

“Folk Medicine”

Many of the herbs that were used in history are still valuable to medicine today. However, more than herbs have been used through history to relieve illness and/or pain. Some treatments were based on superstition; Folk medicine was passed down through families. Often people recovered only because they believed that they could.

Ague: Kill a chicken and hold its body against the bare feet of the patient. Have the patient swallow a cobweb rolled into a ball.

Scarlet Fever: Put a piece of saffron in an onion and bake the onion until it is juicy. Feed the onion to the patient.

Whooping Cough: The father of the family is required to place the head of the sick child into a hole in a meadow for a few minutes at dusk. No one except the father should be present.

Croup: Make a mixture of garlic and oil from pigs' feet. Rub it into the patient's feet. Add skunk oil, if available. Apply leeches to the top of the body.

Cold: Mix together goose grease and turpentine. Rub a large amount of it onto the patient's chest.

Tuberculosis: Smoke dried cow dung. Inhale the fumes through a pipe.

Teething: Hang the foot of a mole around the neck of the infant. Apply leeches behind the baby's ears. Cut the gums of the infant with a lancet to allow the teeth to come through easily.

Cough & Sore Throat: Simmer a piece of pork in hot vinegar and let the meat cool. Fasten the pork around the patient's neck with a piece of red flannel. If you have no pork, tie a dirty sock around your neck.