The National Library of Medicine invites you to #ColorOurCollections

Interior of apothecary shop, 1537
NLM Image ID: A030275

Find these images and thousands more in Images from the History of Medicine available through NLM’s Digital Collections.

collections.nlm.nih.gov
Dance of Death, 1493

NLM Image ID: A013198
Careful inspection at school prevents epidemics of diphtheria, measles, etc.
HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA

Purifies the blood, creates an appetite, makes the weak strong, and builds up the system.

Prepared only by

C. I. HOOD & CO., APOTHECARIES, LOWELL, MASS.

(over.)
Anathomia Mū dini Emēdata p doctorē mele2Nat

Lesson in anatomy, 1493

NL M Image ID: A016267
Nurses are needed now!, 1944

NLM Image ID: A032730
Projection of light through a telescopic lens, 1685

NLM Image ID: A030190
The summer blood donor is a rare bird—be distinguished, 1981
The vine = Vitis, vinifera, 1737

NLM Image ID: C03109
Doctor McSwattle filled up a bottle, ca. 1918

NLM Image ID: C05607
Back from the front, 1904
Image List

Cover:

Interior of apothecary shop, 1537
Woodcut of an apothecary shop from *Thesaurus Pauperum*, written by Hieronymus Brunschwig, a surgeon, alchemist, and botanist.

Page 1:

A chart used for urine analysis, 1506
Woodcut of a urine wheel used for diagnosing diseases from *Epiphanie Medicorum*, written by physician Ulrich Pinder. The inner circle shows a physician sitting in a chair holding up a urine flask to make a diagnosis.

Page 2:

Dance of Death, 1493
Woodcut from *Liber Chronicarum* (also known as *Nuremberg Chronicle*), written by physician Hartmann Schedel and illustrated by painter Michael Wolgemut. The translated title reads, “The Seventh Age of the World: The Image of Death.” The translated verse reads,

Nothing is better than Death, nor anything worse than an unfair Life,
O great Death, you are men’s eternal rest from labor,
You relax the yoke for the aged, God willing,
And remove the heavy fetters from the necks of the vanquished,
You lift exile and break open the doors of prison,
You rescue from indignities, assigning good things to the just by lots,
And you remain unmoved, implacable by any technique,
On that day preset from the beginning, all these things you command
the peaceful soul to bear, the end of its labors having been promised,
Without you the life of the suffering is a perennial prison.

Page 3:

Careful inspection at school prevents epidemics of diphtheria, measles, etc., 1913
Illustration from *A Handbook of the People’s Health; A Textbook of Sanitation and Hygiene for the Use of Schools*, written by Walter Moore Coleman and illustrated by Retta Carroll and Alfred Seiler.

Page 4:

Equus, 1491
Woodcut of a horse from *Ortus Sanitatis*, a natural history encyclopedia, published by Jacob Meydenbach.
Page 5:

_Hood's Sarsaparilla, 19th century_
Advertising card for a patent medicine called Hood’s Sarsaparilla, a blood purifier created by Charles Ira Hood, founder of C.I. Hood & Co. in Lowell, Massachusetts. “Patent medicines” were non-prescription drugs that gained popularity in the United States in the late 19th century, and were, in fact, rarely patented. These “medicines” contained unregulated ingredients, usually vegetable and herbal extracts with doses of alcohol, opium, or cocaine, which inevitably led to cases of addiction and death.

Page 6:

_Lesson in anatomy, 1493_
Woodcut of a man instructing a student dissecting a cadaver from _Anatomia Corporis Humani_, written by anatomist and physician Mondino dei Luzzi.

Page 7:

_Phrenology, 1835_
Lithograph of the profile of Franz Joseph Gall, founder of phrenology, showing phrenological sections of the human head. Phrenology, now discredited, is the study of skull structure to determine personality traits and mental capacity. Gall identified 27 individual faculties of the head including kindness, sense of satire, murder tendencies, and memory of people.

Page 8:

_Nurses are needed now!, 1944_
Poster designed by Steele Savage and published by the United States Army Recruiting Publicity Bureau as part of a campaign to recruit nurses during World War II.

Page 9:

_Projection of light through a telescopic lense, 1685_
Engraving of Johann Zahn’s creation of a mechanical eye, the scioptic ball (a ball of wood with a hole made through the center in which a lens or pair of lenses is placed) designed to project the image of the sun in a camera obscura, from _Oculus Artificialis Teledioptricus Sive Telescopium_.

Page 11:

_The vine = Vitis, vinifera, 1737_
Elizabeth Blackwell’s engraving of _vitus vinifera_ (grape vine) from _A Curious Herbal_. This herbal, a book of plants describing their appearance, properties, and medicinal uses, contains 500 hand-colored engraved plates.
Page 12:

*De ulula, 1555*

Woodcut of an owl from *Historia Animalium*, by physician and naturalist Conrad Gesner. *Historia Animalium* is a 5-volume, natural history compendium on animals and is considered to be the first modern zoological work.

Page 13:

*Doctor McSwattle filled up a bottle, ca. 1918*

Illustration by Blanch Fisher Wright, from *The Peter Patter Book: Rimes for Children*, written by Leroy F. Jackson. The full rhyme reads,

Doctor McSwattle  
Filled up a bottle  
With vinegar, varnish and rum.  
And offered a swallow  
To all who would follow  
The call of his trumpet and drum.  
It's good, I am told,  
For a cough and a cold,  
It's good for a pain in your thumb.

Page 14:

*Back from the front, 1904*

Illustration of the inside of a Russian ambulance train (during the Russo-Japanese War) drawn by George Percy Jacomb-Hood. The image appeared on the cover of the August 27, 1904 issue of “The Graphic,” a British weekly illustrated newspaper.

Page 18:

*Main entrance to the National Library of Medicine, ca. 1965*

Photograph of the exterior of the National Library of Medicine taken by Edward A. Hubbard.
About Images from the History of Medicine

Images from the History of Medicine (IHM) provides online access to historical images from the National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) History of Medicine Division. IHM is available through NLM’s Digital Collections, a free online resource of biomedical books and still and moving images.

IHM is a collection of historical portraits, photographs, fine prints, caricatures, posters, and other graphic art that illustrates the social and historical aspects of medicine from the Middle Ages to the present. The collection covers subjects ranging from medieval medical practice to 19th century slum conditions to World War I hospitals to the international fight against drug abuse and AIDS. The collection also includes all of the images from the freely-available book Hidden Treasure: The National Library of Medicine, which showcases the National Library of Medicine and its remarkable historical collections.

IHM is also available in Open-iSM, NLM’s open access biomedical image search engine from the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (LHNCBC). Open-iSM enables search and retrieval of abstracts and images (including charts, graphs, clinical images, etc.) from open source literature and biomedical image collections.

A selection of public domain images from IHM is also available on HMD’s Flickr Commons site.


Main entrance to the National Library of Medicine, ca. 1965

NLM Image ID: A033452
About the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine’s History of Medicine Division collects, preserves, makes available, and interprets for diverse audiences one of the world’s richest collections of historical material related to human health and disease.

Our collections include:

- A rapidly-growing digital collection of books, audiovisuals, still images, manuscripts, and oral histories.
- Manuscripts dating as far back as the 11th century.
- Over 600,000 printed works, including 580 incunabula (Western books printed before 1501), some 57,000 16th-18th century books, and over 400,000 titles published between 1801 and 1913.
- Modern manuscripts, including the personal papers of such figures as Joshua Lederberg, Marshall Nirenberg, Luther Terry, and C. Everett Koop.
- Organizational archives from such groups as the Medical Library Association and the American College of Nurse-Midwives.
- Over 10,000 historical audiovisuals.
- Over 150,000 historical prints and photographs.

We welcome you to follow our blog, Circulating Now, for special features about our collections and exhibitions, and get news about recent acquisitions, new finding aids, special projects, and events.

History of Medicine Division website: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/