

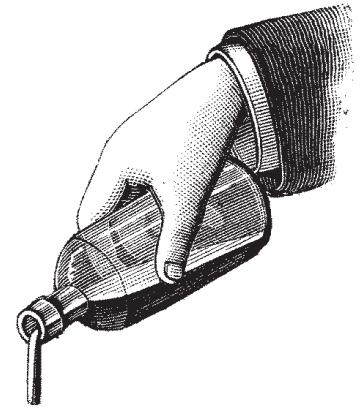


hastly Brews = Elixirs

Is your liver causing you grief?
Do you have bilious complaints?
Are your children suffering from
pin worms? Elixirs to the rescue!
The same patent medicines
promising to cure these and a host of other human ills would
likely be colorfully and imaginatively advertised as being
equally effective on household pets and barnyard animals.
Mass produced and sold in drug stores, they were often
accompanied by stirring written testimonials. Disclosure of
ingredients was not required and alcohol was often the
soothing ingredient that, when "taken as directed," could cure
your every ill.

elixir (noun)

A sweetened aromatic
liquid of alcohol and water,
used as a vehicle for
medicine; regarded as a
cure-all.



*Above: Unembossed and
having paper labels,
"slicks" are the most
common bottles found.
Note the large pontil
scar on bottom and air
bubbles in this early
example.*



*Left: You name it,
it cures it: Dr. J.
Hostetter's Stomach
Bitters, Soothing Syrup,
Rheumatic Liniment.*

*Right: Warner's Safe
Kidney & Liver Cure,
Rochester, N.Y.*



*Left: An interest-
ing claim to cure
both man and beast.*

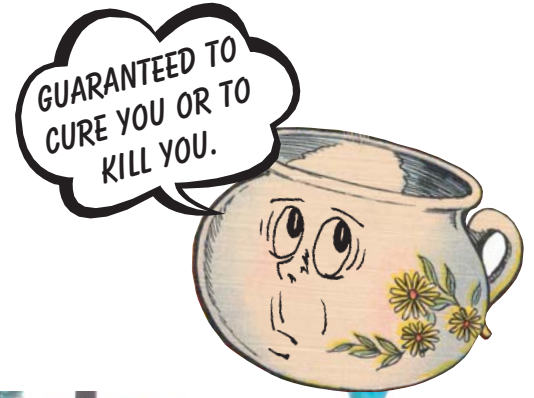
pontil mark (noun)

Scar left on bottom of bottle
where glass or iron rod was
removed.





Left: Choose your poison: Ague Conqueror, Dr. Drake's German Croup Remedy, Rheumatic Liniment, Begg's Blood Purifier, A. Trast's Magnetic Ointment, Hamlin's Wizard Oil, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup or Sloan's Ointment.



Above and Left: A collection of cure-alls: Reed's 1878 Tonic, Paine's Celery Compound, Dr. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters and Electric Bitters.

Ask Tom:

Have you ever dug a bottle that was still sealed and full of liquid?



Tom Says:

Yes, several, but uncorked they have an awful smell.