

# DISEASES AND MEDICAL TERMS for GENEALOGISTS

## MEDICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS for GENEALOGISTS

### Glossary

- **Abasia.** Hysterical inability to walk or stand.
- **Ablepsia/Ablepsy/Abopsia.** Blindness
- **Abortion.** Expulsion of a foetus before it is viable, ie. Miscarriage. When this results from the actions of the doctor it is termed induced abortion or termination of pregnancy
- **Abortus Fever.** Brucellosis
- **Abscess.** A localised collection of pus buried in tissues, organs, or confined spaces of the body, often accompanied by swelling and inflammation and frequently caused by bacteria. The brain, lung, or kidney (for instance) could be involved. See boil.
- **Accoucheur.** A man who acts as a midwife.
- **Accoucheuse.** A midwife
- **Accubation.** Childbirth
- **Acescency.** A tendency to sourness; incipient or slight acidity
- **Achor.** Eruption on the scalp
- **Actinic Rays.** Ultra-violet light
- **Acute Angina.** Sore throat
- **Acute Mania.** Severe insanity
- **Acute.** Describes any illness of sudden or recent onset
- **Addison's disease.** A disease characterised by severe weakness, low blood pressure, and a bronzed coloration of the skin, due to decreased secretion of cortisol from the adrenal gland. Dr. Thomas Addison (1793-1860), born near Newcastle, England, described the disease in 1855. Synonyms: Morbus addisonii, bronzed skin disease.
- **Aegrotantem.** Illness, sickness
- **Aglutition.** Inability to swallow
- **Agony.** iterally means the violent struggle with death
- **Ague.** Malarial or intermittent fever characterised by paroxysms (stages of chills, fever, and sweating at regularly recurring times) and followed by an interval or intermission whose length determines the epithets: quotidian, tertian, quartan, and quintan ague (defined in the text). Popularly, the disease was known as "fever and ague," "chill fever," "the shakes," and by names expressive of the locality in which it was prevalent—such as, "swamp fever" (in Louisiana), "Panama fever," and "Chagres fever."
- **Ague-cake.** A form of enlargement of the spleen, resulting from the action of malaria on the system.
- **Ainhum.** Stricture resulting from minor cuts at the base of a digit eventually resulting in amputation
- **Albuminuria** – an abnormal condition characterised by the presence of albumose in the urine.
- **Albumose** – a substance formed during the early digestion of protein. It is an intermediate stage between albumen and peptone.
- **Aleppo Boil.** See Leishmaniasis
- **Alveolus** – 1. An air vesicle of the lung. 2. A tooth socket. 3. A gland follicle or acinus.
- **Alvine.** Pertaining to the bowels
- **Alzheimer's Disease.** Form of dementia
- **American Plague.** Yellow fever
- **Anasarca.** Generalised massive dropsy. See dropsy.
- **Ancome.** A whitlow, an ulcerous swelling
- **Aneurysm** – a local dilation in the course of an artery: may occur in any part but most common in the arch of the aorta, thoracic aorta, femoral artery, popliteal artery and abdominal aorta (last one more rarely).
- **Angina Pectoris** – characterised by agonising pain directly behind the breastbone, due to temporary lack of blood supply to the heart muscle. The pain, which radiates down the left arm, is so acute that, the sufferer is unable or afraid to move and retains that position assumed when the attack commenced. The face is pale and the skin cold and clammy.
- **Angina.** Means choking – spasmodic attacks of pain accompanied by a sensation of suffocation and impending death.

- **Anile.** Of or like an old woman; imbecile
- **Anteroseptal** – myocardial infarction. Occluded left anterior descending coronary bypass graft.
- **Anthracois.** Lung disease caused by inhalation of coal dust. A form of pneumoconiosis
- **Aperient.** A laxative medicine or food
- **Aphonia.** Laryngitis
- **Aphtha(e).** See thrush.
- **Aphthous stomatitis.** See canker.
- **Apnoea** – a transitory cessation of breathing.
- **Apoplexy.** Paralysis due to stroke
- **Arachnoid** – resembling a spider's web.
- **Arteriosclerosis** – thickening and hardening of artery walls.
- **Ascites.** See dropsy.
- **Asphyxia/Asphixia.** Cyanotic and lack of oxygen
- **Asthenia.** See debility.
- **Atavism.** Heredity
- **Atelectasis** – imperfect expansion of lungs of a newborn baby. Collapse of the lungs.
- **Atheroma** – slow degeneration of arteries when fatty deposits collect on the inner lining.
- **Athetosis.** Writhing movements
- **Atrophy.** Wasting away or emaciation. Usually modified e.g. Brain atrophy.
  
- **Bad Blood.** Syphilis.
- **Barber's Itch.** Infection of the hair follicles of the beard area
- **Barber's Rash.** Infection of the hair follicles of the beard area
- **Barrel Fever.** Vomiting or illness due to excessive consumption of alcoholic drinks
- **Beriberi.** Vitamin B1 deficiency
- **Bilious fever.** A term loosely applied to certain enteric (intestinal) and malarial fevers. See typhus.
- **Biliousness.** A complex of symptoms comprising nausea, abdominal discomfort, headache, and constipation—formerly attributed to excessive secretion of bile from the liver.
- **Biskra Button.** See Leishmaniasis
- **Black Death.** Bubonic plague
- **Black Fever.** Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high mortality rate
- **Black Jaundice.** Weil's Disease. Disease with fever and jaundice. Caused by a germ found in the urine of rats and hence common in workers who work in dirty water such as miners and sewer workers. Can be rarely contracted from birds.
- **Black Lung.** Disease from breathing coal dust
- **Black Plague.** Bubonic plague
- **Black Pox.** Black small pox
- **Black Vomit.** Vomiting black blood due to ulcers or Yellow fever.
- **Blackwater Fever.** Severe form of malaria in which the urine contains so much blood it appears black.
- **Bladder In Throat.** Diphtheria
- **Blood Poisoning.** Septicaemia
- **Bloody Flux.** Dysentery
- **Bloody Sweat.** Sweating sickness
- **Boil.** An abscess of skin or painful, circumscribed inflammation of the skin or a hair follicle, having a dead, pus-forming inner core, usually caused by a staphylococcal infection. Synonym: furuncle.
- **Bone Shave.** Sciatica
- **Brain fever.** See meningitis, typhus.
- **Brassfounders Ague.** Illness caused by poisoning from fumes produced during the production of metals
- **Break Bone Fever.** Dengue fever
- **Bright's Disease.** Bright's disease is a catch all for kidney diseases
- **Brill's Disease.** Typhus
- **Bromidism.** Condition caused by over indulgence of potassium bromide
- **Bronchial Asthma.** A paroxysmal, often allergic disorder of breathing, characterised by spasm of the bronchial tubes of the lungs, wheezing, and difficulty in breathing air outward—often accompanied by coughing and a feeling of tightness in the chest. In the nineteenth century the direct causes were thought to be dust, vegetable irritants, chemical vapours, animal emanations, climatic influences, and bronchial inflammation—all of which were reasonable guesses. The indirect causes were thought to be transmissions by the nervous system or by the blood from gout, syphilis, skin disease, renal disease, or heredity. Only the latter cause was a reasonable assumption.
- **Bronchial Catarrh.** See Bronchitis
- **Bronchiectasis** – Dilation of the bronchial tubes.
- **Bronchitis** – inflammation of the air passages.
- **Bronze John.** Yellow fever

- **Brucellosis.** Disease from drinking contaminated milk, causes a feverish illness of variable duration and frequently depression. In Malta can be caught from goats and in the USA and far east from pigs.
- **Bubo.** Inflamed, enlarged or painful gland in the groin. One of the symptoms of Bubonic Plague.
- **Bule.** Boil, tumour or swelling
- **Bulimia.** Excessive appetite.
  
- **Cachaemia.** Any blood disease
- **Cachexia.** (ka-keks-i-a) Emaciation usually due to cancer or malaria. A term denoting a state of constitutional disorder, malnutrition and general ill health. The chief signs of this condition are bodily emaciation, sallow, unhealthy skin and heavy lustreless eyes. Wasting.
- **Cacoepy.** Emaciation
- **Cacoethes.** Recurrent bad health
- **Cacogastric.** Indigestion
- **Cacospisy.** Irregular pulse
- **Caduceus.** 1. The symbol of a sword and intertwined snakes (the herald's wand)  
2. Prone to falling or epilepsy. Caducous is a botanical term describing a plant that dies or sheds its leaves prematurely
- **Caisson Disease.** The bends or decompression sickness
- **Calculus** – a concretion (deposit of calcific or other hard material) formed within certain parts of the body cavities, especially the kidneys, ureter, urinary bladder, gall bladder and bile ducts.
- **Camp Diarrhoea.** See Typhus
- **Camp fever.** See typhus.
- **Cancer.** A malignant and invasive growth or tumour (especially tissue that covers a surface or lines a cavity), tending to recur after excision and to spread to other sites. In the nineteenth century, physicians noted that cancerous tumours tended to ulcerate, grew constantly, and progressed to a fatal end and that there was scarcely a tissue they would not invade. Synonyms: malignant growth, carcinoma.
- **Cancrem Oris.** A severe, destructive, eroding ulcer of the cheek and lip, rapidly proceeding to sloughing. In the last century it was seen in delicate, ill-fed, ill-tended children between the ages of two and five. The disease was the result of poor hygiene acting upon a debilitated system. It commonly followed one of the eruptive fevers and was often fatal. The destructive disease could, in a few days, lead to gangrene of the lips, cheeks, tonsils, palate, tongue, and even half the face; teeth would fall from their sockets, and a horribly fetid saliva flowed from the parts. Synonyms: canker, water canker, noma, gangrenous stomatitis, gangrenous ulceration of the mouth.
- **Canine Madness.** Rabies, hydrophobia (Fear of water).
- **Canker.** An ulcerous sore of the mouth and lips, not considered fatal today. Synonym: aphthous stomatitis. See cancrem Oris.
- **Carbuncle.** A large boil
- **Carcinoma.** See cancer.
- **Carcinomatosis** – generalised involvement by carcinoma (cancer) a malignant growth derived from epithelia and glandular tissue.
- **Cardiac Arrhythmia** – irregular heartbeat.
- **Cardiac Insufficiency** – heart failure.
- **Carditis.** Inflammation of the heart wall
- **Caries.** Destruction of bone
- **Catalepsy.** Seizures/trances
- **Catamenia.** The menstrual discharge or menstruation
- **Cataplasm.** Poultice
- **Cataplexy.** Trance like state brought on by extreme fright (like a rabbit in car's headlights)
- **Catarrh.** Inflammation of a mucous membrane, especially of the air passages of the head and throat, with a free discharge. It is characterised by cough, thirst, lassitude, fever, watery eyes, and increased secretions of mucus from the air passages. Bronchial catarrh was bronchitis; suffocative catarrh was croup; urethral catarrh was gleet; vaginal catarrh was leukorrhoea; epidemic catarrh was the same as influenza. Synonyms: cold, coryza.
- **Cathartic.** Laxative
- **Caul.** The membrane surrounding a baby before it is born. May not rupture at birth and cover the baby's head. (Supposed to have been lucky if child was born with its caul intact.)
- **Cellulitis** – inflammation of the cellular or connective tissue.
- **Cerebral** – the brain. Pertaining to the cerebrum.
- **Cerebritis.** Inflammation of cerebrum or lead poisoning
- **Cerebrospinal** – pertaining to the brain and spinal cord.
- **Chagres fever.** See Ague
- **Chilblain.** Swelling with itching and burning sensation of the extremities caused by exposure to cold.
- **Child Bed Fever.** Infection (in the mother) following birth of a child
- **Childbirth.** A cause given for many female deaths of the century. Almost all babies were born in homes and usually were delivered by a family member or a midwife; thus infection and lack of medical skill were often the actual causes of death.

- **Chincough.** Whooping cough
- **Chlorosis.** Iron deficiency anaemia
- **Choak.** Croup
- **Choke-Damp.** Asphyxiating gas, largely carbon dioxide, accumulated in a mine, well, etc.
- **Cholaemia.** The presence of bile in the blood.
- **Cholangitis.** Inflammation of the bile duct.
- **Cholecystitis.** Inflammation of the gall bladder
- **Cholelithiasis.** Gall stones
- **Cholera Infantum.** A common, non-contagious diarrhoea of young children, occurring in summer or autumn. In the nineteenth century it was considered indigenous to the United States; was prevalent during the hot weather in most of the towns of the middle and southern states, as well as many western areas; and was characterised by gastric pain, vomiting, purgation, fever, and prostration. It was common among the poor and in hand-fed babies. Death frequently occurred in three to five days. Synonyms: summer complaint, weaning brash, water gripes, choleric fever of children, cholera morbus.
- **Cholera Morbus.** Illness with vomiting, abdominal cramps and elevated temperature. Could be appendicitis
- **Cholera.** An acute, infectious disease, endemic in India and China and now occasionally epidemic elsewhere—characterised by profuse diarrhoea, vomiting, and cramps. It is caused by a potent toxin discharged by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, which acts on the small intestine to cause secretion of large amounts of fluid. The painless, watery diarrhoea and the passing of rice-water stool are characteristic. Great body-salt depletion occurs. Cholera is spread by faeces-contaminated water and food. Major epidemics struck the United States in the years 1832, 1849, and 1866. In the 1830s the causes were generally thought to be intemperance in the use of ardent spirits or drinking bad water; uncleanness, poor living or crowded and ill-ventilated dwellings; and too much fatigue. By 1850 cholera was thought to be caused by putrid animal poison and miasma or pestilential vapour rising from swamps and marshes—or that it entered the body through the lungs or was transmitted through the medium of clothing. It was still believed that it attacked the poor, the dissolute, the diseased, and the fearful—while the healthy, well-clad, well-fed, and fearless man escaped the ravages of cholera.
- **Choleric Fever Of Children.** See Cholera Infantum
- **Cholecystitis.** Inflammation of the gall bladder.
- **Cholelithiasis.** Gall stones
- **Chorea.** Any of several diseases of the nervous system, characterised by jerky movements that appear to be well coordinated but are performed involuntarily, chiefly of the face and extremities. Synonym: Saint Vitus' dance.
- **Chronic.** Persisting over a long period of time as opposed to acute or sudden. This word was often the only one entered under "cause of death" in the mortality schedules. The actual disease meant by the term is open to speculation.
- **Cicatrized.** Scarred
- **Cirrhosis** – a pathological change occurring in the tissue of certain organs, especially the lung and liver. The organ becomes contracted, granular and hard. A liver showing this appearance is often known as "hobnail" liver because of its knobbed surface.
- **Climacteric.** Pertaining to a critical period in human life. In females; the time after the menopause (the menopause is the first day of the last ever menstrual period). In males; the period when fertility and libido are in decline
- **Clyster.** Injection, enema
- **Cocker.** Pamper, indulge, coddle
- **Cold Plague.** Ague which is characterised by chills
- **Colic.** Paroxysmal pain in the abdomen or bowels. Infantile colic is benign paroxysmal abdominal pain during the first three months of life. Colic rarely caused death; but in the last century a study reported that in cases of death, intussusception (the prolapse of one part of the intestine into the lumen of an immediately adjoining part) occasionally occurred. Renal colic can occur from disease in the kidney, gallstone colic from a stone in the bile duct.
- **Commotion.** Concussion
- **Congenital** – Existing at the time of birth.
- **Congestion.** An excessive or abnormal accumulation of blood or other fluid in a body part or blood vessel. In congestive fever (see text), the internal organs become gorged with blood.
- **Congestive Chills/Fever.** Malaria
- **Consumption.** A wasting away of the body; formerly applied especially to pulmonary tuberculosis. The disorder is now known to be an infectious disease caused by the bacterial species *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Synonyms: marasmus (in the mid-nineteenth century), phthisis.
- **Contagious Pyrexia.** Dysentery
- **Convulsions.** Severe contortion of the body caused by violent, involuntary muscular contractions of the extremities, trunk, and head. See epilepsy.
- **Corruption.** Infection
- **Coryza.** See catarrh.
- **Costive.** Constipated; elsewhere may mean reticent, slow, niggardly, etc.
- **Costiveness.** Constipation
- **Cramp Colic.** Appendicitis
- **Cretinism.** Mental retardation due to congenitally under-active thyroid
- **Crop Sickness.** Overextended stomach from over eating

- **Croup.** Any obstructive condition of the larynx (voice box) or trachea (windpipe), characterised by a hoarse, barking cough and difficult breathing occurring chiefly in infants and children. The obstruction could be caused by allergy, a foreign body, infection, or new growth (tumour). In the early-nineteenth century it was called cynanche trachealis. The crouping noise was similar to the sound emitted by a chicken affected with the pip, which in some parts of Scotland was called roup; hence, probably, the term croup. Synonyms: roup, hives, choak, stuffing, rising of the lights.
  - **Cyanosis.** Dark skin colour from lack of oxygen in blood or poor circulation to the skin
  - **Cyesis.** Pregnancy
  - **Cynanche Tonsillaris.** See Quinsy
  - **Cynanche Trachealis.** See Croup
  - **Cynanche.** Diseases of throat
  - **Cystitis.** Inflammation of the urinary bladder. May be acute or chronic.
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- **Day Fever.** Fever lasting one day, sweating sickness
  - **Debility.** Abnormal bodily weakness or feebleness; decay of strength. This was a term descriptive of a patient's condition and of no help in making a diagnosis. Synonym: asthenia.
  - **Decline.** Failing health. Archaic term for tuberculosis or a similar wasting disease
  - **Decrepitude.** Feebleness due to old age
  - **Decubitis.** Died in bed.
  - **Delhi Boil.** See Leishmaniasis
  - **Delirium Tremens.** Hallucinations due to alcoholism. Results from alcoholic intoxication and is represented by a picture of confusion, terror, restlessness and hallucinations.
  - **Dengue.** Infectious fever endemic to East Africa
  - **Dentition.** Cutting (eruption) of the teeth
  - **Deplumation.** Disease or tumour of the eyelids which causes hair loss
  - **Diary Fever.** A fever that lasts one day
  - **Diphtheria.** An acute infectious disease caused by toxicogenic strains of the bacillus *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, acquired by contact with an infected person or a carrier of the disease. It was usually confined to the upper respiratory tract (throat) and characterised by the formation of a tough membrane (false membrane) attached firmly to the underlying tissue that would bleed if forcibly removed. In the nineteenth century the disease was occasionally confused with scarlet fever and croup.
  - **Disseminated.** Scattered. A disease characterised by the presence of inflammatory patches that later become sclerosed, scattered freely throughout the brain and spinal cord.
  - **Distemper.** Disturbed condition of the body or mind; ill health, illness; a mental or physical disorder; a disease or ailment. Usually animal disease with malaise and discharge from nose and throat.
  - **Dock Fever.** Yellow fever
  - **Domestic Illness.** Mental breakdown, depression (Post Natal Depression ?)
  - **Dropsy of the Brain.** Encephalitis
  - **Dropsy.** A contraction for hydropsy. Oedema, the presence of abnormally large amounts of fluid in intercellular tissue spaces or body cavities. Abdominal dropsy is ascites; brain dropsy is hydrocephalus; and chest dropsy is hydrothorax. Cardiac dropsy is a symptom of disease of the heart and arises from obstruction to the current of blood through the heart, lungs, or liver. Anasarca is general fluid accumulation throughout the body.
  - **Dry Bellyache.** Abdominal pain due to lead poisoning from lead containing medicines
  - **Dyscrasy.** An abnormal body condition
  - **Dysentery.** A term given to a number of disorders marked by inflammation of the intestines (especially of the colon) and attended by pain in the abdomen, by tenesmus (straining to defecate without the ability to do so), and by frequent stools containing blood and mucus. The causative agent may be chemical irritants, bacteria, protozoan, or parasitic worms. There are two specific varieties: (1) amoebic dysentery caused by the protozoan *Endamoeba histolytica*; (2) bacillary dysentery caused by bacteria of the genus *Shigella*. Dysentery was one of the most severe scourges of armies in the nineteenth century. The several forms of dysentery and diarrhoea accounted for more than one-fourth of all the cases of disease reported during the first two years of the Civil War. Synonyms: flux, bloody flux, contagious pyrexia (fever), frequent griping stools.
  - **Dysorexy.** Reduced appetite
  - **Dyspepsia.** Acid indigestion
  - **Dysphasia.** Difficulty in speech.
  - **Dysuria/Dysury.** Difficulty in or painful urination
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- **Eclampsia.** A form of toxæmia (toxins—or poisons—in the blood) accompanying pregnancy, characterised by albuminuria (protein in the urine), by hypertension (high blood pressure), and by convulsions. In the last century, the term was used for any form of convulsion. Oedema. See dropsy.
  - **Ecstasy A.** Form of catalepsy characterised by loss of reason
  - **Edema.** See Oedema or Dropsy
  - **Eel Thing.** See Erysipelas

- **Effluvia.** Exhalations or emanations, applied especially to those of noxious character. In the mid-nineteenth century, they were called “vapours” and distinguished into the contagious effluvia, such as rubeolar (measles); marsh effluvia, such as miasmata; and those arising from animals or vegetables, such as odours.
- **Elephantiasis Nostra.** See elephantiasis
- **Elephantiasis.** Swelling of a limb caused by lymphatic obstruction. Leads to thickening of the skin (pachyderma) often used as a synonym for filariasis but may result from syphilis or recurring streptococcal infection (elephantiasis nostra)
- **Embolism.** The presence in the blood-stream of a detached part of a thrombosis or the foreign body which travels with the stream until it reaches the vessel too small to allow it to pass, with the result that the circulation becomes obstructed.
- **Emphysema.** Pulmonary. A chronic, irreversible disease of the lungs, characterised by abnormal enlargement of air spaces in the lungs and accompanied by destruction of the tissue lining the walls of the air sacs. By 1900 the condition was recognised as a chronic disease of the lungs associated with marked dyspnoea (shortness of breath), hacking cough, defective aeration (oxygenation) of the blood, cyanosis (blue colour of facial skin), and a full and rounded or “barrel-shaped” chest. This disease is now most commonly associated with tobacco smoking.
- **Empiric.** A person who practises medicine without scientific knowledge; a quack; a charlatan
- **Empyema.** A collection of pus, especially in the pleural cavity but may also occur in other closed body cavities. eg. Gall bladder.
- **Encephalitis.** Inflammation of the brain.
- **Endocarditis.** Inflammation of the inner lining of the heart.
- **Endothelioma.** Growth of the lining membrane of serous cavities, blood vessels or lymph vessels.
- **Eneuresis Nocturna .** Bed wetting
- **Enteric fever.** See typhoid fever.
- **Enteritis.** Inflammation of the bowels
- **Enterocolitis.** Inflammation of the intestines
- **Epidemic Catarrh.** Influenza
- **Epidemic Neuritis.** Beriberi
- **Epilepsy.** A disorder of the nervous system, characterised either by mild, episodic loss of attention or sleepiness (petitmal) or by severe convulsions with loss of consciousness (grand mal). Synonyms: falling sickness, fits.
- **Epistaxis.** Nose bleed
- **Epithelioma.** Cancer of the skin.
- **Ertyhaema Pernio.** Chilblain
- **Erysipelas.** An acute, febrile, infectious disease, caused by a specific group 4 streptococcus bacterium and characterised by a diffusely spreading, deep-red inflammation of the skin or mucous membranes causing a rash with a well-defined margin. Synonyms: Rose, Saint Anthony’s Fire (from its burning heat or, perhaps, because Saint Anthony was supposed to cure it miraculously).
- **Erysipeloid.** Skin condition resembling erysipelas occurring in butchers, fishmongers and cooks. Caused by the erysipelothrix of swine erysipelas
- **Euphoria.** Inappropriate happiness or laughing. Could be due to mania or in servicemen shell-shock, battle fatigue, post engagement stress syndrome.
- **Exacerbation.** Increased severity as of symptoms.
- **Excision.** Removal of a part by cutting away.
- **Excrescence.** An unnatural or disfiguring outgrowth of the skin or any unnecessary physical development.
- **Extravasted blood.** Rupture of a blood vessel
  
- **Fainting Fits.** Probably a euphemism for epilepsy.
- **Falling Sickness.** Epilepsy
- **Fatty Liver.** Cirrhosis
- **Fatuity.** Imbecility, dementia
- **Fibrillation.** A quivering of muscle fibres. Auricular – instead of beating normally the cardiac auricles contract very rapidly and irregularly and beat independently of the ventricles. Treatment – large initial doses of digitalis are given.
- **Fibrinous Angina.** Sore throat resembling diphtheria but not fatal
- **Fibrinous Bronchitis.** Chronic bronchitis
- **Fistula.** An unusual communication between two different structures.
- **Flux.** See dysentery.
- **Foetid Bronchitis.** Bronchiectasis
- **Foetor Oris.** Bad breath
- **French Pox.** Syphilis
- **Frogg.** Croup
- **Furuncle.** See boil.

- **Galloping Consumption.** Pulmonary tuberculosis
- **Gangrene.** Death and decay of tissue in a part of the body—usually a limb—due to injury, disease, or failure of blood supply. Synonym: mortification.
- **Gangrenous Stomatitis.** Cancrum Oris
- **Gangrenous Ulceration Of The Mouth.** See Cancrum Oris
- **Gathering.** A collection of pus
- **General Paralysis of the Insane (GPI).** Syphilis of the brain. Causes dementia
- **GENEALOGY POX** – very contagious to adults. Symptoms – continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has blank expression, often deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters, swears at the mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequent strange places such as cemeteries, ruins and remote desolate areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bill from spouse. Mumbles to self and has a far away look in eyes. NO KNOWN CURE. Treatment: medication is useless. Disease is not fatal but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy meetings, subscribe to magazine and be given a quiet corner in the house where they can be alone. The usual nature of this disease is that the sicker the patient gets the more he enjoys it!
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- **Glandular Fever.** Mononucleosis or infectious mononucleosis
- **Gleet.** See catarrh.
- **Glomerulonephritis.** Glomerulus. A coil of minute arterial capillaries of the capsule at the commencement of the uriniferous tubules of the kidney.
- **Glossal Pharyngolaryngeal Paralysis.** Tongue, pharynx (back cavity of mouth) paralysis of the muscles of both.
- **Glycoasuria.** The presence of sugar in the urine.
- **Goitre Endocarditis.** Inflammation of the endocardium and valves. The most common causes are rheumatic and septicaemia.
- **Gout.** Any inflammation due to the formation of crystals of sodium bi-urate caused by a build up of urate or uric acid in the blood. It most often occurs in joints where circulation is poor, and can even cause gallstones or kidney stones
- **Gravel.** A disease characterised by multiple small calculi (stones or concretions of mineral salts) which are formed in the kidneys, passed along the ureters to the bladder, and expelled with the urine. Synonym: kidney stone.
- **Great Pox.** Syphilis
- **Green Fever.** Anaemia
- **Green Sickness.** Anaemia
- **Grip, Gripe or Grippe.** An old term for influenza
- **Griped.** With respect to the bowels: afflicted with spasmodic pain as if by contraction or constriction
- **Grocer's Itch.** Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour
- **Grog Blossoms.** Pimples on the nose in acne rosacea
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- **Haematemesis.** Vomiting blood from the stomach. The blood is often stale and therefore contains coagulated particles resembling coffee grains.
- **Haematuria.** Bloody urine
- **Haemoptysis.** Bleeding from the lungs. The coughing up of blood. The blood is alkaline in reaction, frothy and bright red.
- **Hammer Nose.** The swollen nose of acne rosacea
- **Heart dropsy.** Hydropericardium
- **Heart sickness.** Condition caused by loss of salt from body
- **Heat Stroke.** Body temperature elevates because of surrounding environment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature
- **Hectic(al) fever.** A daily recurring fever with profound sweating, chills, and flushed appearance—often associated with pulmonary tuberculosis or septic poisoning.
- **Hemiplegy, Hemiplegia.** Paralysis of one side of body
- **Hip gout.** Osteomyelitis
- **Hives.** A skin eruption of wheals (smooth, slightly elevated areas on the skin) which is redder or paler than the surrounding skin. Often attended by severe itching, it usually changes its size or shape or disappears within a few hours. It is the dermal evidence of allergy. See the discussion under croup; also called cyanche trachealis. In the mid-nineteenth century, hives was a commonly given cause of death of children three years and under. Because true hives does not kill, croup was probably the actual cause of death in those children.
- **Horrors.** Delirium tremens
- **Hospital fever.** See typhus.
- **Hydrocephalus.** See dropsy.
- **Hydropericardium.** Excessive fluid in the space around the heart leading to constriction of the heart
- **Hydrophobia.** Rabies
- **Hydropsy.** Dropsy - dropsy is a contraction of hydropsy
- **Hydrothorax.** See dropsy.
- **Hypercalcaemia.** Renal failure.

- **Hyperpiesis.** An elevation of the normal blood pressure.
  - **Hyperplasia.** Overgrowth of tissue by an increase in the number of cells.
  - **Hypertrophy.** Enlargement of any tissue or organ, but not due to its natural growth
  - **Hyostatic Pneumonia.** Pneumonia in the lower parts of the lungs.
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- **Ichor.** Leakage of fluid from a sore or wound.
  - **Icterus.** See jaundice.
  - **Ictus.** Fit (convulsion); sudden pulsation or stroke
  - **Impetigo.** Contagious skin disease usually of the face characterised by pustules and crusts
  - **Inanition.** Exhaustion from lack of nourishment; starvation. A condition characterised by marked weakness, extreme weight loss, and a decrease in metabolism resulting from severe and prolonged (usually weeks to months) insufficiency of food.
  - **Incubus.** Nightmare; demon taking on male form to have sexual intercourse with a woman in her sleep
  - **Infantile Paralysis.** Poliomyelitis (polio)
  - **Infarct.** A wedge shaped area of dead tissue, which is deprived of blood by the sudden blockage of a terminal or end artery.
  - **Infection.** The affection or contamination of a person, organ, or wound with invading, multiplying, disease-producing germs—such as bacteria, rickettsiae, viruses, moulds, yeasts, and protozoa. In the early part of the last century, infections were thought to be the propagation of disease by effluvia (see above) from patients crowded together. “Miasma” were believed to be substances which could not be seen in any form—emanations not apparent to the senses. Such miasmas were understood to act by infection.
  - **Inflammation.** Redness, swelling, pain, tenderness, heat, and disturbed function of an area of the body, especially as a reaction of tissue to injurious agents. This mechanism serves as a localised and protective response to injury. The word ending -itis denotes inflammation on the part indicated by the word stem to which it is attached—that is, appendicitis, pleuritis, etc. Microscopically, it involves a complex series of events, including enlargement of the sizes of blood vessels; discharge of fluids, including plasma proteins; and migration of leukocytes (white blood cells) into the inflammatory focus. In the last century, cause of death often was listed as inflammation of a body organ—such as, brain or lung—but this was purely a descriptive term and is not helpful in identifying the actual underlying disease.
  - **Intermittent Fever.** Illness marked by episodes of fever with return to completely normal temperature; usually malaria.
  - **Interstitial.** Situated between. Distributed through the connective structure.
  - **Intussusception.** The slipping of one part within another, as the prolapse of one part of the intestine into the lumen of an immediately adjoining part. This leads to obstruction and often must be relieved by surgery. Synonym: intussusception.
  - **Ischaemia.** Local anaemia due to defective blood supply to the part.
  - **Ischaemic Heart Disease.** Narrowing of the arteries.
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- **Jail fever.** See typhus.
  - **Jaundice.** Yellow discolouration of the skin, whites of the eyes, and mucous membranes, due to an increase of bile pigments in the blood—often symptomatic of certain diseases, such as hepatitis, obstruction of the bile duct, or cancer of the liver. Synonym: icterus.
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- **Kakke.** Beriberi
  - **Kandahar Sore.** See Leishmaniasis
  - **Kidney stone.** See gravel.
  - **Kings evil.** A popular name for scrofula. The name originated in the time of Edward the Confessor, with the belief that the disease could be cured by the touch of the king of England.
  - **Kink.** Fit of coughing or choking
  - **Kinkcough.** Whooping cough
  - **Kruchhusten.** Whooping cough
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- **La Grippe.** Influenza
  - **Leishmaniasis.** Disease due to parasitic Protzoa of the genus Leishmania
  - **Lepra.** Leprosy
  - **Little's Disease.** Spastic diplegia
  - **Lockjaw.** Tetanus, a disease in which the jaws become firmly locked together. Synonyms: trismus, tetanus.
  - **Locomotor Ataxia.** Disease of the nervous system which results in inability to walk.
  - **Long Sickness.** Tuberculosis
  - **Lues Disease/Venera.** Syphilis
  - **Lumbago.** Back pain
  - **Lung Fever.** Pneumonia
  - **Lung Sickness.** Tuberculosis
  - **Lying In.** Time of delivery of infant

- **Malignant fever.** See typhus.
- **Malignant Pustule.** Anthrax
- **Malignant Sore Throat.** Diphtheria
- **Malta Fever.** Brucellosis
- **Mania.** Form of insanity characterised by inappropriate happiness, mental and physical restlessness and grandiose delusions
- **Marasmus.** Malnutrition occurring in infants and young children, caused by an insufficient intake of calories or protein and characterised by thinness, dry skin, poor muscle development, and irritability. In the mid-nineteenth century, specific causes were associated with specific ages: In infants under twelve months old, the causes were believed to be unsuitable food, chronic vomiting, chronic diarrhoea, and inherited syphilis. Between one and three years, marasmus was associated with rickets or cancer. After the age of three years, caseous (cheese like) enlargement of the mesenteric glands (located in the peritoneal fold attaching the small intestine to the body wall) became a given cause of wasting. (See *tabes mesenterica*.) After the sixth year, chronic pulmonary tuberculosis appeared to be the major cause. Marasmus is now considered to be related to kwashiorkor, a severe protein deficiency.
- **Mayer.** Physician
- **Mediastinum.** The space between the lungs.
- **Mediterranean Fever.** Brucellosis
- **Medulla.** The marrow in the centre of a long bone. The soft internal portion of glands. Eg. Kidney, lymph nodes, thymus.
- **Megaloblastic Anaemia.** Lack of blood. Also known as Pernicious Anaemia. Until the 1940's it was treated by feeding the patient with raw liver. Now curable by vitamin addition to the diet.
- **Melancholia.** Severe Depression
- **Membranous Croup.** Diphtheria
- **Meningitis.** Inflammation of the meninges (the three membranes covering the brain and spinal cord), especially of the pia mater and arachnoid—caused by a bacterial or viral infection and characterised high fever, severe headache, and stiff neck or back muscles. Synonym: brain fever.
- **Mesentery.** A large fold of peritoneum, passing between a portion of intestine and the posterior abdominal wall.
- **Meteorism.** Flatulent distension of the abdomen with gas in the gut
- **Metritis.** Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge
- **Miasma.** Poisonous vapours thought to infect the air and cause disease
- **Milk Fever.** Short lived fever which sometimes accompanies lactation
- **Milk Leg.** Thrombosis of veins in the thigh usually seen after childbirth (at one time thought to be due to excess milk being directed to the leg)
- **Milk Sick(ness).** Poisoning resulting from the drinking of milk produced by a cow who had eaten a plant known as white snake root.
- **Mitral Regurgitation.** Defect in the closure of the valve whereby blood tends to flow backward into the auricle from ventricle.
- **Mitral Stenosis.** Narrowing of, usually due to recurrent attacks of rheumatism.
- **Mitral.** Pertaining to the valve dividing the left auricle and ventricle of the heart.
- **Mollities Ossium.** Osteomalacia
- **Morbilli.** Measles
- **Morbus Addisonii.** See Addison's Disease
- **Morbus Cordis.** Means no more than heart disease. Probably used by doctors when they didn't know the exact cause of death but were sure it was natural causes.
- **Morbus.** Latin word for disease. In the last century, when applied to a particular disease, morbus was associated with some qualifying adjective or noun, indicating the nature or seat of such disease. Examples: morbus cordis, heart disease; morbus caducus, epilepsy or failing sickness.
- **Mormal.** Gangrene
- **Morphew.** The blisters of Scurvy
- **Mortification.** Used in the medical sense: gangrene, necrosis.
- **Mortis.** Death
- **Myelitis.** Inflammation of the spinal cord
- **Myelodysplasia.** A tumour formed from the soft medullary centre of the long bone. ie. From marrow.
- **Myelogenous Leukemia.** A type of leukemia.
- **Myeloma.** Marrow. A malignant condition arising from plasma cells, usually in the bone marrow.
- **Myocarditis.** Inflammation of heart muscle
- **Myocardium.** Middle layer of the heart wall/muscle.
- **Myocardiumitis.** Inflammation of heart muscle.
- **Myxoedema.** A condition of gelatinous oedematous (oedema and excess of fluid in the tissues shown by swelling, pitting and translucency) thickening of the skin due to deficiency of the thyroid secretion.

- **Natal Sore.** Leishmaniasis
- **Necrosis.** Death of tissue
- **Nephrosis, Nephritis.** Kidney degeneration
- **Neuralgia.** Sharp and paroxysmal pain along the course of a sensory nerve. There are many causes: anaemia, diabetes, gout, malaria, syphilis. Many varieties of neuralgia are distinguished according to the part affected—such as face, arm, leg.
- **Neurasthenia.** Neurotic condition or feeble minded
- **Noma.** Cancrum Oris
- **Nostalgia.** A longing for the comforts of home or to return home. In a military setting this is probably Shell Shock or Battle Fatigue
  
- **Occlusion.** The closure of an opening.
- **Oedema.** Fluid retention See also dropsy
- **Oriental Boil.** See Leishmaniasis
  
- **Pachyderma.** Thickening of the skin
- **Palsy.** Paralysis or difficulty with muscle control - often modified as in Bell's palsy, cerebral palsy etc
- **Panama fever.** See Ague
- **Paralysis Agitans.** Parkinson's disease
- **Paralysis Of The Insane (GPI).** Mental disturbance along with muscular paralysis.
- **Paristhmitis.** See quinsy.
- **Paroxysm.** Convulsion (a fit)
- **Pellegra.** Nicotinic acid (a B vitamin) deficiency
- **Pemphigus.** Skin disease of watery blisters
- **Peptone.** A substance produced during the hydrolysis of protein by the action of pepsin.
- **Pericarditis.** Inflammation of the pericardium (a membrane surrounding the heart)
- **Peritoneum.** The delicate membrane that line the abdominal and pelvic cavities and also cover the organs contained in them.
- **Peritonitis.** Inflammation of the peritoneum (see above)
- **Perityphilitis** Appendicitis
- **Perlèche** Cracked sores at the angles of the mouth
- **Pernicious Anaemia.** Anaemia caused by vitamin B12 deficiency. In modern times the term is actually reserved for people whose stomachs fail to produce adequate amounts of a chemical called intrinsic factor which is necessary for vitamin B12 to be absorbed (otherwise known as Addisonian pernicious anaemia). This means that B12 has to be given by injection. There is an increased incidence of stomach cancer in people with pernicious anaemia
- **Pertussis.** Whooping cough
- **Petechial Fever.** Typhus
- **Peyer's Patches.** Flat patches of lymphatic tissue situated in the small intestine but mainly in the ileum. They are the seat of infection of Typhoid fever and Tuberculosis.
- **Phlegmasia Alba Dolens.** Thrombosis of veins in the thigh usually seen after childbirth
- **Phlegmonous.** The nature of phlegmon which is a condition of acute suppuration of the loose connective tissue.
- **Phrenitis.** Inflammation of the brain
- **Phthiriasis.** An infestation with lice.
- **Phthisis.** See Consumption.
- **Pica.** Abnormal craving to eat unusual things such as chalk or hair or faeces.
- **Pink Disease.** Disease of teething infants due to mercury poisoning from teething powders
- **Plague/Black Death.** Bubonic Plague
- **Plastic Bronchitis.** Chronic bronchitis
- **Pleurisy.** Inflammation of the pleura, the membranous sac lining the chest cavity, with or without fluid collected in the pleural cavity. Symptoms are chills, fever, dry cough, and pain in the affected side (a stitch).
- **Pneumonia.** Inflammation of the lungs with congestion or consolidation---caused by viruses, bacteria, or physical and chemical agents.
- **Podagra.** Gout
- **Potter's Asthma.** Tuberculosis
- **Pott's Disease.** Tuberculosis of the spinal vertebrae
- **Pox.** Usually syphilis
- **Protein Disease.** Nephrotic syndrome. A once relatively common childhood kidney disease that causes the kidney to leak protein. Often a complication of streptococcal infection
- **Psychosis.** A general term denoting and mental disorder.
- **Puerperal Exhaustion.** Death due to childbirth
- **Puerperal Fever.** Infection after giving birth due to poor midwifery techniques especially antiseptic measures. Infection entered through injuries to the birth canal leading to septicaemia and often to death
- **Puking Fever.** Milk sickness

- **Purples.** Purpura; this is a rash due to spontaneous bleeding in to the skin. There are many causes. The age of the victim would be relevant
- **Pus.** A yellow-white, more or less viscid substance found in abscesses and sores, consisting of a liquid plasma in which white blood cells are formed and suspended by the process of inflammation.
- **Putrid fever.** See typhus.
- **Putrid sore throat.** Ulceration of an acute form, attacking the tonsils and rapidly running into sloughing of the fauces (the cavity at the back of the mouth, leading to the pharynx).
- **Pyaemia.** A condition in which collection of pyogenic bacteria circulate in the blood at intervals producing abscesses wherever they lodge.
- **Pyelitis.** Inflammation of the pelvis of the kidney. Also -
- **Pyelo.** Inflammation of the pelvis of the kidney
- **Pyelonephritis.** A form of renal infection which spreads outwards from the pelvis to the cortex of the kidney.
- **Pylorus.** The opening of the stomach into the duodenum (first part of the small intestine).
- **Pyrexia.** See dysentery.
  
- **Quincke's Disease.** Angioneurotic oedema - severe and potentially fatal allergic reaction
- **Quins(e)y.** A fever, or a febrile condition. An acute inflammation of the tonsils, often leading to an abscess; peritonsillar abscess. Synonyms: suppurative tonsillitis, cyananche tonsillaris, paristhmitis, sore throat.
  
- **Rag-Picker's Disease.** Anthrax
- **Railway Spine.** Back injury with injury to the spinal cord (common in railway workers)
- **Raynauds Disease.** A symmetrical disturbance of the circulation of the extremities due to vascular spasm. In severe cases gangrene may supervene.
- **Regurgitation.** A flowing back, as of blood returning from the ventricles into the auricle when valves of the heart are defective.
- **Remitting Fever.** Malaria
- **Renal.** Pertaining to the kidney.
- **Rheumatism.** Any disorder associated with pain in joints
- **Rickets.** Disease of skeletal system mainly due to Vitamin D deficiency
- **Rising Of The Lights.** Croup
- **Rodent Ulcer.** Type of skin cancer (basal cell carcinoma)
- **Rose Cold.** Hay fever or nasal symptoms of an allergy
- **Rose.** Erysipelas
- **Roup.** Croup
- **Rubella/Rubeola.** German measles
- **Rubeola.** Can be Measles or German measles
  
- **Sanguinous Crust.** Scab
- **Sarcomatous.** Malignant growth derived from connective tissues. Is non-encapuled, spreads mainly by blood stream. Several types.
- **Scarlatina, Scarlet fever or Scarlet Rash.** A contagious febrile disease, caused by infection with the bacteria group. A beta-haemolytic streptococci (which elaborate a toxin with an affinity for red blood cells) and characterised by a scarlet eruption, tonsillitis, and pharyngitis.
- **Scirr(h)o(us).** Refers to a growth, often a carcinoma, that was hard and strong due to dense fibrous tissue.
- **Scotoma/Scotomy.** Disturbance of vision causing dizziness
- **Screws.** Rheumatism
- **Scrivener's Palsy.** Writer's cramp
- **Scrofula.** Primary tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands, especially those in the neck. A disease of children and young adults, it represents a direct extension of tuberculosis into the skin from underlying lymph nodes. It evolves into cold abscesses, multiple skin ulcers, and draining sinus tracts. Synonym: king's evil.
- **Scrumptox.** Impetigo
- **Scurvy.** Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and haemorrhages under skin
- **Senectus.** Latin for old age
- **Senile Decay.** The non-specific effects of old age.
- **Septic Dermatitis.** Skin infection.
- **Septic.** Infected, a condition of local or generalised invasion of the body by disease-causing micro organisms (germs) or their toxins.
- **Septicaemia.** Blood poisoning
- **Sequestrum.** Piece of dead bone
- **Serum Sickness.** Anaphylaxis
- **Shakes.** See Delirium tremens
- **Shaking Chills.** Ague

- **Shaking Palsy.** Parkinson's disease
- **Shingles.** Viral disease with painful skin blisters in a band or line on the body. Caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox
- **Ship fever.** See typhus.
- **Sigmoid.** Shaped like the letter "S". Sigmoid flexure – an "S" shaped curve joining the descending colon above to the rectum below.
- **Simple Angina.** Sore throat
- **Siriasis.** Inflammation of the brain due to sun exposure
- **Sloes.** Milk sickness
- **Small Pox.** Contagious viral disease with fever and blisters.
- **Softening of the Brain.** Cerebral haemorrhage/stroke
- **Sore Throat Distemper.** Diphtheria or quinsy
- **Spanish Disease.** Syphilis
- **Spanish Influenza.** Epidemic influenza
- **Spastic.** Stiffness of muscles or joints.
- **Spina bifida.** Deformity of spine
- **Spondylitis.** Inflammation of a vertebra.
- **Spotted fever.** Either Typhus or Meningitis.
- **Sprue.** Chronic malabsorption with sore tongue, indigestion, weakness, anaemia and greasy stools
- **Squina(n)cy.** Quinsy
- **St Anthony's Fire.** Skin disease caused by toxins from fungal infection (ergot poisoning). Saint Anthony was supposed to cure it miraculously. May be used for erysipelas
- **St Vitus Dance.** Ceaseless occurrence of rapid jerking movements performed involuntary. Complication of streptococcal infection.
- **Stenosis.** A narrowing – stenoses.
- **Stomatitis.** Inflammation of the mouth
- **Strange(u)ry.** Painful urination or may mean rupture
- **Stranger's Fever.** Yellow fever
- **Struma.** Goitre (swelling of the thyroid gland at the front of the neck)
- **Stuffing.** Croup
- **Sudor Anglicus.** Sweating sickness
- **Suffocation.** The stoppage of respiration. In the nineteenth century, suffocation was reported as being accidental or homicidal. The accidents could be by the impaction of pieces of food or other obstacles in the pharynx or by the entry of foreign bodies into the larynx (as a seed, coin, or food). Suffocation of newborn children by smothering under bedclothes may have happened from carelessness as well as from intent. However, the deaths also could have been due to SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome), wherein the sudden and unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant, while asleep, typically occurs between the ages of three weeks and five months and is not explained by careful post mortem studies. Synonyms of SIDS: crib death and cot death. It was felt that victims of homicidal suffocation were chiefly infants or feeble and infirm persons.
- **Summer complaint.** See cholera infantum.
- **Summer Diarrhoea.** Caused by inadequate hygiene.
- **Sunstroke.** Uncontrolled elevation of body temperature due to environment heat. Lack of sodium in the body is a predisposing cause
- **Suppuration.** The production of pus.
- **Surfeit or Surfit.** Means vomiting from over eating or gluttony. If someone doesn't eat for a while and then eats a large meal they can become very ill and gluttony could imply obesity.
- **Swamp Sickness.** Could be malaria, typhoid or encephalitis
- **Sweating Sickness.** Infectious & fatal disease common to the UK in the 15th century. This could be influenza
- **Sycosis Barbae.** Infection of the hair follicles of the beard area
- **Syncope.** Dropped dead.
- **Synochus.** Continued fever
  
- **Tabes mesenterica.** Tuberculosis of the mesenteric glands in children, resulting in digestive derangement and wasting of the body.
- **Tâche Cérébrale.** Red line on the forehead seen in tuberculous meningitis
- **Teething.** The entire process which results in the eruption of the teeth. Nineteenth-century medical reports stated that infants were more prone to disease at the time of teething. Symptoms were restlessness, fretfulness, convulsions, diarrhoea, and painful and swollen gums. The latter could be relieved by lancing over the protruding tooth. Often teething was reported as a cause of death in infants. Perhaps they became susceptible to infections, especially if lancing was performed without antisepsis. Another explanation of teething as a cause of death is that infants were often weaned at the time of teething; perhaps they then died from drinking contaminated milk, leading to an infection, or from malnutrition if watered-down milk was given.

- **Testaceous Powders.** Medicinal powders prepared from the shells of animals.
- **Tetanus Neonatorum.** Tetanus in the new born due to infection of the umbilical cord stump following birth in unhygienic conditions
- **Tetanus.** An infectious, often-fatal disease caused by a specific bacterium, *Clostridium tetani*, that enters the body through wounds; characterised by respiratory paralysis and tonic spasms and rigidity of the voluntary muscles, especially those of the neck and lower jaw. Synonyms: trismus, lockjaw.
- **Thorax.** The chest cavity
- **Thrombosis.** Blood clot inside blood vessel
- **Thrush.** A disease characterised by whitish spots and ulcers on the membranes of the mouth, tongue, and fauces caused by a parasitic fungus, *Candida albicans*. Thrush usually affects sick, weak infants and elderly individuals in poor health. Now it is a common complication from excessive use of broad-spectrum antibiotics or cortisone treatment. Synonyms: aphthae, sore mouth, aphthous stomatitis.
- **Thyrotoxicosis.** Thyro pertaining to thyroid toxicosis – any disease state due to poisoning.
- **Tick Fever.** Rocky Mountain spotted fever
- **Tinea Sycosis.** Infection of the hair follicles of the beard area
- **To(o)rmina.** Acute wringing pains in the abdomen; colic, gripes
- **Toxaemia Of Pregnancy.** Eclampsia (high blood pressure oedema and seizures in pregnancy)
- **Trench Fever.** Typhus
- **Trench Mouth.** Painful ulcers found along gum line, caused by poor nutrition and poor hygiene
- **Trismus nascentium or neonatorum.** A form of tetanus seen only in infants, almost invariably in the first five days of life, probably due to infection of the umbilical stump.
- **Trypanosoma.** A genus of parasitic protozoan, some of which are parasites of the blood and cause such diseases as sleeping sickness. Also -
- **Trypanosomiasis.** Sleeping sickness. A tropical disease caused by a bite of the Tsetse fly.
- **Tussis convulsiva.** Whooping cough
- **Typhoid fever** An infectious, often-fatal, febrile disease, usually occurring in the summer months—characterised by intestinal inflammation and ulceration caused by the bacterium *Salmonella typhi*, which is usually introduced by food or drink. Symptoms include prolonged hectic fever, malaise, transient characteristic skin rash (rose spots), abdominal pain, enlarged spleen, slowness of heart rate, delirium, and low white-blood cell count. The name came from the disease's similarity to typhus (see below). Synonym: enteric fever.
- **Typhoid Fever.** An acute infectious fever commonly running a three week course, which is found in practically all the tissues and especially the Peyer's patches (see above) of the intestine which become inflamed and thinned out. A rose coloured rash appears on the abdomen, chest or back about the seventh day.
- **Typhus.** An acute, infectious disease caused by several micro-organism species of *Rickettsia* (transmitted by lice and fleas) and characterised by acute prostration, high fever, depression, delirium, headache, and a peculiar eruption of reddish spots on the body. The epidemic or classic form is louse borne; the endemic or murine is flea borne. Synonyms: typhus fever, malignant fever (in the 1850s), jail fever, hospital fever, ship fever, putrid fever, brain fever, bilious fever, spotted fever, petechial fever, camp fever.
- **Undulant Fever.** Brucellosis
- **Vaginal Catarrh.** Vaginal discharge
- **Valetudinary.** Tendency to be in poor health or to be overly concerned about one's health
- **Varicella.** Chickenpox
- **Variola.** Smallpox
- **Venesection.** Bleeding (used as a treatment)
- **Viper's Dance.** St. Vitus dance, chorea
- **Virus.** An ultramicroscopic, metabolically inert infectious agent that replicates only within the cells of living hosts, mainly bacteria, plants, and animals. In the early 1800s virus meant poison, venom, or contagion.
- **Volvulus.** Rotation of a section of intestine such as may result from the coiling of one loop of intestine with another. Circulation of the parts is seriously interfered with causing strangulation.
- **War Nephritis.** Acute nephritis
- **Water Canker.** Cancrum Oris
- **Water Gripes.** Cholera Infantum
- **Water on the Brain.** Hydrocephalus
- **Weaning Brash.** Cholera Infantum
- **White Leg.** Thrombosis of veins in the thigh. Usually seen after childbirth
- **White Swelling.** Tuberculosis of the bone
- **Whitlow.** Infection beginning at the edge of a nail and spreading in a line up the limb; a paronychia
- **Wiel's Disease.** See Black Jaundice
- **Winter Fever.** pneumonia
- **Womb Fever.** Infection of the uterus

- **Woody Tongue.** Name given to actinomycosis in cattle and pigs
- **Wool-Sorter's Disease.** Anthrax
- **Worm Fit.** Convulsions associated with teething, worms, elevated temperature or diarrhoea
- **Yellow fever.** An acute, often-fatal, infectious febrile disease of warm climates—caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes, especially *Aedes aegypti*, and characterised by liver damage and jaundice, fever, and protein in the urine. In 1900 Walter Reed and others in Panama found that mosquitoes transmit the disease. Clinicians in the late nineteenth century recognised “specific yellow fever” as being different from “malarious yellow fever.” The latter supposedly was a form of malaria with liver involvement but without urine involvement.
- **Yellow Jacket.** See Yellow fever

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