

GLOSSARY OF MEDICAL TERMS

- BELLADONNA - Deadly nightshade from which the drugs atropine and hyoscyamine are obtained.
- CARBUNCLE - Collection of boils with multiple drainage channels. The infection is usually caused by staphylococcus aureus.
- CHLORAL HYDRATE - Sedative & hypnotic drug.
- ATROPINE - Used for the treatment of biliary or renal colic.
- COLIC - Severe abdominal pain, usually of fluctuating severity, with waves of pain seconds or a few minutes apart.
- DOVER'S POWDER - Made of 10% each of powdered opium and ipecacuanha and 80% lactose. Still one of the most popular remedies in medicine, it was introduced by Capt. Thomas Dover (1660-1742).
- ERYSIPELAS - A streptococcal infection of the skin & underlying tissues. The affected areas, usually the face & scalp, become inflamed & swollen. The patient is ill with a high temperature. It was from time to time fatal but can now be cured with antibiotics.
- GANGRENE - Death & decay of part of the body due to deficiency or cessation of blood supply. Dry gangrene is death & withering of tissues caused simply by cessation of local blood circulation. Moist gangrene is death & putrefactive decay of tissue caused by bacterial infection.
- HENBANE - Or Hyocymus is a plant which grows commonly in the US & Europe. The preparations are made from the leaves, and have an effect in relieving pain & spasm. Also used for inducing sleep, & for the prevention of travel sickness.
- IPECACUANHA - A plant extract used in small doses, usually in the form of tinctures & syrups, as an expectorant to relieve coughing & to induce vomiting.
- LAUNANUM - The popular name for tincture (alcoholic extract) of opium.
- LUMBAGO - Low backache of any cause or description.
- NEURALGIA - A severe burning or stabbing pain often following the course of a nerve.
- OPIUM - An extract from the white Indian poppy which relieves pain & induces euphoria followed by stupor & insensibility. Prolonged use may lead to dependence and, in severe cases, death may occur.
- PAREGORIC - A medicine that soothes pain.
- PTHISIS - A former name for: 1) Any disease resulting in wasting of tissues; 2) pulmonary tuberculosis.