



What the Apothecary Ordered: Questionable Cures Through the Ages (Old House)

By Caroline Rance

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This pocket handbook of medical advice draws together the most bizarre and disgusting cures recommended by healers to their patients from Ancient Greece to the twentieth century. It features such delightful treatments as gargling sugared snail juice for a sore throat (from 1920s Lincolnshire), soothing a child's teething pains with a dab of cocaine (c19th), and curing a lovesick man by dressing as a haggard version of his beloved and hurling abuse at him. Covering disease, surgery, cosmetics, keeping fit and curing madness, it offers a fascinating - and undeniably grim - view of the tortuous ways in which our ancestors tried to stay in shape.

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Bibliography

- Rank: #1576493 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-17
- Released on: 2015-02-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .25" h x .3" w x 5.30" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 176 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

“Thank god for modern medicine. This novelty book reminds us what used to pass for healing in ancient times. ...this book will have you alternately howling with laughter and clearing your throat in disgust.”
National Nurses United

“Along with such interesting and odd advice, the book also contains many pictures of the original advertisements and written passages for the above-mentioned cures. These additions are as entertaining as the text. This is a must-have book for those who like exploring the 'science' behind medicine. I wonder if future readers will think our own traditions are as primitive and repulsive.” *Historical Novel Society*

About the Author

Caroline Rance is a writer who explores the unusual patent medicines advertised in historical newspapers on her website www.thequackdoctor.com. She is also the author of *The Quack Doctor*, a history of Victorian and Edwardian remedies, and *Kill-Grief*, a novel set in an eighteenth-century hospital.

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