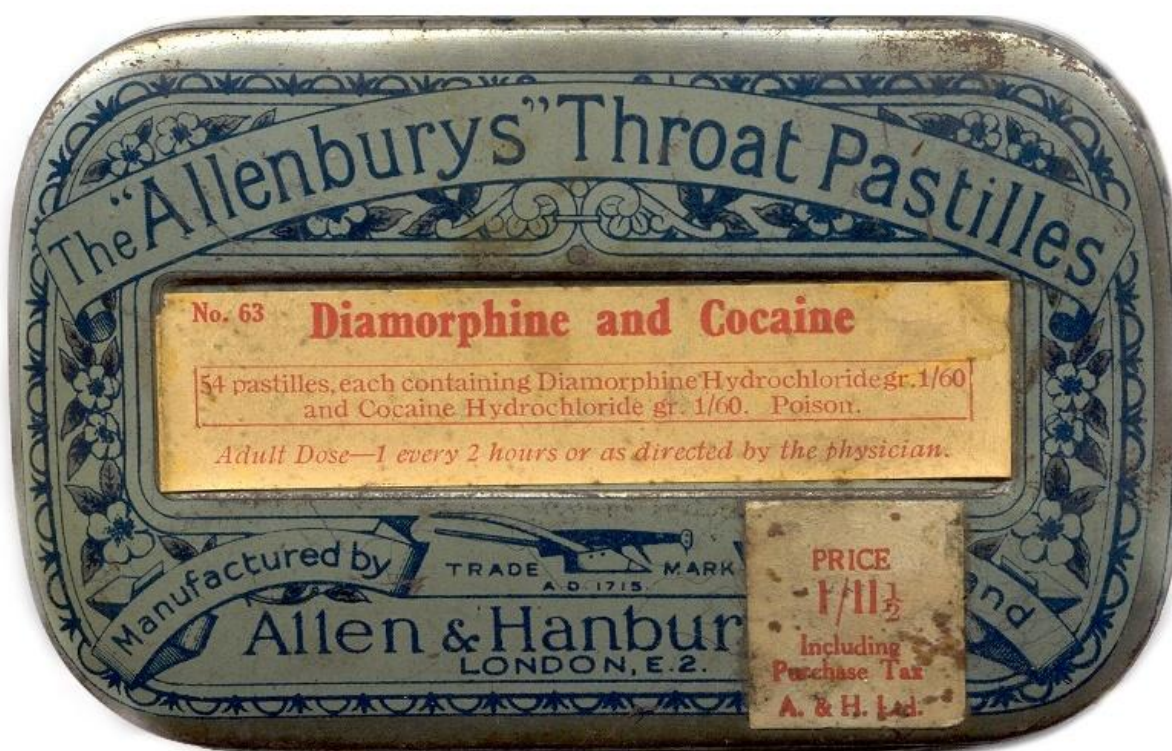


Developing Treatments



Drugs for Pleasure, Drugs for Pain? Developing Treatments with Controlled Drugs

Part Two: Opium, Morphine, & Heroin

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Introduction

Would you take a medicine containing morphine or cocaine if you were suffering from morning sickness? Sniff a cocaine based powder if you had catarrh? Take heroin if you had bronchitis? The answer, if you are sensible and law abiding, is most likely to be no. However, medicines containing these substances were in the past viewed by medical professionals as legitimate and effective medicinal treatments.

Many drugs that are now widely considered to be a threat to society were initially viewed as 'wonder drugs' believed by medical professionals to have no harmful side effects. This display explores how substances such as cocaine, cannabis, opium, morphine, and heroin were originally used as pharmaceutical treatments for a wide range of medical ailments.

The display reveals how their use as treatments was increasingly restricted during the 20th century as knowledge about their side effects and addictive qualities become more widely known.

However, some of these substances are now being developed for use in 21st century pharmacy for treating a new range of medical conditions.

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'Out of Control' - Controlling Illicit Drugs in Victorian & Edwardian Britain

Prior to the late 1860's addictive and poisonous drugs were freely available to buy in pharmacies around Great Britain. However, growing awareness among medical professionals regarding the addictive and poisonous nature of certain medicines, and the dangers of abuse and overdoses led to a succession of acts to limit their sale and use.

Pharmacy Act, 1868: *'Opium and all Preparations of Opium or of Poppies'* were among the first group of medicines to be regulated by law. The act made it illegal for anybody apart from registered pharmacists to sell or prepare the poisons listed in the act.

The act also ensured that these medicines had to be labelled a 'Poison'; to ensure public awareness regarding the dangers of over dosage.

Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908: The 1908 act added *'Coca, any preparation or admixture of, containing 1 or more per cent of coca alkaloids'* (including cocaine) to the list of regulated drugs.

The 1908 act also redefined the restrictions on opium preparations to include *'Opium, and all preparations or admixtures containing 1 or more per cent of morphine'* (including heroin).

Dangerous Drugs Act, 1922: The Dangerous Drugs Act (D.D.A) was brought in as result of the problems of opium use and trade (to control the trade and use of raw and prepared opium in the East)

The D.D.A restricted the production, export, and import of opium and its preparations, **morphine, cocaine, and diamorphine (heroin)**. The act also included any preparation containing not less than one-fifth per cent of morphine or one-tenth per cent of cocaine or diamorphine (heroin). **Cannabis**, cannabis resins and preparations of the resins were included in the 1925 D.D.A.

In addition to being labelled a 'Poison' all regulated medicines had to also be labelled 'D.D.A.'

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OPIUM – ‘The Oldest Known Pain Reliever’

“Opium is...our chief medicine for relieving pain and procuring sleep – our right hand in practice...the physician could ill spare it in his battle with disease and pain.”

William Dale, 1871



For most of medical history, opium, or drugs derived from opium, formed just about the only effective treatment for pain. This situation only changed with the development of new analgesic and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in the 20th century.

Opium poppies (*Papaver somniferum*) were grown for their pain-killing properties by the Ancient Sumerians, Egyptians and Assyrians. The Romans, medieval physicians, and doctors in every period through to the late 1800s, have relied on opium. However, it is highly addictive.

Opium is important, not just in itself, but also as the basis of other pain-killers. Laudanum is tincture of opium. Morphine, codeine and papaveretum are all opium alkaloids. In turn other pain-killers are derived from morphine.

Papaver Somniferum; lithograph by W. Clarke. Plate 159, Medical Botany, Vol.III; 1836.

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B.D.H. Papaveris Capsula (Jar of opium poppy heads)
Supplied by The British Drug Houses Limited, 1909-1941

The jar contains 12 dried poppy capsules (heads). The label affixed to the outside of the jar reads; 'Poppy capsules from which Opium is obtained'. Used by pharmacists for making opium preparations.



'GUM. OPII OPT. TURC.' (Opium Gum)
Supplied by J.F. Macfarlan and Company, Edinburgh and London, around 1870-1920

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Ball of Opium Resin

Manufactured in India, around 1880-1920

Opium resin was prepared into balls prior to being exported around the world.



Chinese Opium Pipe

1850 -1900

Opium pipes were used for the recreational smoking of opium. The open end of the pipe served as the mouthpiece. At the closed end a removable pipe-bowl is attached, into which the piece of prepared opium was placed.

Opium pipes were designed to be heated over an opium lamp. The strip of metal fitted around the pipe stem, below the pipe-bowl, channeled just the right amount of heat upon the pipe-bowl. This ensured that the opium would be vaporized, rather than burnt; allowing the smoker to inhale the intoxicating vapors.



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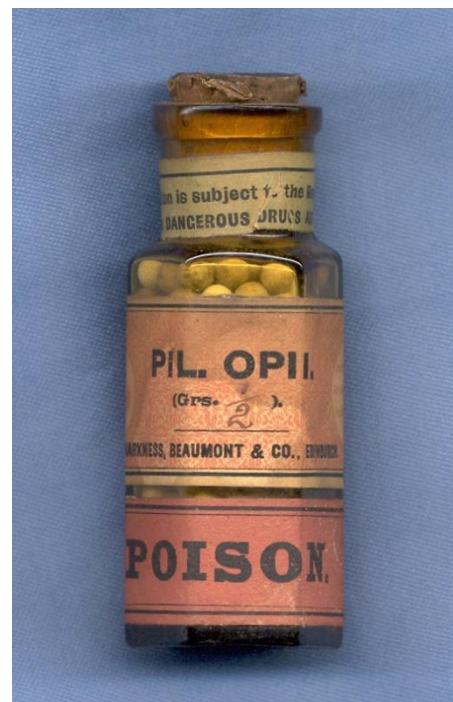
Opium Pills

Manufactured by Paytherus, Savory and Company, London, 1806-1811

Each pill contains 1 grain of opium.

Pil. Opii. (Opium Pills)

Manufactured by Harkness, Beaumont and Company, 1920-1926



Papine

Manufactured by Battle and Company , 1900-1920

Promoted by the manufacturer as '*A safe opiate for children*'; Papine was a liquid preparation of opium, used for relieving pain. The label features an illustration of an opium poppy. The manufacturer claimed Papine had fewer side-effects (such as nausea, vomiting, and constipation) than any other preparation of opium.

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Brathwaite's Genuine Black Drop

Manufactured by J.A. Brathwaite, Lancaster
around 1750 – 1850

Black Drop was a proprietary remedy of fermented vinegar of opium introduced around 1700. It contained more opium than most varieties of laudanum. The label on this bottle reads 'One Drop equal to four of Laudanum'.



John Bell's Opiate Confection

Manufactured by John Bell and Company, London, 1881 - 1908

This box contains seven lozenges of opiate confection, each individually wrapped in paper.

'Tabloid' Brand Opium

Manufactured by Burroughs Wellcome and Company, around 1890-1920

The label warns 'To be taken with great Caution'.



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'The Problem of Self Medication' – Opiates in Victorian & Edwardian Home Medicine Chests

Even though there was a long tradition of self-medication in Britain, domestic medicine chests only arrived here in the late 1700s, reaching the height of their popularity in the mid 1800s. An increase in specially-supplied chemical remedies and ready-made powders and tinctures provided many of the contents. The only painkillers available were opium-based, usually laudanum or tincture of opium.

Until the early 1900s medicine chest bottles often carried no dosage instructions or warnings about the poisonous nature of some of the preparations, increasing the danger of overdoses.



Laudanum is a tincture of opium – an extract of opium in alcohol. In the 1800s it was the most readily available painkiller. Many people became dependent on it and some died from overdoses. It was not only the adult population who ran these risks. Infants were given sweetened preparations of laudanum, sold under names such as 'Mother's Quietness'.

Medicine Chest Bottle of Laudanum, Poison

Manufactured by C.L.Macarthy, Chemist, Romford, around 1868 – 1908

Laudanum, consisting of opium in alcohol, was a popular remedy in the 1800s for relieving pain. Laudanum also lessens cough. However, as with other opium preparations, prolonged treatment could lead to addiction.

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Opiate Confection Powder was a popular sweetened preparation of opium. It consisted of opium mixed with syrup to taste.

Medicine Chest Bottle of Opiate Confection Powder, around 1885

The dosage instructions on this bottle of Opiate Confection Powder are not very clear stating only that twenty grains were to be taken 'in a wine glassful of Peppermint Water'. The label does not say how often the dose could be repeated in one day leading to the possible danger of overdoses or addiction.

Paregoric Elixir, also known as Camphorated Tincture of Opium, was a popular household remedy in the 1800s and 1900s. Paregoric means soothing. Paregoric Elixir was used for pain relief, as a cough suppressant, and for preventing diarrhoea. It was also rubbed on babies' gums to relieve the pain of teething.

Medicine Chest Bottle of Paregoric Elixir (Poison)

Prepared by J.J. Blayney, Chemist. Deardengate, Haslingden, 1868 - 1910



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Dover's Powder combined opium and ipecacuanha. Ipecacuanha is an expectorant; it promotes the secretion of bronchial mucus and therefore aids breathing. Dover's Powder was used to treat acute catarrh and to relieve pain.

Medicine Chest Bottle of Dover's Powder

Manufactured around 1800 – 1850

'Hidden Dangers' - Opiates in Victorian & Edwardian Brand Name Medicines

During the 1800s and early 1900s many medicines containing opium and morphine were widely available for sale in pharmacies. Prior to 1868 manufacturers did not have to reveal that their medicine contained opiates. Because of inadequate labelling the public were at risk of overdosing or becoming addicted to these opiate based medicines.

The 1868 Pharmacy Act made it compulsory for all medicines containing opiates and other poisonous substances to be clearly labelled 'Poison'. However, it was only with the passing of the Dangerous Drugs Act in 1922 that many of these medicines were restricted or removed from sale completely.

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Gell's Dalby's Carminative

Manufactured by J. Newbury and Sons, London, 1849 – 1867

Gell's Dalby's Carminative, packaged in its distinctive bottle, was a highly popular medicine for treating ailments of the stomach and bowels. Although the preparation contained tincture of opium this is not indicated on the bottle. Likewise there are no dosage instructions, increasing the danger of overdoses and addiction. It was not a legal requirement for medicines containing opiates to be labelled a poison until the 1868 Pharmacy Act.

Dr Bow's Liniment

Manufactured by Dr Bow's Liniment Limited, Liverpool, 1891 - 1908

Dr Bow's Liniment was promoted as, 'A certain cure for croup, bronchitis, whooping cough and all affections of the respiratory organs'. Labelled 'for external application', the liniment was rubbed onto the chest, back and neck. Dr Bow's Liniment contained tincture of opium, ammoniated camphor, belladonna, and strong ammonia. Although the preparation is labelled a poison, the packaging does not state that it contains opium.



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Freeman's Original Chlorodyne

Manufactured by Richard Freeman (Pharmacist), London, 1899-1901

Chlorodyne was created in the 1800s by combining opium or morphine with the anaesthetic chloroform. It was widely advertised and produced in vast quantities as an 'own brand' medicine by local chemists. As with other opiate based drugs of its day, people died from accidental overdoses.

Freeman's Original Chlorodyne was promoted as a '*specific remedy for the treatment and cure of diarrhoea, dysentery, Asiatic cholera, asthma, ague, colic, gout, neuralgia, sore throat, influenza, consumption, coughs, colds and fevers of all kinds*'.



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Brou's Injection

Manufactured by Pharmacie Charles Favrot, Paris, 1921-1935

Brou's Injection was a French preparation used as a treatment for genital diseases, including gonorrhoea. Since it contained opium, it would have also been used to reduce the pain in the affected area. The bottle is labelled 'for external use only'. The medicine is believed to have been used as a douche. Aside from opium, Brou's Injection contained the astringents lead acetate, zinc sulphate, and catechu to reduce the blood vessels and stop bleeding.

Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup

Manufactured by Curtis and Perkins, New York, 1830s - 1938

During the 1800s morphine was also included in many children's medicines, including soothing syrups. The history of Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup is one marred by controversy and court cases, due to the inclusion of morphine. Because of inadequate labelling, many mothers were unaware that the syrup contained morphine. From the late 1860s up until the early 1900s, there were numerous cases of babies falling into a coma or becoming addicted to and, on occasions, dying from use of the syrup.

Morphine was not completely removed from the syrup's formula until 1909 in the UK and 1915 in the US.

These bottles are later examples of the syrup, when it no longer contained morphine.



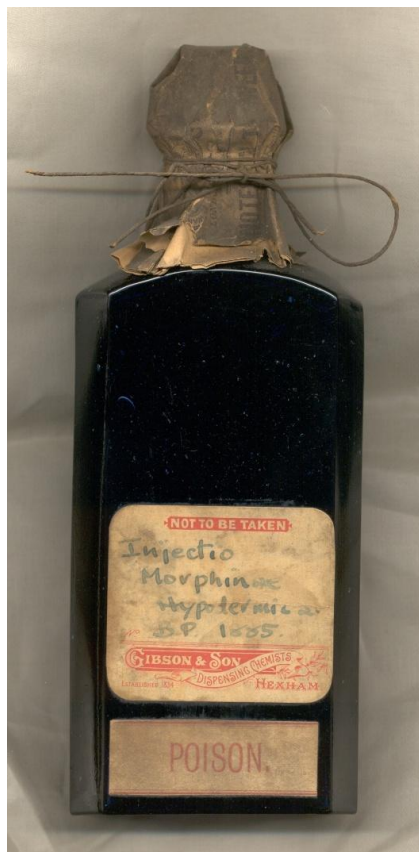
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MORPHINE

Morphine (an alkaloid of opium) is a very powerful pain killer. It was first isolated from opium in 1805 by an apprentice pharmacist, Friedrich Wilhelm Serturner, who found that it put animals to sleep. Serturner named morphine after the Greek god of dreams Morpheus.

At first morphine was believed to be non addictive. It was even thought that it could treat opium and alcohol dependence. However, later it was discovered that morphine was even more addictive than either opium or alcohol. Thousands of wounded soldiers in the American Civil War (1861-1865) were given morphine and became addicted to the drug.



Injectio Morphinæ Hypodermica, B.P. 1885'

Manufactured by Gibson and Son, Dispensing Chemists, Hexham; 1895 – 1922

This poison bottle of Hypodermic Injection of Morphine was formulated according to the British Pharmacopoeia, 1885.

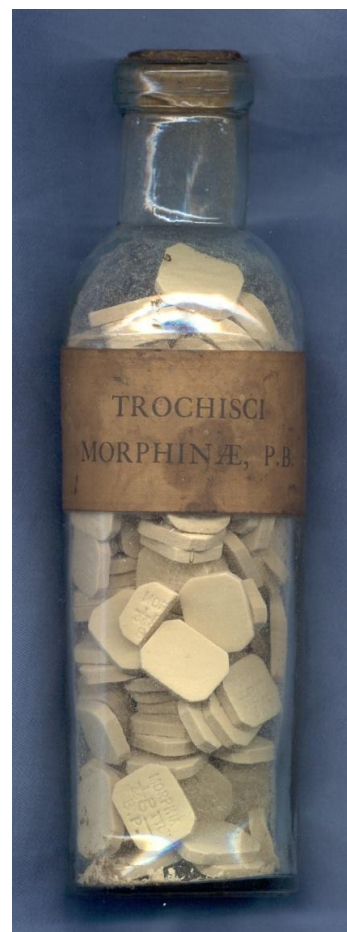
Trochisci Morphinæ, P.B. (Morphine Lozenges)

Manufactured in 1903

Morphine lozenges contained morphine hydrochloride mixed with a tolu basis. Lozenges were used chiefly to permit slow release of the active ingredients into the stomach.

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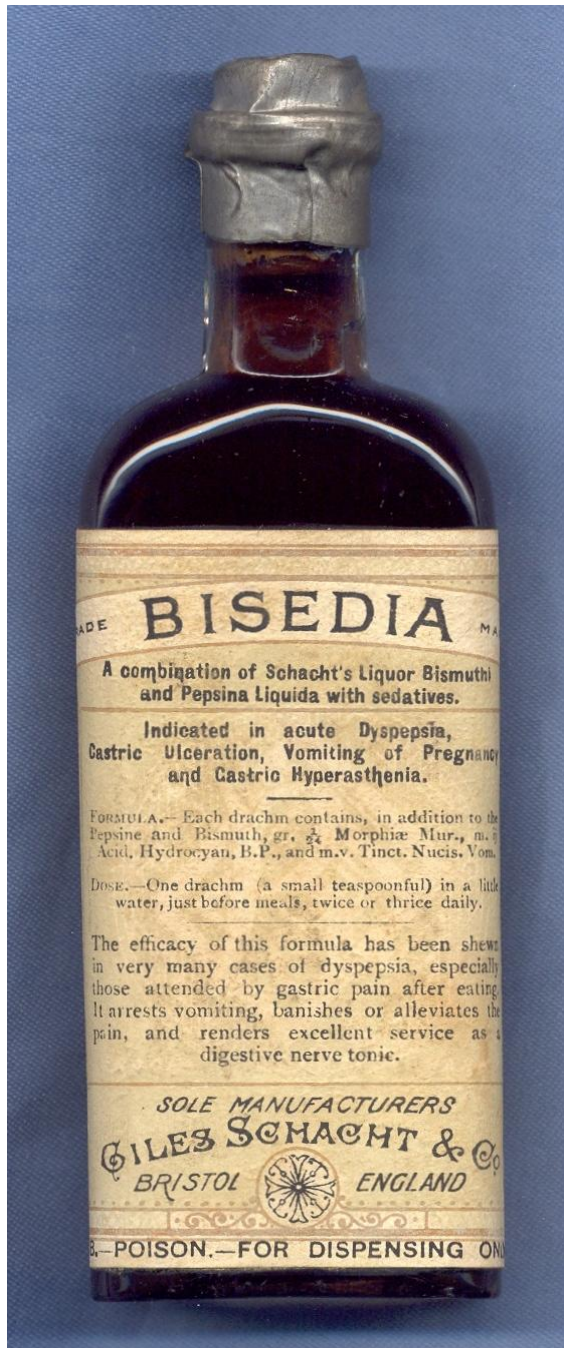
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Bisedia

Manufactured by Giles Schacht and Company, Bristol, 1904 - 1922

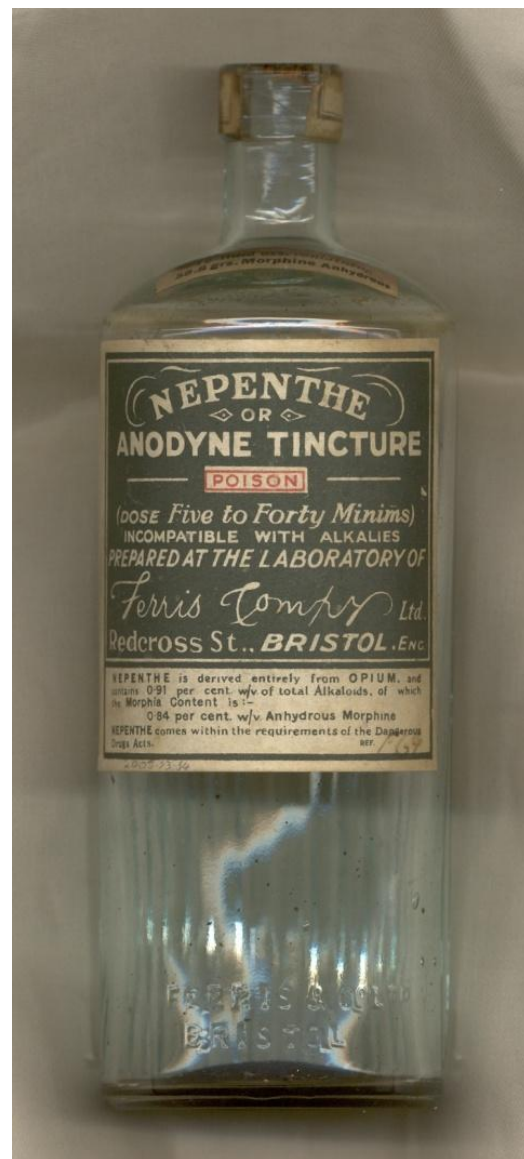
Bisedia was a medicine for relieving indigestion and gastric pain. Morphine hydrochloride was one of its ingredients. Because it stopped vomiting it was also recommended for "vomiting of pregnancy".



Nepenthe (or Anodyne Tincture)

Manufactured by Ferris and Company Limited, Bristol, 1922 - 1958

Nepenthe was a popular and widely available morphine preparation from the 1880s to the mid 1900s. It was initially marketed as, 'The Safest and Best Preparation of Opium'.



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NEPENTHE.

The Safest and Best Preparation of Opium.

It is claimed for

NEPENTHE

That it does not produce Nausea.

That it does not produce Constipation.

That it does not produce Head-ache.

That it does not produce Depression.

That it does not produce Loss of Appetite.

That it does not produce diminution of nervous energy.

That it does not produce prostration of strength.



That it does produce natural and refreshing sleep.

That it gives more relief than other form of Opium or its Alkaloids.

That it often succeeds when other Anodynes fail.

That habitual use does not perceptibly weaken its effects.

That it is always of uniform strength.

That it may be administered to patients who cannot tolerate any other form of Opium.

Prepared only by

FERRIS & CO., BRISTOL,

and protected by registration.

NO OTHER PREPARATION MUST BE SOLD OR DISPENSED WHEN NEPENTHE IS ORDERED.

NEPENTHE is sent out in 2-oz., 4-oz., 8-oz., and 16-oz. bottles, and is stocked by all the leading Wholesale Druggists and Patent Medicine houses.

We also prepare Double Strength Nepenthe and Glycerole of Nepenthe for hypodermic injection, also Nepenthe Suppositories in Three Strengths.

'Nepenthe. The Safest and Best Preparation of Opium'
 Nepenthe advertisement, The Chemist and Druggist Diary, 1900

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Morphium hydrochl. "Ingelheim"

Manufactured by C.H. Boehringer Sohn, Germany, around 1910-1930

This box contains 10 ampoules of morphine hydrochloride.

Liquor Meconicus (Solution of the Bi-Meconate of Morphia)

Manufactured by Squire and Sons Limited, London, 1924

Liquor Meconicus was '*Introduced by Peter Squire as a substitute for laudanum*'. Morphine Meconate was believed to disturb the head less, as well as to derange the stomach less, than the other morphine salts. The solution contains 1% of morphine.



'Omnopon' 'Roche' brand of solution of morphine

Manufactured by F. Hoffmann - La Roche and Company Limited, Switzerland, 1920 - 1927

'Omnopon' morphine came packaged in ampoule-syringes, so the morphine could be squeezed out of the tube and injected hypodermically using the attached needle.

Aside from pain relief, Roche also recommended 'Omnopon' for the treatment of coughs and respiratory affections, anxiety, depression, psychoses and delirium tremens (shaking and seizures in alcoholics caused by sudden alcohol withdrawal).

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MORPHINE – For Relieving Cough

Apart from its use as a pain reliever, morphine was used as a cough suppressant. Morphine was usually combined with the expectorant ipecacuanha for clearing bronchial mucus. Morphine is still used as a cough suppressant, however codeine is now preferred as there is less risk of dependence.

Lambert's Cough Balsam

Manufactured around
1908-1914

Lambert's Cough Balsam is promoted on the label as 'an effectual cure for influenza, coughs, colds, whooping cough, asthma, shortness of breath, spitting of blood and consumption'. In accordance with the Pharmacy Act 1868 the medicine is labelled a poison because it contains a small amount of morphine.



Savory and Moore's Patent Medicated Gelatine Lamels - Morphine hydrochloride and Ipecacuanha

Manufactured by Savory and Moore, 1915-1927

Lamels are small squares of gelatine impregnated with an active ingredient. Morphine hydrochloride and Ipecacuanha lamels were sucked to relieve a tickling cough.

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Keatings Pectoral Cough Lozenges

Manufactured by Thomas Keating Limited,
London, 1915 - 1941

Keatings Pectoral Cough Lozenges contain morphine, ipecacuanha, extract of liquorice, and sugars. In 1909 they were indicated for asthmatic and consumptive complaints, coughs, shortness of breath, and hoarseness.



Ipesandrine Syrup

Manufactured by Sandoz Products Limited, London, around 1957

Ipesandrine is a cough syrup containing alkaloids of ipecacuanha and alkaloids of opium.



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HEROIN / DIAMORPHINE

Heroin was first synthesized from morphine in 1874 by English chemist C.R. Alder Wright. Its pharmaceutical name is diamorphine. However diamorphine did not become a popular treatment until the late 1890s when it was rediscovered by the German pharmaceutical company Bayer.

Bayer launched diamorphine in 1898 under the trade name *Heroin*. The company promoted *Heroin* as a non-addictive morphine substitute and as a cough suppressant in respiratory afflictions, bronchitis, and asthma.

Initially Bayer also marketed heroin as a cure for morphine addiction, until it was discovered that the human body rapidly metabolizes heroin into morphine. Heroin is approximately 1.5 to 2 times more potent than morphine.

Heroin was also used to relieve severe nerve pain. As a pain killer it was viewed as being more effective than morphine. However its use was increasingly restricted as knowledge about its addictive properties and potential for abuse increased.



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'Bayer' Heroin Hydrochloride

Manufactured by Friedrich Bayer and Company. Germany, 1904 – 1916

'Bayer' Heroin tablets were indicated for treating the symptoms of dyspnoea (shortness of breath), emphysema (a progressive lung disease causing shortness of breath), bronchitis, pharyngitis (inflammation of the throat), tuberculosis, bronchial asthma, influenza, and whooping cough.

The dose for adults was 1-2 tablets 2-3 times a day. For children over 2 years old half a tablet was to be taken 2-3 times a day.



'Tabloid' Brand Heroin Hydrochloride

Manufactured by Burroughs Wellcome and Company, 1904 – 1924

Heroin tablets for relieving pain and suppressing coughs.

Diamorphinae Hydrochlor. B.P.

Manufactured by Wright, Layman and Umney Limited, 1932 -1948

Diamorphine powder for preparing hypodermic injections; used for pain relief.



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HEROIN / DIAMORPHINE – A Cough Suppressant and Respiratory Stimulant

Aside from pain relief, during the early 1900s heroin was used as a sedative to suppress coughs and the symptoms of respiratory afflictions. Heroin was frequently combined with expectorants to help clear bronchial mucus and aid the patient's breathing. Although it didn't treat the cause of the illness heroin did suppress many of the symptoms.



The Antikamnia Calendar, 1900
Published by The Antikamnia
Chemical Company, 1900

This macabre image from the 1900 Antikamnia Calendar shows a group of skeleton pharmacists preparing Antikamnia tablets.

One of the varieties the company manufactured was Antikamnia and Heroin Tablets.

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Antikamnia and Heroin Tablets

Manufactured by The Antikamnia Chemical Company, 1906 - 1916

Antikamnia and Heroin Tablets were indicated by the manufacturer as “*A respiratory stimulant, sedative, analgesic, and expectorant ... in all bronchial, pulmonary and respiratory diseases*”. The tablets combined antikamnia (also known as acetanilide, an analgesic (pain-relieving) and antipyretic (fever-reducing) drug), with heroin hydrochloride.

The manufacturer claimed “*Antikamnia and Heroin Tablets relieve cough, render expectoration easy without untoward after-effects...*”



Pastile Melheroin

Manufactured by Robert Chrystall, Chemist and Druggist, 1914 - 1920

Promoted on the box as '*The most convenient and palatable form of administering heroin yet introduced*'; Pastile Melheroin combined heroin hydrochloride with honey, ipecacuanha, squills, and tolu. Ipecacuanha, squill and tolu are all expectorants, included to help clear bronchial mucus.

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Meggeson Chronic Bronchitic Lozenges

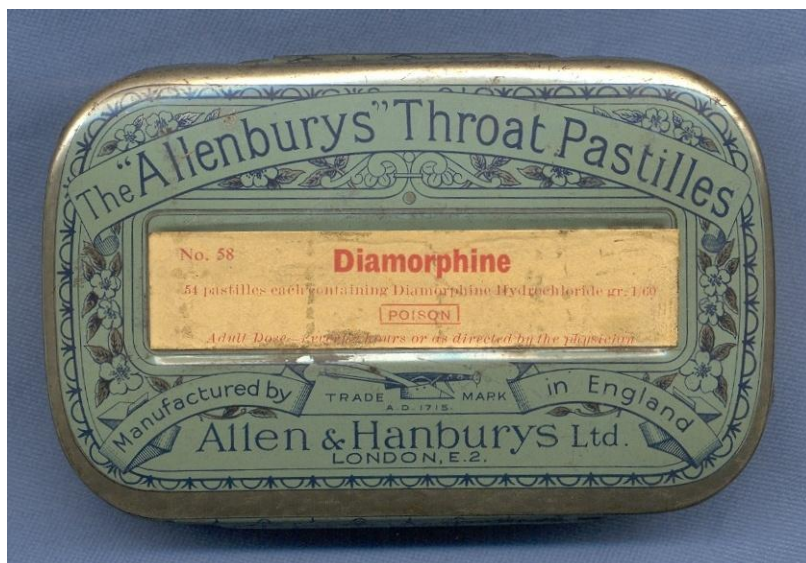
Manufactured by Meggeson and Company Limited, 1929

Meggeson Chronic Bronchitic Lozenges contained heroin (diamorphine) and menthol. The lozenges were for treating the symptoms of bronchitis. The directions state; *"One to be sucked slowly on going to bed, and another later on if the cough or breathing is troublesome"*. The jar has a Dangerous Drugs Act label affixed to it. The Dangerous Drugs Act was introduced in 1922.

The "Allenburys" Throat Pastilles No.58. Diamorphine

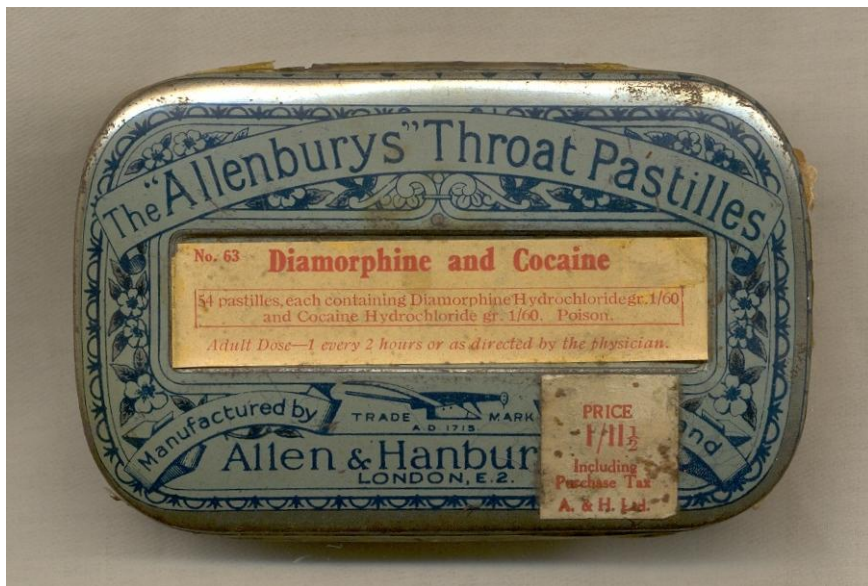
Manufactured by Allen and Hanburys, Limited, 1935 – 1948

"Allenburys" diamorphine throat pastilles were for relieving the pain of sore throats and as a cough sedative. Each pastille contains 1/60 grain of diamorphine hydrochloride (heroin).



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The "Allenburys" Throat Pastilles No.63. Diamorphine and Cocaine
Manufactured by Allen and Hanburys, Limited, 1941 - 1947

"Allenburys" Throat Pastilles were also available combining diamorphine and cocaine. Diamorphine hydrochloride (heroin) was used to relieve the pain of sore throats and as a cough sedative. Cocaine is a powerful local anesthetic.

HEROIN / DIAMORPHINE & TERPIN HYDRATE – A Cough Suppressant and Respiratory Stimulant

Heroin was frequently combined with the expectorant terpin hydrate. Apart from clearing bronchial mucus, terpin hydrate worked as a bronchodilator to widen the bronchi of the lungs and therefore further aid breathing.

Preparations containing heroin with terpin hydrate calmed the cough, cleared the bronchial mucus, and stimulated the patient's respiration.



Pinheroin

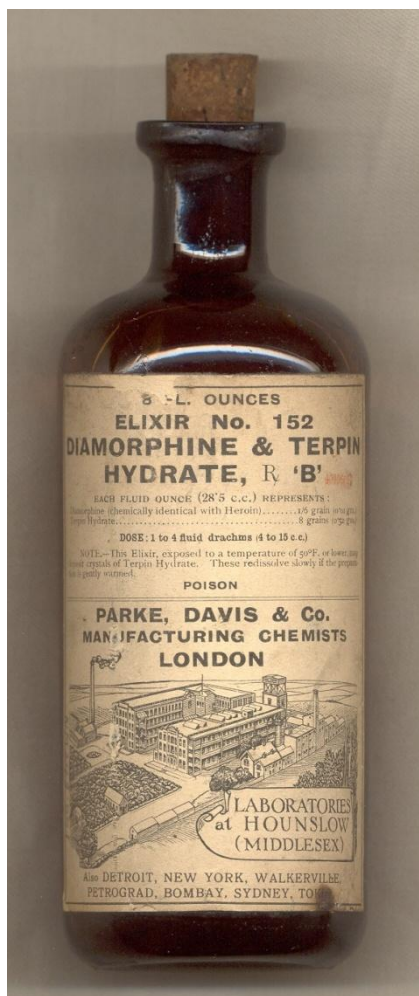
Manufactured by Oppenheimer, Son and Company Limited, 1908 – 1920

Combining heroin with terpin hydrate, Pinheroin was promoted on the label as "A perfect linctus, of great value as a respiratory stimulant."

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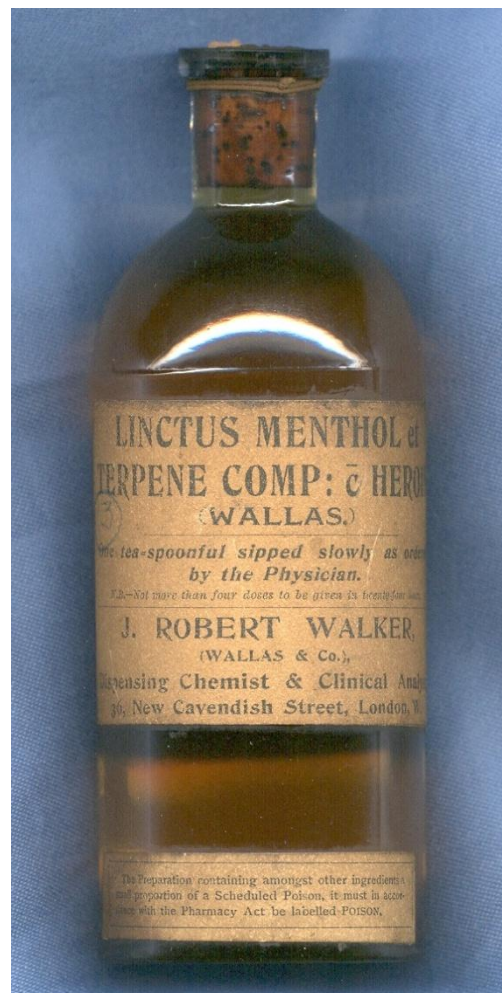
Produced when heroin was still believed to be a safe non-addictive alternative to opium and morphine, the manufacturer claims “*This combination is devoid of the injurious effects which result from the use of opium, morphine, etc...*”



Diamorphine and Terpine Hydrate, R 'B' (Elixir No. 152)

Manufactured by Parke, Davis and Company Limited, 1921 – 1928

Diamorphine and Terpine Hydrate, R 'B' (Elixir No. 152) was for coughs and bronchial irritation.



Wallas' Linctus Menthol et Terpene Comp. c Heroin

Manufactured by Wallas and Company, 1900 – 1920

Wallas' Linctus combined heroin, with menthol and terpin hydrate.

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Savory and Moore's Fructose of Terpin and Heroine Manufactured by Savory and Moore, Limited, 1902 – 1920

Heroin and terpin hydrate in a fruit based preparation.

The Use of Morphine & Diamorphine in Modern Medicine

Morphine and diamorphine (heroin) are very powerful pain-killers, but also highly addictive ones.

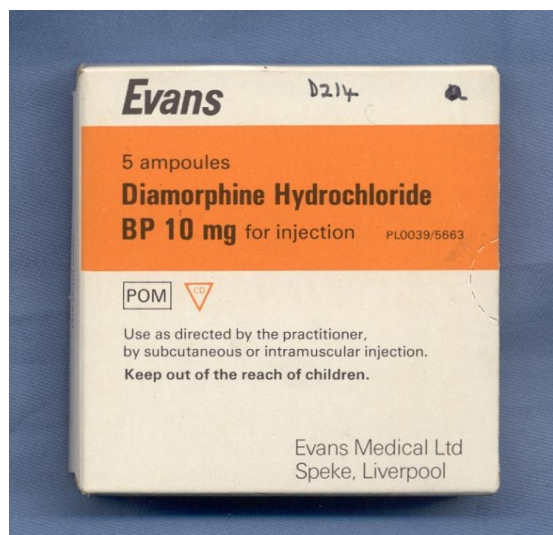
Because of the potential for morphine and diamorphine (heroin) to be abused, their use is now carefully controlled. They are now only used to relieve severe pain in the terminal stages of cancer and other chronic illnesses or severe pain due to serious injury or

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surgery. Most patients take them for only brief periods of time and so do not become dependent.

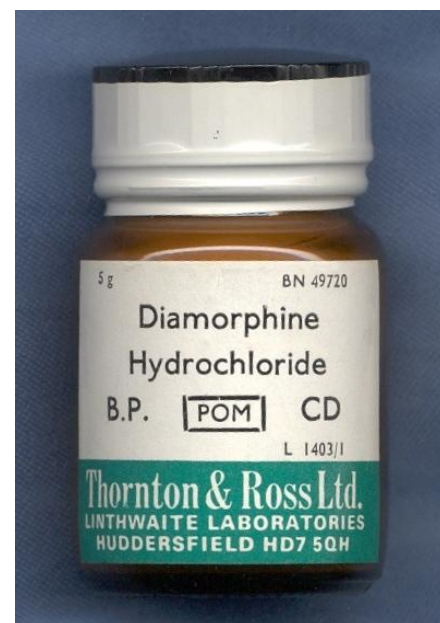
In 2000 Dr Harold Shipman was given a life sentence for murdering a large number of his patients through administering lethal doses of diamorphine.



Evans Diamorphine Hydrochloride BP 10 mg

Manufactured by Evans Medical Limited, 1979

Evans Diamorphine Hydrochloride contains five ampoules for subcutaneous or intramuscular injection. The contents of the ampoules are to be mixed with water for injection.



Diamorphine Hydrochloride BP

Manufactured by Thornton and Ross Limited, 1969-1990

Diamorphine hydrochloride (heroin) is similar in action to morphine; it is a much more potent analgesic (pain reliever) than morphine, but it has a shorter duration of action. It is used to treat severe pain in cases of advanced cancer when doctors consider morphine, in safe dosage, to no longer be effective.



Sevredol 10 mg

Manufactured by Bard Pharmaceuticals Limited, 2008

Sevredol tablets each contain 10 mg of morphine sulphate.

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