Glossary of Common Medical Terms and Definitions Commonly Used in the Past
Compiled and Consolidated
By Kathleen Schaible

Abasia - Inability to walk or stand, caused by hysteria
Ablepsy - Blindness, also Ablepsia, Abopsis
Abscess - A localized collection of liquefied tissue or pus often accompanied by swelling and inflammation
Accouchement - childbirth, the period after childbirth
Acute - (adj) disease of sudden onset, severe, not chronic
Addison's disease - A disease characterized by severe weakness, low blood pressure, and a bronzed coloration of the skin, atrophy of the adrenal cortex- aka Morbus Addisonii - bronzed skin disease
Aegrotantem - Sickness, illness
Aegrotat - Is sick from
African Consumption - Tuberculosis
Agnail - Hangnail
Ague - 1. A febrile condition especially associated with malaria, characterized by alternating periods of chills, fever, and sweating.  2. A chill or fit of shivering.
Ague-cake - A form of enlargement of the spleen, resulting from the action of malaria on the system
Alerative - Restores Normal Body Functions
Alexipharmic - Poison Antidote
Alopecia - Baldness
American plague - Yellow fever
Anasarca - Generalized massive edema see dropsy
Anchylosis/ ankylosis - Abnormal stiffening and immobility of a joint by fusion of the bones
Angina/ Angina Pectoris - Pain in chest brought on by exertion; intense constricting pain especially of the throat, can lead to suffocation; quinsy
Anodyne - Pain Reliever
Anasarca - Generalized Dropsy
Aphonia - Laryngitis
Aphtha/ Aphthae - see thrush
Aphthous stomatitis - see canker
Apoplexy - Paralysis due to stroke or cerebral rupture
Apostems, Aposthumes - Abscess
Ardent Fever - A form of remittent malaria
Aromatic - Fragrant Herb
Ascites - see dropsy
Asphycsia/ Asphicsia - Cyanotic and lack of oxygen
Asthenia - see debility
Atrophy - Wasting away or diminishing in size
Avoid - Void or excrete
Axungia - Lard
Bad Blood - Syphilis
Bethlehemite - Mentally ill person
Biles - Boils
Biliousness - Jaundice associated with liver disease; a complex of symptoms comprising nausea, abdominal discomfort, headache, and constipation; formerly attributed to excessive secretion of bile from the liver
Black fever - Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high mortality rate
Black Lung, Miner’s Lung - From breathing coal dust, pneumonosilicosis, silicosis
Black Plague/Black Death - Bubonic Plague
Black pox - Black Small pox, Smallpox
Black vomit - Vomiting old (black) blood due to ulcers or yellow fever
Blackwater fever - Dark urine associated with high temperature
Bladder in throat - Diphtheria
Blain - Blister or Pustule
Blood poisoning - Bacterial infection; septicemia
Bloody flux - Bloody stools; dysentery
Bloody sweat - Sweating sickness
Boil - An abscess of skin or painful, circumscribed inflammation of the skin or a hair follicle, having a dead, pus-forming inner core, usually caused by a staphylococcal infection Synonym: furuncle
Bone shave - Sciatica
Brain fever - Meningitis, Typhus
Breakbone - Dengue fever
Bright’s disease - Chronic inflammatory disease of kidneys; kidney disease; glomerulonephritis
Bronchial asthma - A paroxysmal, often allergic disorder of breathing, characterized by spasm of the bronchial tubes of the lungs, wheezing, and difficulty in breathing air outward, often accompanied by coughing and a feeling of tightness in the chest
Bronze John - Yellow fever
Brucellosis - bacterial disease, especially of cattle, causing undulant fever in humans
Bule - Boil, tumor or swelling
Cachexia - Severe Wasting
Cachexy - Malnutrition
Cacoethes - Ulcerous tumor
Cacogastric - Upset stomach
Cacospysy - Irregular pulse
Caduceus - Subject to falling sickness or epilepsy
Camp fever - Typhus; aka Camp diarrhea, typhoid fever
Cancer - A malignant and invasive growth or tumor: malignant growth, carcinoma
Cancrum Otis - A severe, destructive, eroding ulcer of the cheek and lip, rapidly proceeding to sloughing, loss of facial tissue and teeth possible fatal; canker, water canker, noma, gangrenous stomatitis, gangrenous ulceration of the mouth
Canine madness - Rabies, hydrophobia
Canker - An ulcerous sore of the mouth and lips, not considered fatal today; herpes simplex Synonym: Aphthous stomatitis See Cancrum Otis
Cantharides - Powdered Beetles (Spanish Fly)
Carbuncles - Staphylococcal Inflammation
Carminative Medicine: Expels Flatulence
Casting - Vomiting
Catalepsy - Condition which causes Seizures/trances or unconsciousness
Catamenia - Menstrual Flow
Cataplasm - Poultice
Catarrh - (1) Inflammation of Mucous Membrane or (2) Cerebral Hemorrhage (Apoplexy) Bronchial catarrh was bronchitis; suffocative catarrh was croup; urethral catarrh was gleet; vaginal catarrh was leukorrhea; epidemic catarrh was the same as influenza: cold, coryza Nose and throat discharge from cold or allergy; influenza
Catarrhal - Nose and throat discharge from cold or allergy
Catarrhs Inflammation: Inflammation of the Mucous Membranes
Cathars - Purges
Cathartic - Purgative
Cephalic Medicine - Clears Head
Cerebritis - Inflammation of cerebrum or lead poisoning
Ceruse - Lead Carbonate
Chilblain - Swelling of extremities caused by exposure to cold and then heat; Frostbite
Child bed fever - Infection following birth of a child; puerperal fever
Childbed - Childbirth
Childbirth - A cause given for many female deaths of the century caused by complications of childbirth either direct result of birth itself or infections contracted during.
Chin cough - Whooping cough
Chlorosis - Iron deficiency anemia; condition of pale or greenish skin, weakness, & dyspepsia
Cholagogue Medicine - Increases Bile Flow
Cholecystitus - Inflammation of the gall bladder
Cholelithiasis - Gall stones
Choler - Bile, Red Bile, Yellow Bile
Cholera - Acute severe contagious diarrhea with intestinal lining sloughing, can lead to dehydration and death
Cholera infantum - A common, non-contagious diarrhea of young children, included gastric pain, vomiting, purgation, fever, and prostration: 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
Chorea - A term that is used to refer to rapid, jerky, involuntary movements of the limbs or face that characterize several different disorders of the nervous
system, including chorea of pregnancy and Huntington's chorea as well as Sydenham's chorea.

**Chronic** - Persisting over a long period of time as opposed to acute or sudden. This word was often the only one entered under “cause of death” in the mortality schedules. The actual disease meant by the term is open to speculation.

**Claustered** - Clotted

**Cloge** - To clean

**Clysters** - Enema Or Injection

**Cold plague** - Ague which is characterized by chills.

**Colic** - An abdominal pain and cramping, especially in infants- is in itself not fatal, but may be associated with fatal diseases as a symptom

**Colic Pain** - Acute Abdominal Pain

**Commotion** - Concussion

**Confinement** - the conclusion of pregnancy; labor and childbirth.

**Congestion** - An excessive or abnormal accumulation of blood or other fluid in a body part, blood vessel or an organ, like the lungs Congestive chills. Malaria with diarrhea.

**Congestive Chill** - Accumulation of the blood in the blood vessels

**Congestive Chills Malaria** with or without diarrhea

**Congestive Fever** - Malaria

**Consumption** - A wasting away of the body, used in reference to tuberculosis.

**Convulsions** - Severe contortion of the body caused by violent, involuntary muscular contractions of the extremities, trunk, and head. See epilepsy.

**Corruption** - Infection

**Coryza** - A cold. see catarrh.

**Costiveness** - Constipation

**Courses** - Menstrual Flow

**Cramp Colic** - Appendicitis

**Croaking Guts** - Flatulence

**Crop sickness** - Overextended stomach.

**Croup** - Any obstructive condition of the larynx (voice box) or trachea (windpipe), characterized by a hoarse, barking cough and difficult breathing occurring chiefly in infants and children. The obstruction could be caused by allergy, a foreign body, infection, or new growth (tumor). In the early 19th century it was called cynanche

**Trachealis; Laryngitis, diphtheria, or strep throat, roup, hives, choak, stuffing, rising of the lights.**

**Cyanosis** - Abnormal Dark skin color; blueness of skin caused by lack of oxygen in blood.

**Cynancie** Diseases of throat

**Cystitis** - Inflammation of the bladder.

**Day fever** - Fever lasting one day; sweating sickness.

**Debility/ Debilitas** - Abnormal bodily weakness or feebleness; decay of strength. This was a term descriptive of a patient's condition and of no help in making a diagnosis. Lack of movement or staying in bed. Synonym: asthenia.
Decrepitude - Feebleness due to old age.
Defluxion - Inflammation of the Mucous Membranes
Delay - To dilute
Delirium tremens - aka DTs; hallucination due to alcohol withdrawals.
Dengue - Infectious fever endemic to East Africa
Dentition - Cutting of teeth, see teething.
Deplumation - Tumor of the eyelids which causes hair loss.
Detersive Medicine - Cleansing
Devonshire Colic - Exposure to lead, lead poisoning
Diaphoretic - Sweating Induction
Diary fever - A fever that lasts one day, see day fever
Diphtheria - Diphtheria is a potentially fatal, contagious disease that usually involves the nose, throat, and air passages, but may also infect the skin. Its most striking feature is the formation of a grayish membrane covering the tonsils and upper part of the throat; was occasionally confused with scarlet fever and croup.
Distemper - generic term for mental illness; also an animal disease of the respiratory system.
Distillation - Discharge, Trickling
Diuretic - increases urine flow
Dock fever - see yellow fever
Draught Medicine - taken in one dose
Dropsy - Edema; a condition of abnormally large fluid volume in the circulatory system or in tissues between the body's cells
Dropsy of the Brain - Encephalitis
Dry Bellyache - Lead poisoning
Dyscrasy - An abnormal body condition.
Dysentery - Dysentery is a general term for a group of gastrointestinal disorders characterized by inflammation of the intestines, particularly the colon.
Dysorexy - Reduced appetite
Dyspepsia - Indigestion and heartburn. Heart attack symptoms; bad digestion.
Dysury - Difficulty in urination
Eclampsy/ Eclampsia - Coma and convulsions during or immediately after pregnancy, characterized by edema, hypertension, and proteinuria.
Ecstasy - A form of catalepsy characterized by loss of reason
Edema - Nephrosis; swelling of tissues. see Dropsy.
Edema of Lungs Congestive heart failure, a form of dropsy
Eel thing - Erysipelas; An acute disease of the skin and subcutaneous tissue caused by a species of hemolytic streptococcus and marked by localized inflammation and fever. Also called Saint Anthony's fire.
Effluvia - Exhalations or "vapors", distinguished into the contagious effluvia, such as rubella (measles); marsh effluvia, such as miasma; and those arising from animals or vegetables, such as odors.
Elephantiasis - A form of leprosy, characterized by a gross enlargement of the body and limbs, transmitted by mosquitoes
Emerods - Hemorrhoids
Emmenagogue - Drug that induces menstruation
**Emphysema, pulmonary** - A chronic, irreversible disease of the lungs, characterized by abnormal enlargement of air spaces in the lungs and accompanied by destruction of the tissue lining the walls of the air sacs. By 1900 the condition was recognized as a chronic disease of the lungs associated with marked dyspnea (shortness of breath), hacking cough, defective aeration (oxygenation) of the blood, cyanosis (blue color of facial skin), and a full and rounded or "barrel-shaped" chest.

**Encephalitis** - Swelling of brain; aka sleeping sickness

**Enteric Fever** - Typhoid Fever

**Enteritis** - Inflammation of the bowels or intestines

**Enterocolitis** - Inflammation of the intestines

**Entrails** - Intestines

**Epilepsy** - A disorder of the nervous system, characterized either by mild, episodic loss of attention or sleepiness (petitnal) or by severe convulsions with loss of consciousness (grand mal). Synonyms: falling sickness, fits.

**Epitaxis/ Epitasis** - Nose bleed

**Erysipelas** - Contagious skin disease, due to Streptococci with vesicular and bulbous lesions

**Excess Of The Flowers** - Menstrual Flow Excess

**Excoriation** - Abrasion

**Excrement Retention** - Constipation

**Expectorant** - Promotes bronchial secretion and ejection

**Extravasated** - Ruptured blood vessel

**Falling sickness, Falling Evil** - Epilepsy

**Fatty Liver** - Cirrhosis of liver

**Febrifuge Medicine** - Reduces Fever

**Fistula** - Abnormal Tube-Like Passage

**Fits** - Convulsions, Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity, epilepsy

**Fluor Albus** - Vaginal White Discharge

**Flux of Humour** - Circulation

**Flux** - An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea

**Flux of Humour** - Circulation

**French Disease** - Syphilis

**French pox** - Syphilis or Venereal Disease

**Fuliac-Passion** - Abdominal Pains

**Fundament** - Anus or buttocks

**Gathering** - A collection of pus

**Glandular fever** - Mononucleosis aka 'mono'

**Gleet** - see catarrh.

**Goitre/ Goiter** - Enlarged thyroid gland which affects body's metabolism.
Gout - Chronic metabolic disorder affecting the joints, associated with hypertension, uric acid in the blood and kidney disease, often associated with a rich and fatty diet (and red wine).

Gravel - A disease characterized by multiple small calculi (stones or concretions of mineral salts) which are formed in the kidneys, passed along the ureters to the bladder, and expelled with the urine. Synonym: kidney stone.

Gravel Urine: Sand-Like Deposit

Grave's disease - Thyrotoxicosis; A condition resulting from excessive concentrations of thyroid hormones in the body, as in hyperthyroidism

Great Pox - Syphilis

Green fever / sickness - Anemia

Grippe/grip - Influenza like symptoms; the flu; influenza.

Gripping Of The Guts - Colic

Gristle - Cartilage

Grocer's itch - Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour

Gulesought - Jaundice

Hallucination - Delirium

Hamms - Buttocks

Haw - Growth on or in the eye, sty

Heart sickness - Condition caused by loss of salt from body

Heat stroke - A severe condition caused by impairment of the body's temperature-regulating abilities, resulting from prolonged exposure to excessive heat and characterized by cessation of sweating, severe headache, high fever, hot dry skin, and in serious cases collapse and coma

Hectical complaint - A daily recurring fever with profound sweating, chills, and flushed Hectic Fever appearance, often associated with pulmonary tuberculosis or septic poisoning.

Hematemesis - Vomiting blood

Hematuria - Bloody urine

Hemiplegy - Paralysis of one side of body

Hip Gout - Osteomyelitis; A usually bacterial infection of bone and bone marrow in which the resulting inflammation can lead to a reduction of blood supply to the bone

Hives - A skin eruption of itchy red or pale welts caused by allergic reaction. Hives themselves are not fatal, and if given as the cause of death (usually in children) it was probably mistaken for something else such as smallpox, was a coincidental symptom unrelated to the actual cause (probably croup), or simply indicative of a fatal allergic reaction (look for other symptoms too such as suffocation (closed throat, etc).)

Horrors - Delirium tremens

Hospital Fever - see typhus.

Humor - Bodily Fluid

Hydrocephalus - Enlarged head, water on the brain; dropsy of the brain. see dropsy.

Hydro pericardium - Heart dropsy

Hydrophobia - Rabies; fear of water.

Hydrothorax - Dopsy in chest
**Hypertrophy** - Enlargement of organ, like the heart

**Hypertrophy of heart** - Enlarged heart.

**Hypochondrium** - Upper Abdomen

**Hyposarca Dropsy** - Edema

**Hystera** - Wild uncontrollable emotion, excitement, functional disturbance of the nervous system.

**Icterus** - see jaundice.

**Ictus Solis** - Sunstroke

**Iliac Passion** - Sciatica

**Impetigo** - Contagious skin disease characterized by pustules

**Impostumations** - Swelling, Abscess

**Impostume** - Abscess which is pussy.

**Inanition** - Exhaustion from lack of nourishment; starvation. A condition characterized by marked weakness, extreme weight loss, and a decrease in metabolism resulting from severe and prolonged (usually weeks to months) insufficiency of food.

**Infantile paralysis** - Polio

**Infection** - The affection or contamination of a person, organ, or wound with invading, multiplying, disease-producing germs (such as bacteria, rickettsiae, viruses, molds, yeasts, and protozoa). In the early part of the last century, infections were thought to be the propagation of disease by effluvia (see above) from patients crowded together. "Miasms" were believed to be substances which could not be seen in any form; emanations not apparent to the senses. Such miasms were understood to act by infection.

**Inflammation** - Redness, swelling, pain, tenderness, heat, and disturbed function of an area of the body, especially as a reaction of tissue to injurious agents. This mechanism serves as a localized and protective response to injury. The word ending ‘-itis’ denotes inflammation on the part indicated by the word stem to which it is attached.

**Intestinal Colic** - Abdominal pain due to improper diet

**Intussusceptions** - The slipping of one part within another, as the prolepses of one part of the intestine into the lumen of an immediately adjoining part. This leads to obstruction and often must be relieved by surgery. Synonym: introitus susceptions.

**Jail Fever** - Typhus

**Jaundice** - Yellow discoloration of the skin, whites of the eyes, and mucous membranes, due to an increase of bile pigments in the blood - often symptomatic of certain diseases, such as hepatitis, obstruction of the bile duct, or cancer of the liver; Condition caused by blockage of intestines (common in newborn babies); Icterus.

**Kernels** - Swelling, Hard. Can be specific reference to tonsils

**Kibes** - Chilblains, especially ulcerated ones on the heels

**Kidney Stone** - see gravel.

**King's Evil** - Scrofula; Tuberculosis characterized by a swelling of the neck glands

**Knop** - Knob-shaped protuberance, or a wart or pimple
Kruchhusten - Whooping cough
La Grippe/ Lagrippe - Flu, influenza
Lask - Diarrhea
Laxes - Bowel Looseness, diarrhea
Leucophlegmatia Dropsy: severe generalized, massive edema; often occurs in congestive heart failure, liver failure, or renal disease now known as Anasarca
Leucorrhoea - a whitish, viscid discharge from the vagina and uterine cavity
Lights - Lungs
Lochia - Vaginal Discharge After Labor
Lockjaw - Tetanus, Trismus-- affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw, is fatal if not treated within 8 days
Long sickness - Tuberculosis
Lues disease - Syphilis
Lues venera - Venereal disease; sexually transmitted disease (STD)
Lumbago - Pain in lower back, hip, or thigh: Sciatica
Lung fever - Pneumonia
Lung sickness - Tuberculosis
Lying in - Time of delivery of infant
Malignant Fever - see typhus.
Malignant sore throat - Diphtheria
Mania - Insanity
Marasmus - Chronic wasting of body tissues, especially in young children, commonly due to prolonged dietary deficiency of protein and calories. Also called athrepsia.
Matrix - Womb
Matrix Passions- Uterine Infection, generic
Mediastinum - Septum
Megrin - Migraine
Melicrat - Mixture of milk and honey
Membranous Croup - Diphtheria
Meningitis Inflations of brain or spinal cord
Mesenterion - Mesenteries
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
Milk leg - Post partum thrombophlebitis, inflammation of the leg
Milk sickness - Disease from milk of cattle which had eaten poisonous weeds
Milt - Spleen
Marasmus - Emaciation
Mithridate Medicine - Protects Against Poison
Morbus - Disease
Morfew - Scurvy Blisters on the body
Mormal - Gangrene
Morphew - Scurvy blisters on the body, sometimes leprosy
Morphy - Schleroderma
Mortification - Gangrene of necrotic tissue; infection characterized death or decay of one part of a living body; gangrene; necrosis
Myelitis - Inflammation of the spine
Myocarditis - Inflammation of heart muscles
Necrosis - the morphological changes indicative of cell death caused by progressive enzymatic degradation; it may affect groups of cells or part of a structure or an organ
Nephrosis - Kidney degeneration
Nepritis - Inflammation of kidneys
Nervous prostration - Extreme exhaustion from inability to control physical and mental activities
Neuralgia - Described as discomfort, such as "Headache" was neuralgia in head
Nostalgia - Homesickness
Obstruction Of Meseriacks - Abdominal obstruction or blockage
Olibanum - Frankincense
Oppilations - Obstructions
Oxymel - Mixture Of Honey & Vinegar
Painter’s Colic - Exposure to lead
Palsy - Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles; loss of muscle control.
Paristhmitis - see quinsy.
Paroxysm - Convulsion
Passion - Disorder
Pecten - anal canal
Pectoral Medicine - Chest medicine
Pemphigus - Skin disease of watery blisters
Pericarditis - Inflammation of heart
Peripneumonia - Inflammation of lungs
Peritonotis - Inflammation of abdominal area
Petechial Fever - Fever characterized by skin spotting, possibly typhus
Phthiriasis - Lice infestation
Phthisis - Chronic wasting away due to, or a name for, tuberculosis or consumption. see consumption.
Pin And Web - Eye Disease With Film
Plague - An acute febrile highly infectious disease with a high fatality rate
Pleurisy - General Term for Chest Pain associated with breathing, Inflammation of the pleura
Ploukes - Lumps or swellings
Pneumonia - Inflammation of the lungs with congestion or consolidation, caused by viruses, bacteria, or physical and chemical agents.
Podagra - Gout
Poliomyelitis - Polio, Potter’s asthma - Fibroid ptosis
Polypus - Polyps
Posset - Cold Remedy, Milk Base
**Potter's asthma** - Fibroid phthisis, emphysema, silicosis. Caused by continual inhalation of clay and glaze dusts as well as the vapors caused by the firing process.

**Pottis Disease** - Tuberculosis of spine

**Pox** - Syphilis

**Priapism** - Lewdness, prolonged penile erection

**Pitsick/ Ptisis** - Tuberculosis

**Puerperal exhaustion** - Death due to child birth

**Puerperal fever** - Elevated temperature after giving birth to an infant; septic poisoning associated with child birth.

**Puking fever** - Milk sickness

**Pus** - A yellow-white, more or less viscid substance found in abscesses and sores, consisting of a liquid plasma in which white blood cells are formed and suspended by the process of inflammation.

**Push** - Pimple Or Boil

**Putrid fever** - Diphtheria; typhus

**Putrid sore throat** - Ulceration of an acute form, attacking the tonsils and rapidly running into sloughing of the fauces (the cavity at the back of the mouth, leading to the pharynx).

**Pyles in The Ars/ Pyles/ Piles** - Hemorrhoids, swollen veins in the rectum

**Pyrexia** - dysentary

**Quartan Ague** - Malaria

**Quinsey/ Quinzies** - Tonsillitis, suppurative tonsillitis, cynanche tonsillaris, paristhmitis, sore throat.

**Quotidian Fevers** - Recurring fevers

**Reds** - Menstrual Flow

**Reins** - Kidneys, Loins

**Remitting fever** - Malaria

**Rhagades** - Skin Fissures

**Rheum** - A watery or thin mucous discharge from the eyes or nose

**Rheumatism** - Any of several pathological conditions of the muscles, tendons, joints, bones, or nerves, characterized by discomfort and disability, arthritis

**Rickets** - Disease of skeletal system caused by vitamin D deficiency.

**Rose cold** - Hay fever or nasal symptoms of an allergy

**Rotanny fever** - Childhood disease- no info found for symptoms or description.

**Rubeola/ Reubella** - German measles

**Sanguineous crust** - Scab

**Scalls** - Skin disease with scaling or scabs, especially on the scalp

**Scarlatina** - Scarlet fever

**Scarlet fever** - A disease characterized by red rash

**Scarlet rash** - Roseola

**Schirrh** - Hard Tumors

**Sciatica** - Rheumatism in the hips, pinched sciatic nerve with possible symptoms including severe pain, tingling, and paralyzation

**Scirrhous** - Cancerous tumors

**Scorbutus** - Lack of Vitamin C, Scurvy
Scotomy - Dizziness, nausea and dimness of sight
Scouring - Purging as in diarrhea
Screws - Rheumatism
Scrivener's palsy - Writer's cramp
Scrofula - (see King's Evil)
Scrofula/Struma - Tuberculosis of neck lymph glands. Progresses slowly with abscesses and fistulas develop. Young person's disease
Scrupox - Impetigo, skin disease
Scurvy - Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and hemorrhages under skin
Secundines - After-Birth
Senile Gangrene - Hardening of the Arteries
Septic - Infected, a condition of local or generalized invasion of the body by disease-causing microorganisms (germs) or their toxins.
Septicemia - Blood poisoning
Shakes - Delirium tremens
Shaking - Chills, ague
Shingles - Viral disease with skin blisters, associated with chickenpox
Ship's Fever - Typhus
Simple - Medicinal Herb
Simpler - Herb Doctor
Siriasis - Inflammation of the brain due to sun exposure, heat stroke
Sloes - Milk sickness
Small pox - Contagious disease characterized by fever and blisters.
Softening of brain - Result of stroke or hemorrhage in the brain, with an end result of the tissue softening in that area; apoplexy.
Sore throat distemper - Diphtheria or quinsy
Spanish Influenza - strain of Influenza that caused several waves of pandemic in 1918-1919, resulting in over 20 million deaths worldwide
Sprue - Tropical disease characterized by intestinal disorders and sore throat
St. Anthony's Fire - Also erysipelas, but named so because of affected skin areas are bright red in appearance
St. Vitas Dance - Ceaseless occurrence of rapid complex jerking movements performed involuntary, nervous twitches, possibly Parkinson's
Starting Of The Members - Involuntary Movements
Stomachic - Substance that acts as a stomach tonic, promoting digestion such as bitters
Stomatitis - Inflammation of the mouth
Stranger's fever - Yellow fever
Strangery - Rupture
Strangle - To poison
Strangullion - A quinsy or throat glandual inflammation
Strangury - Painful Urination
Styptic - agent used to stop bleeding, promote clotting
Sudor anglicus - Sweating sickness
Sudoric - Induces Sweating
Suffocation - cessation of breathing caused by blockage of the airways either accidental or homocidal. Strangulation, choking, etc.
Summer complaint - Diarrhea, usually in infants caused by spoiled milk
Sunstroke - Uncontrolled elevation of body temperature due to environment heat. Lack of sodium in the body is a predisposing cause
Suppuration - The production of pus.
Surdity - Deafness
Swamp sickness - Could be malaria, typhoid or encephalitis
Sweating sickness/ English Sweat - Infectious and fatal disease common to UK in 15th century, charachterized by sudden onset, intermittent chills, fever and exhaustion usually followed by death.
Synochus Putrida- Continuous Fever
Tabes mesenterica - Tuberculosis of the mesenteric glands in children, resulting in digestive derangement and wasting of the body.
Teething - The entire process which results in the eruption of the teeth. In itself not fatal, but complications associated with it (infections, consuming bad milk, etc) might well have been the cause of death for many infants.
Tertian Fever - Malaria
Tetanus - An infectious, often-fatal disease characterized by respiratory paralysis, high fever, and tonic spasms and rigidity of the voluntary muscles, trismus, lockjaw.
Tetters - Herpes, Ringworm Or Eczema
Throat-Bole - Bolus
Thrombosis - Blood clot in a blood vessel
Thrush - A disease characterized by whitish spots and ulcers on the membranes of the mouth, tongue, and faces usually affects sick, weak infants and elderly individuals in poor health or those with weakened immune systems; aphthae, sore mouth, aphthous stomatitis.
Thyrotoxicosis - A disease affecting the thyroid gland.
Tick fever - Rocky mountain spotted fever
Tonic - Remedial agent
Toxemia of Pregnancy - Eclampsia
Trench mouth - Painful ulcers found along gum line, Caused by poor nutrition and poor hygiene
Trismus nascentium/neonatorum - A form of tetanus seen only in infants, almost invariably in the first five days of life, probably due to infection of the umbilical stump.
Troches - Lozenges
Tussis convulsiva - Whooping cough
**Typhoid fever** - An infectious, often-fatal, febrile disease, usually occurring in the summer months, characterized by intestinal inflammation and ulceration caused by the bacterium Salmonella typhi, this is usually introduced by food or drink. Symptoms include prolonged hectic fever, malaise, transient characteristic skin rash (rose spots), abdominal pain, enlarged spleen, slowness of heart rate, delirium, and low white-blood cell count. The name came from the disease's similarity to typhus (see below). Synonym: enteric fever.

**Typhus** - An acute, infectious disease caused by several micro-organism species of *Rickettsia* - (transmitted by lice and fleas) and characterized by acute prostration, high fever, depression, delirium, headache, and a peculiar eruption of reddish spots on the body. The epidemic or classic form is louse borne; the endemic or murine is flea borne. Synonyms: typhus fever, malignant fever (in the 1850s), jail fever, hospital fever, ship fever, putrid fever, brain fever, bilious fever, spotted fever, petechial fever, camp fever.

**Ulcer** - Ulcer

**Undulant Fever** - Intermittant fever caused by brucellosis. also called abortus fever.

**Variola** - Smallpox

**Venery** - Sexual Intercourse

**Venesection** - Bleeding

**Vermifuge** - Substance that expels intestinal worms or parasites

**Viper's dance** - St. Vitus Dance

**Virus** - An ultramicroscopic, metabolically inert infectious agent that replicates only within the cells of living hosts, mainly bacteria, plants, and animals. In the early 1800s virus meant poison, venom, or contagion.

**Water on the Brain** - Hydrocephalus, Enlarged head or maybe Downs Syndrome

**Weals** - welts

**Wen** - Subcutaneous Cyst

**Whelks** - Pimples

**White swelling** - Tuberculosis of the bone

**Whites**- Vaginal Discharge

**Whitlow** - Boil

**Winter fever** - Pneumonia

**Womb Fever** - Infection of the Uterus

**Worm fit** - Convulsions associated with teething, worms, elevated temperature or diarrhea

**Yellow fever** - An acute, often-fatal, infectious febrile disease of warm climates, caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes; it is characterized by liver damage and jaundice, fever, and protein in the urine.

**Yellow Jacket** - Yellow Fever

**Yellow Landers** - Jaundice