

OLD TIME DISEASES and WHAT THEY WERE

Abscess: A localized collection of pus buried in tissues, organs, or confined spaces of the body, often accompanied by swelling and inflammation and frequently caused by bacteria

Apoplexy: Paralysis due to stroke

Atrophy: Wasting away (generally from lack of use, i.e. muscles)

Bad Blood: Syphilis

Bilious Fever: Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis

Blood Poisoning: Bacterial infection; septicemia

Brain Fever: Meningitis

Bright's Disease: Chronic inflammatory disease of kidneys

Childbirth: A cause given for many female deaths of the century. Almost all babies were born in homes and usually were delivered by a family member or a midwife; thus infection and lack of medical skill were often the actual causes of death.

Cholera: Acute severe contagious diarrhea with intestinal lining sloughing

Cholera Infantum: A common, non-contagious diarrhoea of young children, occurring in summer or autumn. In the nineteenth century it was considered indigenous to the United States; was prevalent during the hot weather in most of the towns of the middle and southern states, as well as many western areas; and was characterized by gastric pain, vomiting, purgation, fever, and prostration. It was common among the poor and in hand-fed babies. Death frequently occurred in three to five days. Synonyms summer complaint, weaning brash, water gripes, choleric fever of children, cholera morbus

Cholera Morbus: Characterized by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, elevated temperature, etc. Could be appendicitis

Colic: An abdominal pain and cramping

Congestive Chills: Malaria with diarrhea

Congestive Fever: Malaria

Consumption: Tuberculosis; Wasting sickness

Corruption: Infection

Cramp Colic: Appendicitis

Croup: Laryngitis, diphtheria, or strep throat

Cystitis: Inflammation of the bladder

Day Fever: Fever lasting one day; sweating sickness

Debility: Lack of movement or staying in bed

Diphtheria: Contagious disease of the throat

Dropsy: Edema (swelling), often caused by kidney or heart disease

Dropsy of the Brain: Encephalitis

Dysentery: Inflammation of colon with frequent passage of mucous and blood

Enteric Fever: Typhoid fever

Enteritis: Inflammations of the bowels

Falling Sickness: Epilepsy

Flux: An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea

Flux of Humour: Circulation

Heart Sickness: Condition caused by loss of salt from body

Heat Stroke: Body temperature elevates because of surrounding environment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature. Coma and death result if not reversed

Hematemesis: Vomiting blood

Inanition: Physical condition resulting from lack of food

Infantile Paralysis: Polio

La Grippe: Flu, influenza

Lockjaw: Tetanus or infectious disease affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw. Untreated, it is fatal in 8 days

Long Sickness: Tuberculosis

Lung Fever: Pneumonia

Lung Sickness: Tuberculosis

Marasmus: Progressive wasting away of body, like malnutrition

Membranous: Croup Diphtheria

Meningitis: Inflammations of brain or spinal cord

Metritis: Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge

Miasma: Poisonous vapors thought to infect the air

Milk Fever: Disease from drinking contaminated milk, like undulant fever or brucellosis

Myocarditis: Inflammation of heart muscles

Necrosis: Mortification of bones or tissue

Nephrosis: Kidney degeneration

Nepritis: Inflammation of kidneys

Palsy: Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles. It was listed as "Cause of death"

Pleurisy: Any pain in the chest area with each breath

Rickets: Disease of skeletal system

Scarlet Fever: A disease characterized by red rash

Scurvy: Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and hemorrhages under skin

Septicemia: Blood poisoning

Spasms: Sudden involuntary contraction of muscle or group of muscles, like a convulsion

Summer Complaint: Diarrhea, usually in infants caused by spoiled milk

Teething: Tooth infections with inflammation

Tetanus: Infectious fever characterized by high fever, headache and dizziness

Thrombosis: Blood clot inside blood vessel

Water on Brain: Enlarged head

Other causes of death

Affixation: During the time when natural gas was used to light houses or possibly heat them, carbine monoxide deaths were common

Killed by cars: The train would stop at a crossing and the person walking would climb between the cars to keep going to their destination, or they were taking coal off the train. The train started to move the person would be knocked either between the coupling or onto the track.