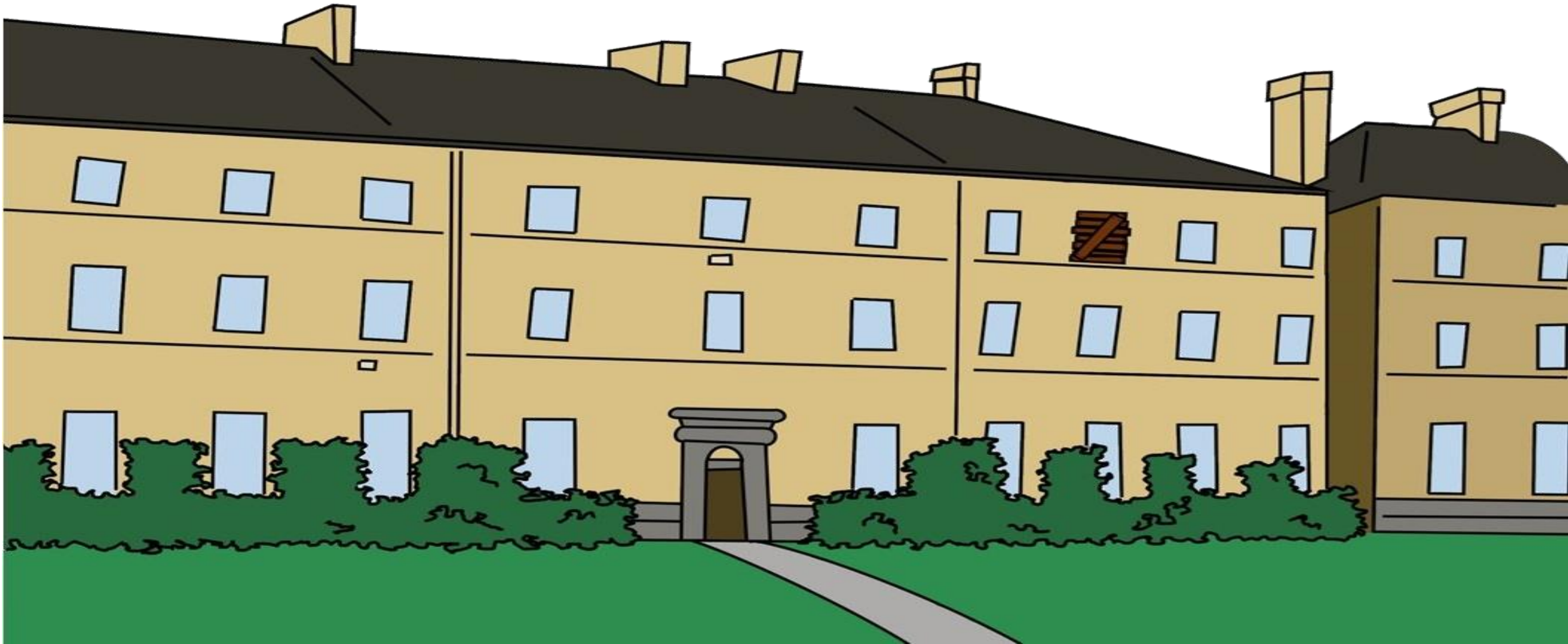


# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



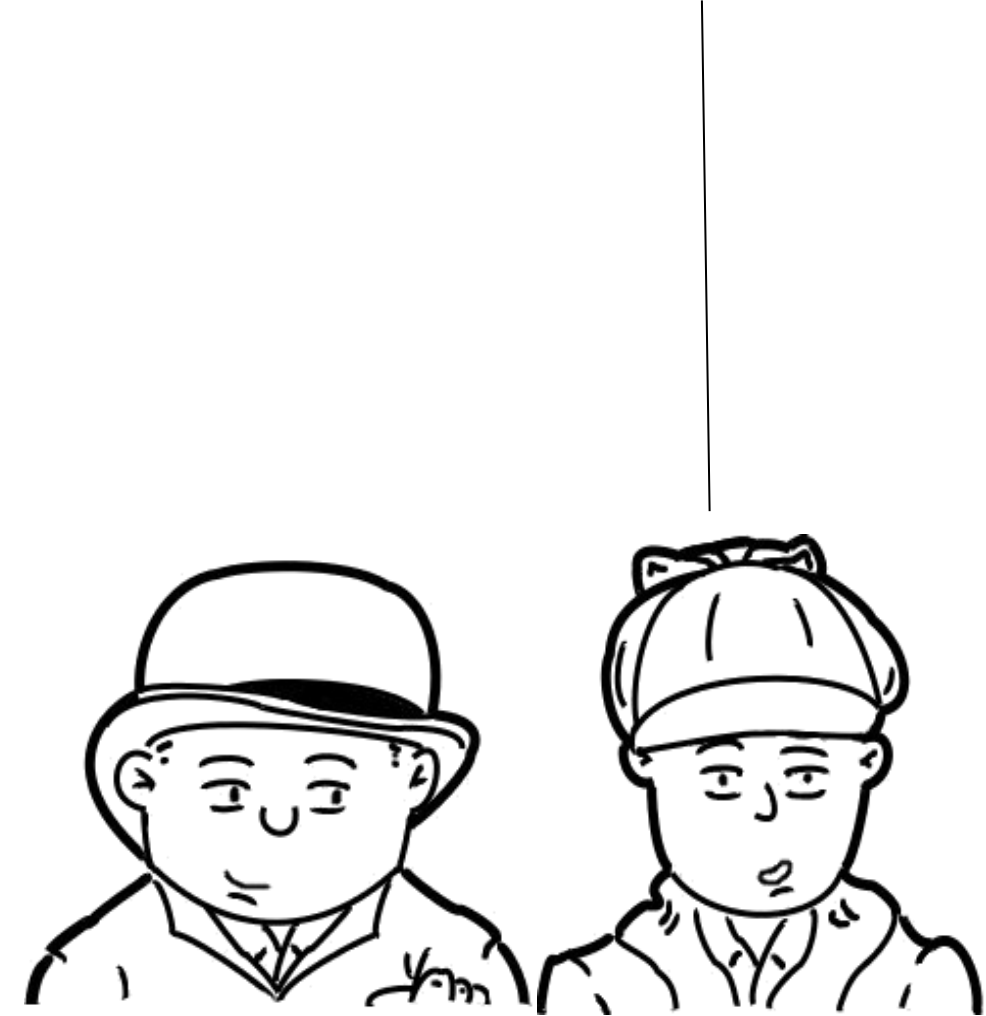
# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# A035 -- VICTORIAN ENGLAND COMES TO TERMS WITH A  
NATIONAL HABIT -- FEBRUARY, 2022





*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 035... TODAY, WATSON AND I WILL BE LOOKING AT THE EFFECT OF OPIUM USE ON VICTORIANS...*





**OPIUM IS MENTIONED IN SIX CASES IN THE  
CANON: IN A LIST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF  
POISONS IN A STUDY IN SCARLET...**





...A REFERENCE TO ITS USE AMONG INDIAN REBELS  
IN THE SIGN OF THE FOUR; ITS USE AS A  
SEDATIVE IN 'SILVER BLAZE,' 'THE ADVENTURE OF  
WISTERIA LODGE,'...





...AND 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE LION'S MANE;' AND  
ONCE AS AN ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE IN 'THE MAN  
WITH THE TWISTED LIP.'



**THESE REFERENCES REFLECT THE SUBSTANCE'S VARIED  
AND PERVASIVE USES IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND.**



**CLASS AND RACIAL BIAS REGARDING THE DRUG'S  
ADMINISTRATION AND PRACTICES FINALLY LED TO  
ITS RE-CLASSIFICATION AS A DANGEROUS  
NARCOTIC FOLLOWING WWI.**





**THE FIRST KNOWN REFERENCES TO OPIUM OCCURRED  
MORE THAN FIVE-THOUSAND YEARS AGO.**



THE SUMERIANS ARE RECOGNIZED AS THE FIRST CULTIVATORS AND USERS OF THE 'JOY PLANT.'



**THE PRACTICE THEN PASSED TO THE ASSYRIANS AND THE  
BABYLONIANS BEFORE IT SPREAD TO THE EGYPTIANS.**



*MORE THAN 3000 YEARS AGO, THE DRUG  
ENTERED EUROPE.*



Arabendi papau



IT DISAPPEARED FROM THE CONTINENT DURING THE HOLY INQUISITION (FROM THE 1300s TO 1500s), ONLY TO BE REESTABLISHED BY THE PORTUGUESE.

ing those powerfull gifts to man  
better is the knowledge  
two thousand





THANKS TO ALEXANDER THE GREAT, OPIUM MADE IT TO PERSIA AND INDIA, AND PORTUGUESE MERCHANTS CARRIED THE PRACTICE OF SMOKING OPIUM TO CHINA IN THE 1600s.



FOLLOWING THE SPREAD OF RECREATIONAL OPIUM  
USE IN THAT COUNTRY, THE BRITISH EAST INDIA  
COMPANY ESTABLISHED A MONOPOLY ON THE  
IMPORT OF...

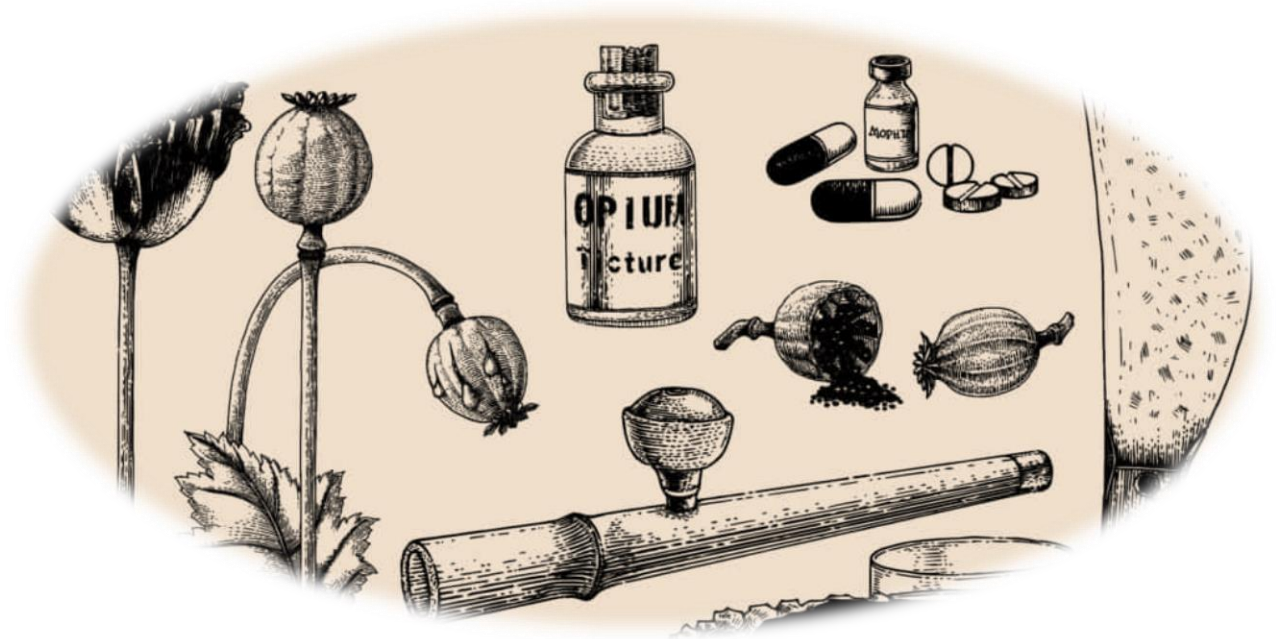


**...INDIAN OPIUM TO CHINA IN THE 1700s, AND EXPANDED THE TRADE IN THE 1800s FOLLOWING DEFEAT OF THE CHINESE IN TWO 'OPIUM WARS.'**





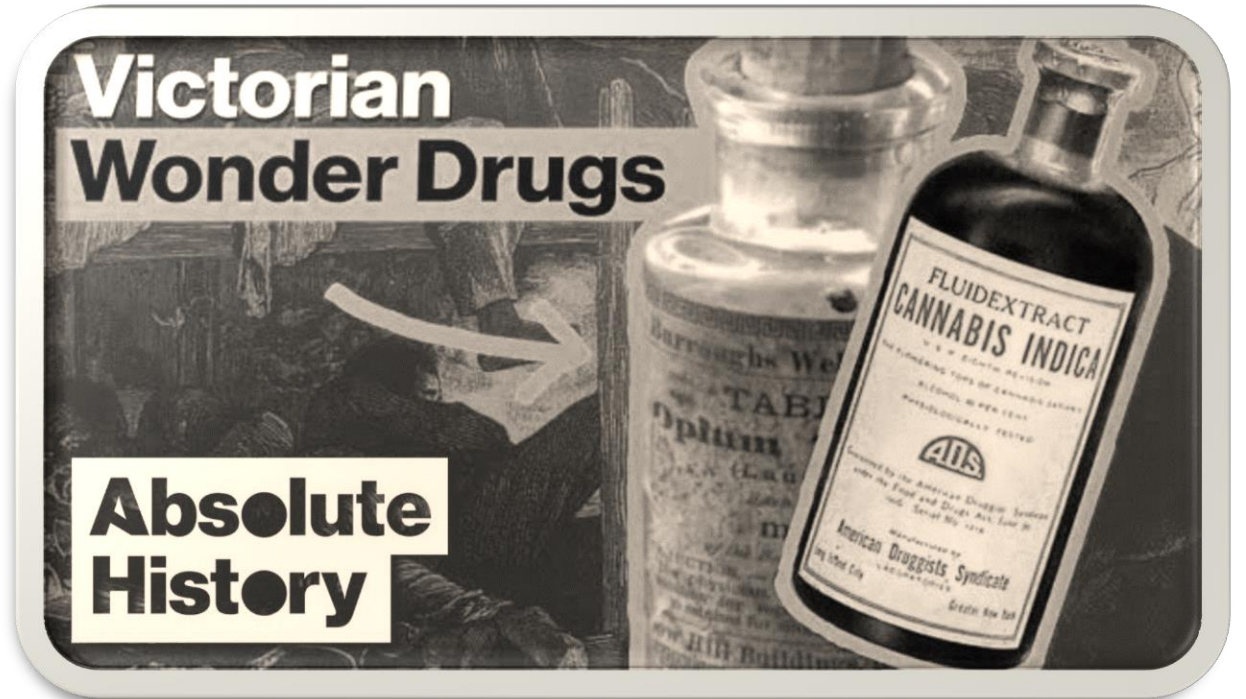
WHEN THE DRUG WAS RE-INTRODUCED TO EUROPE,  
IT WAS FASHIONED INTO PILLS OR MIXED WITH  
OTHER SUBSTANCES...



...AND SOLD AS REMEDIES FOR A VARIETY OF AILMENTS  
FOR ALL AGES (FROM BABIES TO THE ELDERLY).



BY THE 1800s, VICTORIANS COULD PURCHASE OPIUM-BASED PRODUCTS NOT ONLY FROM A CHEMIST, BUT ALSO BARBERS, TOBACCONISTS, STATIONERS, AND EVEN WINE MERCHANTS.



THE MOST POPULAR FORM WAS LAUDANUM, A  
TINCTURE OF 10% OPIUM MIXED WITH ALCOHOL  
AND HERBS.





*SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE 'ASPIRIN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY,' CONSUMERS COULD BUY TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE DROPS FOR A PENNY, MAKING IT VERY AFFORDABLE.*



— KESSINGER'S LEGACY REPRINTS —



## The Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill Of 1883

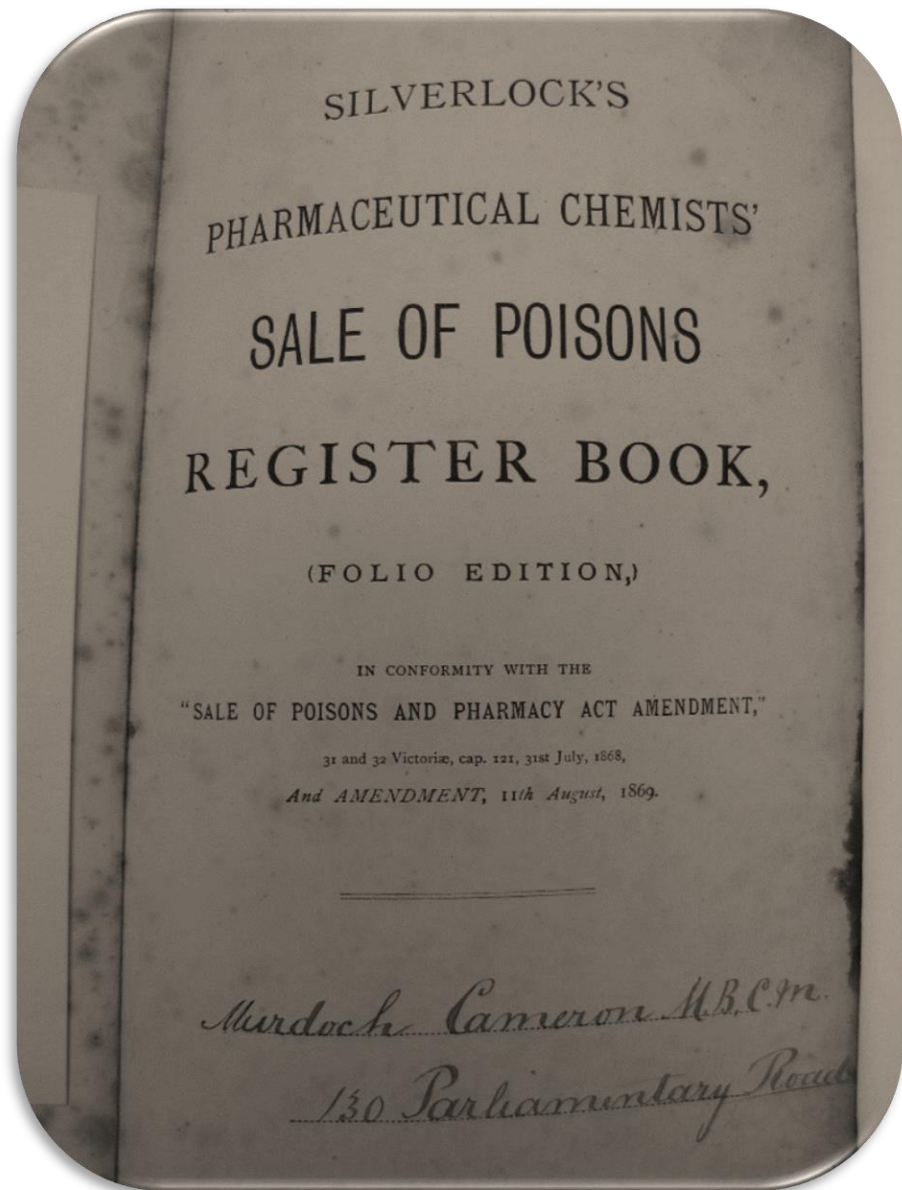
Lecture On The Proposed Changes In The  
Pharmacy Act Of 1868  
(1883)



Daniel Frazer

**WHILE SOME EFFORT WAS MADE TO RESTRICT  
LAUDANUM'S AVAILABILITY TO CHEMIST SHOPS  
WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE 1868 PHARMACY ACT...**





**...NO REDUCTION IN SALES OCCURRED BECAUSE CHEMISTS WERE NOT LIMITED IN THE AMOUNT SOLD.**



**CLASS DISTINCTIONS, HOWEVER, SEPARATED THE  
IMAGE OF THE DRUG AND ITS USE.**





AMONG THE WORKING-CLASS, IT WAS VIEWED AS  
A STIMULANT AND A REPLACEMENT FOR DRINK.



Laudanum is no more dangerous than many of the preparations sold as soothing syrups; it has the saving grace of the "poison" label. (By courtesy of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.)

FOR UPPER- AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES,  
LAUDANUM USE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HABIT, BUT  
WAS NOT CONSIDERED ADDICTIVE.



THE PERVASIVE USE OF THE DRUG, HOWEVER, WAS RELATED AS MUCH TO SELF-MEDICATION AMONG THE MIDDLE-CLASS AS ANY RECREATIONAL USE BY THE LOWER CLASSES.



WHILE MEDICINAL USE WAS CONSIDERED  
ACCEPTABLE (EVEN THOUGH MANY USERS SHOWED  
SIGNS OF ADDICTION)...



*...THOSE IN THE LOWER CLASSES, AND ESPECIALLY  
THOSE FROM ASIA, WHO SMOKED OPIUM WERE  
VIEWED IN A MUCH DIFFERENT LIGHT.*



**CHINESE SAILORS WHO SETTLED IN THE  
LIMEHOUSE AREA INTRODUCED THE PRACTICE, BUT  
THEIR NUMBERS WERE SMALL...**





...(LESS THAN 600 PERMANENTLY LIVING IN LONDON IN 1891 AND REPRESENTING ONLY ABOUT 10% OF ALL SAILORS COMING ASHORE).



WHILE POPULAR CULTURE DESCRIBED THE PLACES WHERE RECREATIONAL SMOKING OCCURRED — THE FAMED 'OPIUM DENS' — AS DARK AND DANGEROUS SPACES CONTEMPORARY RESEARCHERS INDICATE VERY FEW OF THESE 'DENS' ACTUALLY EXISTED AND WERE USUALLY ONE ROOM ATTACHED TO ANOTHER BUSINESS.





THE DESCRIPTION OF SUCH A DEN PROVIDED IN THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TALE REPRESENTS THE IMAGE PERPETUATED BY A NUMBER OF WRITERS...



*...INCLUDING THOMAS DE QUINCEY (CONFESSIONS OF AN OPIUM EATER), OSCAR WILDE (THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY), AND CHARLES DICKENS (THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD).*



*SIMILARLY, MISSIONARIES IN CHINA PROVIDED A COMPARABLE PORTRAYAL OF SUCH DENS IN THAT COUNTRY.*



**THE DEPICTION OF THESE PLACES AS DECADENT AND ASSOCIATED WITH THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD DIRECTLY LED TO AN INCREASE IN RACISM AGAINST ASIANS IN ENGLAND AND ELSEWHERE.**





**A VARIETY OF FORCES CAME TOGETHER IN THE EARLY 1900s TO CREATE A SHIFT IN ATTITUDES TOWARD OPIATES.**



**VARIOUS MEDICAL GROUPS AND THE PRESS REPORTED ON OVERDOSE DEATHS AND THE GROWING NUMBER MIDDLE-CLASS ADDICTS AND REFRAMED THE ISSUE AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**



**ADDITIONAL CONCERN THAT WORKING-CLASS  
USERS AND FOREIGNERS WERE CORRUPTING THE  
MIDDLE CLASS LED TO FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON  
OPIATE USE.**



WITH THE ADVENT OF WWI, PUBLIC ALARM OVER  
SOLDIERS' ADDICTIONS TO OPIATES AND OTHER  
DRUGS CREATED AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR THE  
FIRST TIME...





**...STRICT REGULATIONS WERE INTRODUCED TO CONTROL SUCH SUBSTANCES, PARTICULARLY THOSE SMUGGLED IN FROM THE FAR EAST.**



**THE DANGEROUS DRUG ACT OF 1920 MADE THESE CONTROLS PERMANENT AND REFLECTED SHIFTS IN ATTITUDES REGARDING BOTH THE DRUG AND THE USER.**






BY THE TIME I GO TO THE OPIUM DEN IN SEARCH  
OF ISA WHITNEY, I RECOGNIZED MY PATIENT'S  
HABIT AS AN ADDICTION.



IT WAS ANOTHER FIFTEEN YEARS, HOWEVER,  
BEFORE ANY GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS  
RECOGNIZED IT AS WELL.

*Beware!* Young and Old — People in  
All Walks of Life!

This  may be handed you   
by the friendly stranger. It contains the Killer Drug  
"Marihuana"—a powerful narcotic in which lurks  
**Murder! Insanity! Death!**

**WARNING!**  
Dope peddlers are shrewd! They may  
put some of this drug in the  or  
in the  or in the tobacco cigarette.

WE DO NOT OFFER INFORMATION INCLUDING THE NAMES OF LOYS & PEDDLERS — WE ONLY SELL!

**Address: THE INTER-STATE NARCOTIC ASSOCIATION**  
(Incorporated in N. Y. 1935)  
**53 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.**



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 035 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 036, WE WILL LOOK AT THE EFFECT OF POLLUTION ON VICTORIAN LONDON.



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# Baker Street Elementary

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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