

MEDICINE THROUGH TIME: Medicine in 18th and 19th century Britain

Key: Cause / Treatment / Case Study

Key people
Louis Pasteur – the French scientist who discovered germ theory in the late 19 th c.
Henry Bastian – a respected doctor who promoted the theory of spontaneous generation.
John Tyndall – a scientist who agreed with germ theory and argued that dust particles carried germs that caused disease.
Robert Koch – a German scientist who identified the different germs that caused a number of common diseases.
Florence Nightingale – a British nurse who served in the Crimean War and who helped to improve hospital design and the nursing profession.
James Simpson – a Scottish surgeon who pioneered the use of chloroform as an anaesthetic.
Joseph Lister – English surgeon who developed the use of carbolic acid as an antiseptic to reduce the risk of infection during surgery.
Edward Jenner – an English doctor who developed the smallpox vaccination.
John Snow – a London-based surgeon who proved that cholera was spread through dirty water.
Joseph Bazalgette – an English engineer who designed and built a new sewer system in London following the cholera epidemic of 1856 and the 'Great Stink' of 1858.; the sewer system was completed in 1875.

Key dates		
1861 – Pasteur discovers germ theory disproving spontaneous generation.	1798 – Edward Jenner publishes his research into smallpox vaccination.	1831 – Cholera arrives in Britain.
1870 – John Tyndall gives lecture arguing that dust particles contain germs which spreads disease.	1840 – British government makes inoculation a crime.	Feb 1832 – Cholera arrives in London. 5,275 deaths by the end of the year.
	1847 - James Simpson discovers chloroform.	1848-49 – Second major cholera epidemic results in 53,293 deaths.
1878 – Pasteur publishes germ theory of infection.	1852 – British government makes smallpox vaccination compulsory.	1853-54 – Third major cholera epidemic results in 20,097 deaths.
1882 – Robert Koch discovers the bacteria that causes tuberculosis.	1854-1856 – Florence Nightingale works as a nurse during Crimean War.	August 1854 – Cholera breaks out in Soho, London. John Snow links epidemic to water pump in Broad Street.
1883 – Robert Koch discovers the bacteria that causes cholera.		1855 – Snow presents findings to Parliament and argues that cholera is spread by dirty water.
1884 – Koch travels to Calcutta in India to study cholera outbreak and prove the disease was spread by dirty water.	1865 – Joseph Lister performs surgery using carbolic acid as antiseptic.	1860 – Joseph Bazalgette begins work on new sewer system for London.
	1875 – Second Public Health Act passed to improve conditions in British cities.	

Key words
The Enlightenment – an 18 th century movement promoting the idea that people should think for themselves and that traditional authorities should not be able to control everyday life.
Scientific Revolution – a period during which developments across all branches of science changed the way people lived and the ways they understood the world around them.
Spontaneous generation – the theory that living organisms can originate in non-living matter.
Microbes – (also known as microorganisms) living organisms too small to see without a microscope e.g. bacteria.
Germ Theory – Louis Pasteur's idea that disease was spread by microbes (germs).
Bacteriology – the study of bacteria. First pioneered by Robert Koch.
Culture – bacteria grown under controlled conditions.
Pavilion Plan – a design for hospitals supported by Florence Nightingale that included improved ventilation, more windows, larger rooms and separate wards to make it harder for disease to spread.
Antiseptic – something that prevents the growth of microbes.
Anaesthetic – something that makes you unable to feel pain.
Chloroform – an anaesthetic developed by James Simpson.
Carbolic acid – an antiseptic first used by Joseph Lister.
Inoculate (verb) – deliberately infecting someone with a disease to avoid a more serious case of it later on (noun = inoculation)
Vaccinate – (verb) injecting someone with a harmless form of the germs that cause a disease to stop them from getting the disease (noun = vaccination).
Smallpox – a disease causing red blisters on the skin.
Cholera – a deadly disease that caused diarrhoea and sickness that resulted in the victim becoming so dehydrated they died.
Epidemic – the rapid spread of an infectious disease.
Broad Street Pump – the water pump that was the cause of the 1854 cholera epidemic in London.
The Great Stink – an event that occurred in July/August 1858 where the hot weather made the smell of sewage in London unbearable.