value to your medical knowledge with fun and interesting information from the bygone era of the turn of 19th century, with facts and tales that will be sure to entertain.

Case Study: Below are some ways to treat the common cold, called catarrh in 1900. Ask yourself if that is what is still used today for the symptoms of the cold?

Option 1: Together, the doctor and the druggist worked to keep their patients as healthy as possible using the most advanced medical information and prescriptions of the day.

Common therapies dispensed by the 19th century druggist could include:

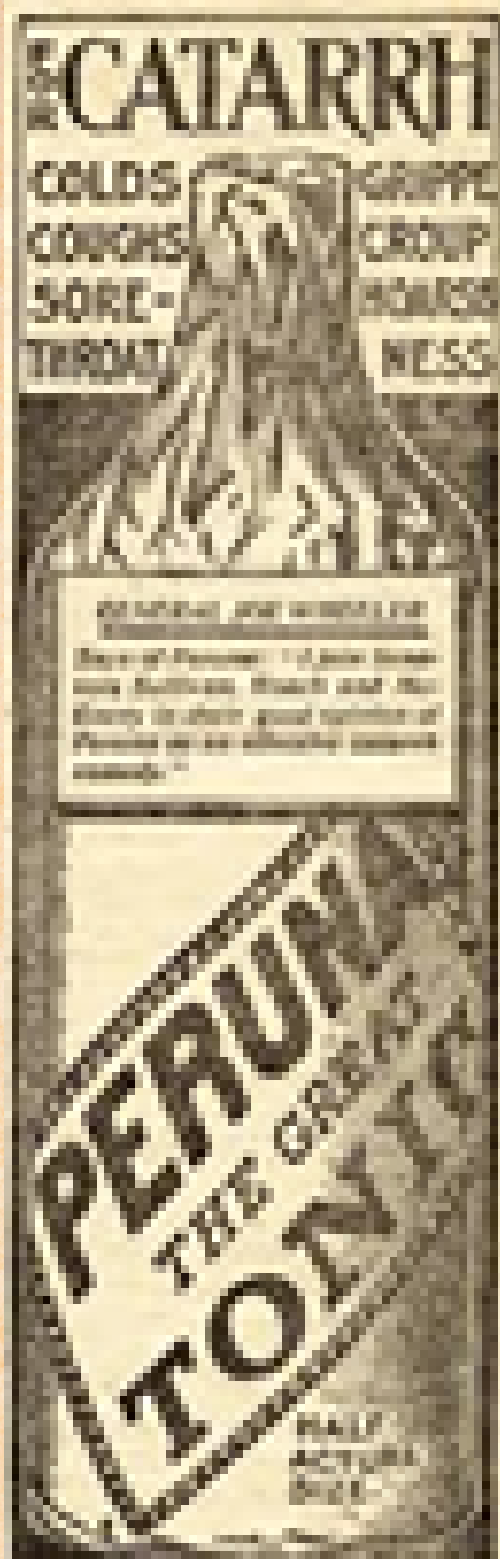
- Syrup of Ipecacuanha — 1 teaspoonful, three times daily. (A remedy used to induce vomiting, often thought to clear the airways).
- Tincture of Belladonna — 5 drops by mouth, twice a day. (Belladonna was often used to reduce inflammation and relieve nasal congestion).
- Zinc Sulfate — 1/4 grain, twice daily. (Used to dry up excess mucous and treat irritation in the nasal passages).
- Inhalation of Steam (with menthol) — As needed, 3-4 times daily. (Vapor treatments were popular for soothing the nasal passages and alleviating congestion).

Option 2: The patient may stroll down to the drug store and ask for Humphrey's Specifics #19, a 25 cent homeopathic remedy commonly sold to self treat.



Although it is unknown what is in any of the Humphrey's Specifics, #19 contained homeopathic remedies designed to alleviate symptoms of the common cold. Homeopathic ingredients typically included various diluted substances aimed at stimulating the body's natural defenses against congestion, runny nose, and other catarrh symptoms.

Option 3: The patient may try any number of patent medicines, which were popular at the time.



Think of patent medicines as the over-the-counter medicine of its day, albeit lacking proper labeling, containing false claims, and disregard for safety or effectiveness data. Patent medicines were likely heavily laced with opium and/or alcohol. Peruna, as an example, shown to the left, was a well-known patent medicine with claims to cure catarrh and supposedly containing 28% alcohol. Many patent medicines claimed to “cure” the disease it said to be treating .

Option 4: The doctor’s prescriptions

The doctor could prescribe a product that one of the fledgling medicinal chemists was manufacturing. Such an example was made here in Indianapolis by Lilly. The patient might end up taking a prescription for “Cold No. 1”, shown to the right: a tablet containing quinine, acetanilid, ipecac, podophyllin, caffeine, capsicum, and aconite root with the dose 1-2 tablets every 2 hours.



Lots of choices, even back at the turn of the century!!

We hope to see you at the fair this year.

If you have any ideas for this newsletter, please let us know. If you want a tour or to volunteer let us know as well.