



GCSE HISTORY MEDICINE THROUGH TIME TASKS

What factors brought improvements in children's health in the 20th century?

Children's health used to be an even greater problem to doctors than adult health. Children got different diseases, they were more likely to die, and they reacted differently to doctors' attempts to use adult cures on them. Death was always close to a child's life: in 19th-century Britain, 16 per cent of babies born failed to reach their first birthday and 40 per cent failed to reach 15. Often, even the most caring doctor could only sit and hope, like the doctor in Source A.

Changing attitudes in the 19th century

Britain lagged behind other countries in setting up hospitals specialising in the care of children. Children's

hospitals were started in Paris in 1802, in Berlin in 1830, in St Petersburg in 1834 and in Vienna in 1837. Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London was opened in 1852. For many years, children were put in mixed wards with adults and parental visits were discouraged.

In the 19th century, more notice was taken of children's health. Unfortunately, not all the advice and remedies offered were worth having. Nor was much effort made to make hospitals friendly places for children.

TASK 1

Use Source A.

What does the artist of Source A want to say to us about:

- the doctor?
- the effectiveness of medical treatment?

TASK 2

Use Sources B, C and D.

Do these three sources show that sick children were well cared for in 19th-century Britain?

TASK 3

Compare Source E with Source D. In what ways are these wards different? What does this tell us about changing attitudes to sick children? In what ways is a children's ward in a hospital today different from Source E?

TASK 4

What do Sources E and F tell us about the role of governments in dealing with child illness in the 20th century?

WELLCOME LIBRARY LEARNING RESOURCE

of a vany loines, Make
the burnt Claret wine ge
pon a pinnis, at morkings
with feru. Make some br
is juss, and Knoted gray.
this at pleafur. put u
rinke it the frede o
I have found good E
the medicine.



GCSE HISTORY MEDICINE THROUGH TIME SOURCE MATERIALS 1 OF 4

What factors brought improvements in children's health in the 20th century?

Source A.

A doctor watches over a sick child – a 19th century painting. V0036150

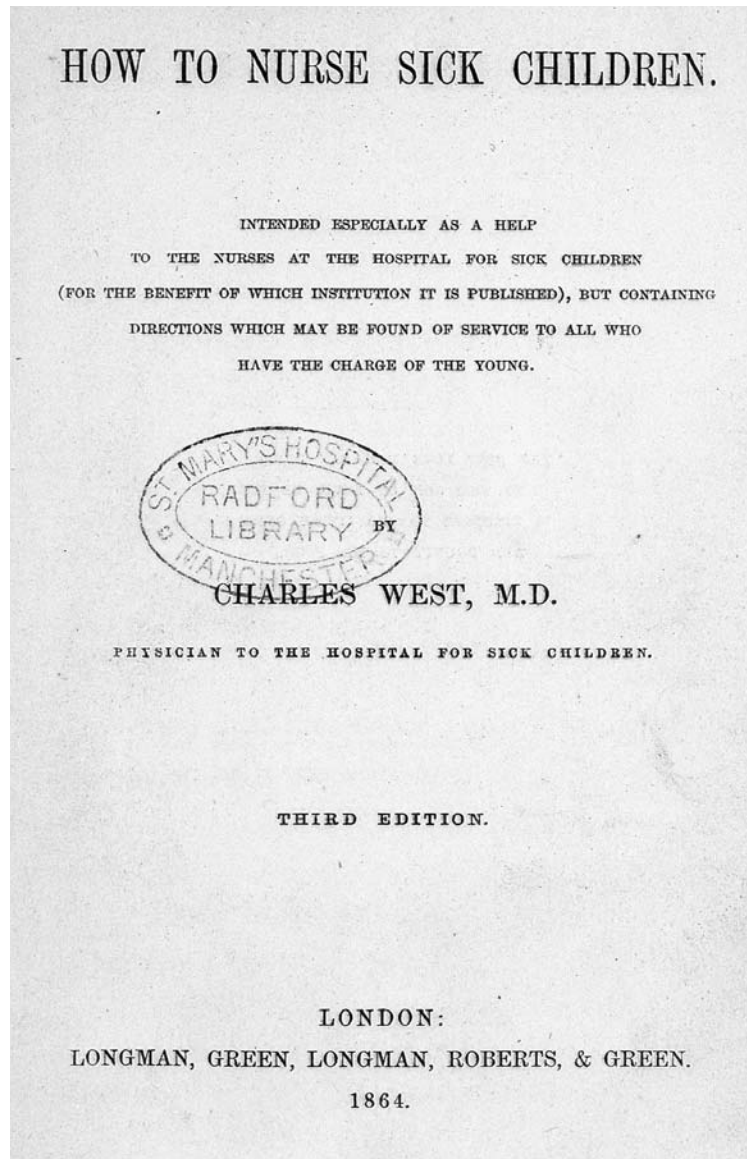


GCSE HISTORY
MEDICINE THROUGH TIME
SOURCE MATERIALS 2 OF 4

What factors brought improvements in children's health in the 20th century?

Source B.

'How to Nurse Sick Children', 1864. L0008371

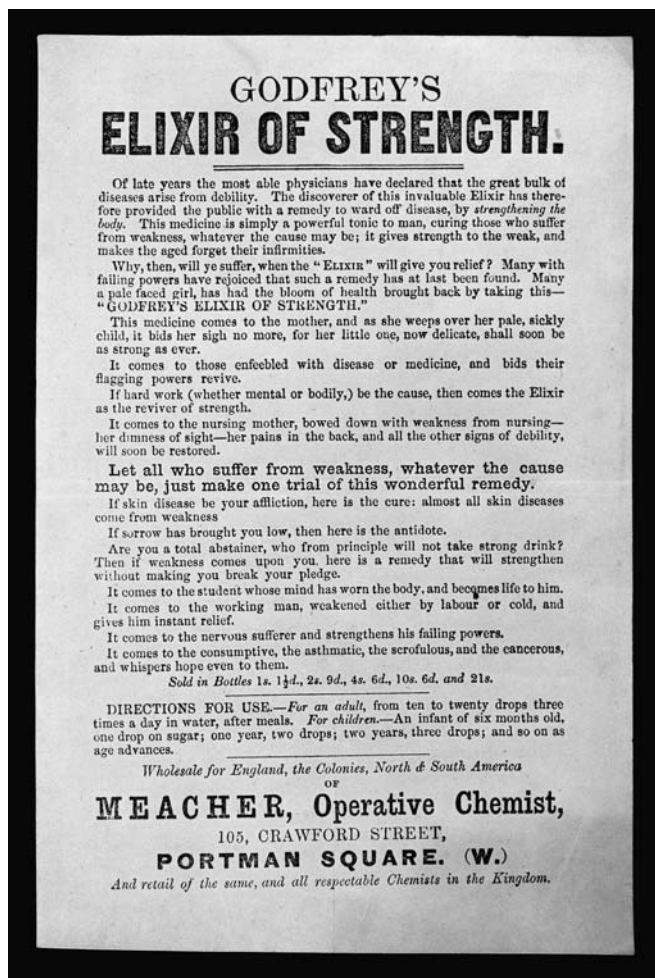


GCSE HISTORY MEDICINE THROUGH TIME SOURCE MATERIALS 2 OF 4

What factors brought improvements in children's health in the 20th century?

Source C.

Advertisement for Godfrey's Cordial, 1861. The ingredients in medicines for children included harmful substances such as opium and brandy. L0025768



**GODFREY'S
ELIXIR OF STRENGTH.**

Of late years the most able physicians have declared that the great bulk of diseases arise from debility. The discoverer of this invaluable Elixir has therefore provided the public with a remedy to ward off disease, by *strengthening the body*. This medicine is simply a powerful tonic to man, curing those who suffer from weakness, whatever the cause may be; it gives strength to the weak, and makes the aged forget their infirmities.

Why, then, will ye suffer, when the "ELIXIR" will give you relief? Many with failing powers have rejoiced that such a remedy has at last been found. Many a pale faced girl, has had the bloom of health brought back by taking this—"GODFREY'S ELIXIR OF STRENGTH."

This medicine comes to the mother, and as she weeps over her pale, sickly child, it bids her sigh no more, for her little one, now delicate, shall soon be as strong as ever.

It comes to those enfeebled with disease or medicine, and bids their flagging powers revive.

If hard work (whether mental or bodily,) be the cause, then comes the Elixir as the reviver of strength.

It comes to the nursing mother, bowed down with weakness from nursing—her dimness of sight—her pains in the back, and all the other signs of debility, will soon be restored.

Let all who suffer from weakness, whatever the cause may be, just make one trial of this wonderful remedy.

If skin disease be your affliction, here is the cure: almost all skin diseases come from weakness.

If sorrow has brought you low, then here is the antidote.

Are you a total abstainer, who from principle will not take strong drink? Then if weakness comes upon you here is a remedy that will strengthen without making you break your pledge.

It comes to the student whose mind has worn the body, and becomes life to him.

It comes to the working man, weakened either by labour or cold, and gives him instant relief.

It comes to the nervous sufferer and strengthens his failing powers.

It comes to the consumptive, the asthmatic, the scrofulous, and the cancerous, and whispers hope even to them.

Sold in Bottles 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 10s. 6d. and 21s.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.—*For an adult*, from ten to twenty drops three times a day in water, after meals. *For children.*—An infant of six months old, one drop on sugar; one year, two drops; two years, three drops; and so on as age advances.

Wholesale for England, the Colonies, North & South America
OF
MEACHER, Operative Chemist,
105, CRAWFORD STREET,
PORTMAN SQUARE. (W.)
And retail of the same, and all respectable Chemists in the Kingdom.

Source D.

Children in Great Northern Central Hospital, London, 1912. V0028914



GCSE HISTORY
MEDICINE THROUGH TIME
SOURCE MATERIALS 3 OF 4

What factors brought improvements in children's health in the 20th century?

Source E.

Children's ward in St Thomas' Hospital, London, 1920.
L0001071



Source F.

Poster persuading mothers to have their babies inoculated against diphtheria, 1940s. L0025724

