

Baker Street *Elementary*

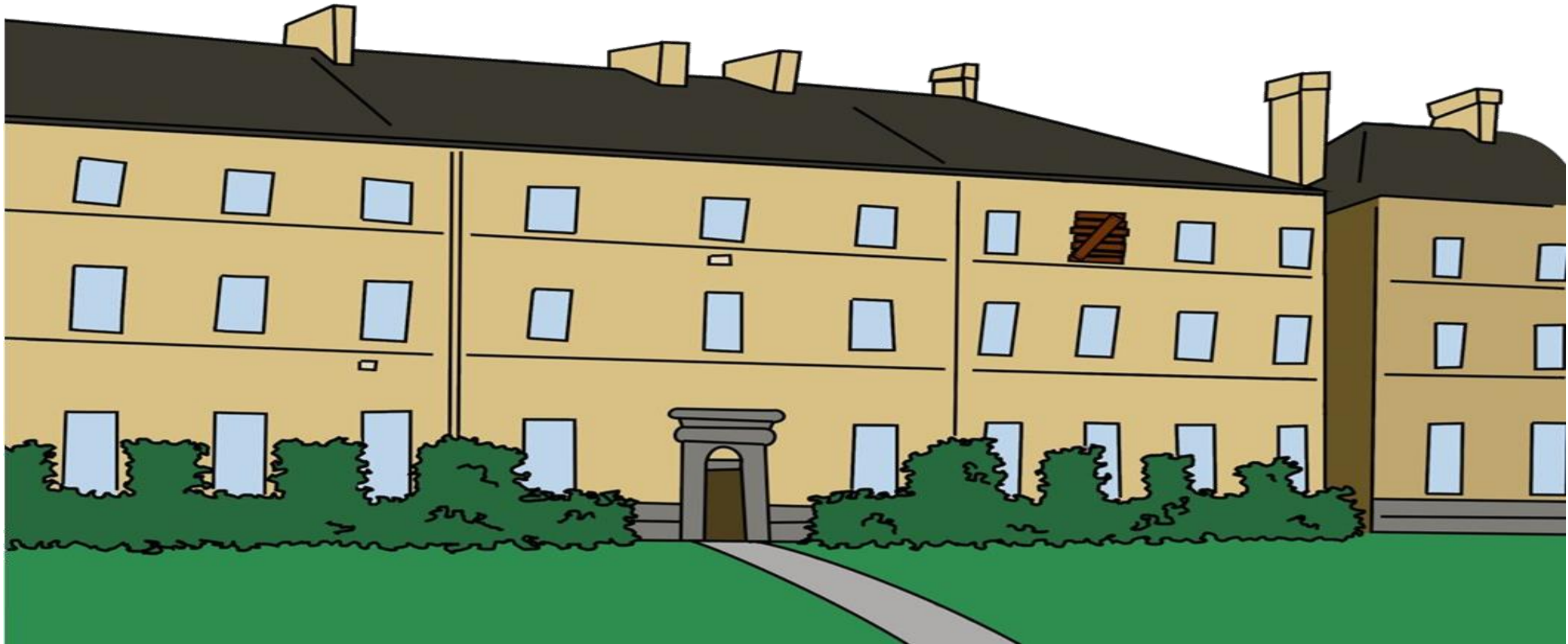
PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON

068 -- FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES -- THE USE OF BRANDY -- FEBRUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 068... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT THE USE OF BRANDY AS A MEDICINAL
TREATMENT IN THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES.*



**IN TWELVE OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES,
SOMEONE WHO EXPERIENCED A SHOCK OR INJURY WAS
GIVEN BRANDY TO 'BRING COLOR TO THEIR CHEEKS.'**



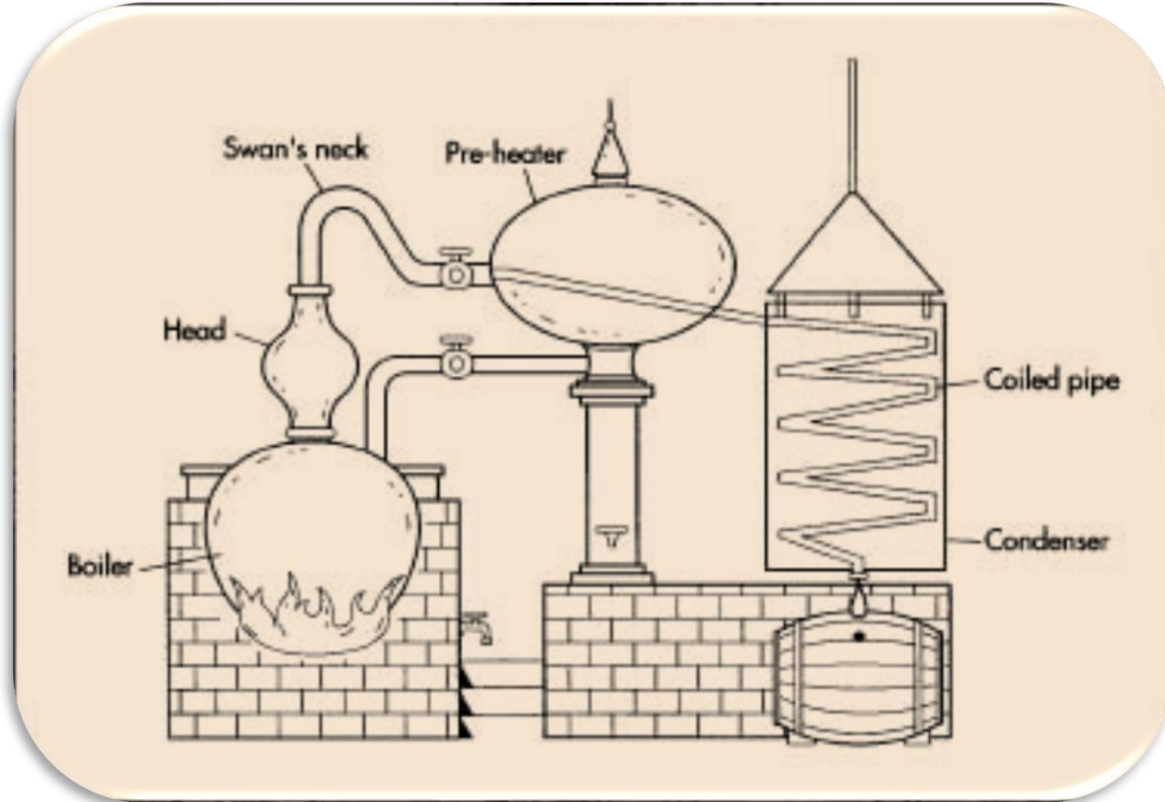
BY THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA, THE USE OF MEDICINAL BRANDY WAS WELL ESTABLISHED, HAVING FIRST APPEARED IN 15TH CENTURY MEDICAL TEXTS AS THE TREATMENT FOR EVERYTHING FROM EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS TO DEAFNESS.



BRANDY WAS CREATED BY DISTILLING WINE OR FERMENTED FRUIT MASH AND CAME FROM THE DUTCH WORD BRANDEWIJN ('BURNT WINE'), WHICH REFERRED TO THE USE OF HEAT IN THE DISTILLATION PROCESS.



FIRST PRACTICED AS A HOME INDUSTRY AT LEAST AS EARLY AS THE 1100s, PHYSICIANS AND APOTHECARIES HAD ASSUMED THE PROCESS BY THE LATE 1400s... THE USE OF HEAT TO DISTILL THE PRODUCT PROVED BASIC TO MEDIEVAL BELIEFS RELATED TO THE FOUR ELEMENTS (EARTH, WATER, AIR, AND FIRE).

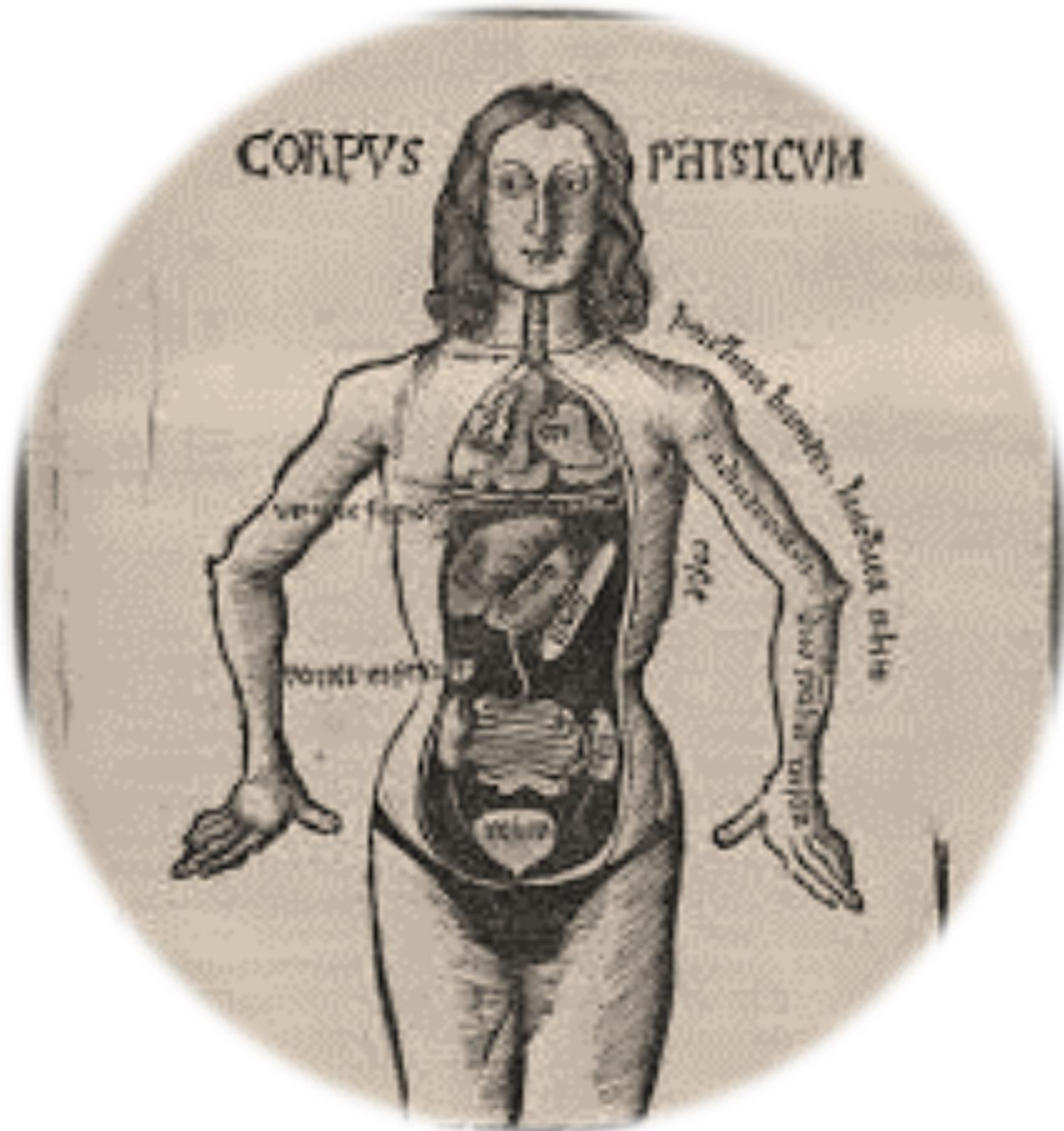


Li. de arte distillandi. de simplicibus.
Das buch der rechten kunst
zu distilieren die einzige ding
von Hieronymus Brunschwigk. Gedruckt in der Stadt Bamberg.



HIERONYMUS BRUNSCHWIG DESCRIBED IN HIS BOOKS ON DISTILLING THAT THE FINAL PRODUCT TRANSCENDED THE BASE ELEMENTS TO CREATE A FIFTH ELEMENT THAT WAS 'THE WATER OF LIFE.'





BRANDY WAS CONSIDERED TO PROVIDE HEAT TO THE BODY AND USEFUL IN THE TREATMENT OF A NUMBER OF AILMENTS... EXCESSIVE USE IN THE ELDERLY, HOWEVER, COULD LEAD TO SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION AND WAS NOT RECOMMENDED.



BY THE 1800s, BRANDY WAS ACCEPTED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AS BOTH A STIMULANT AND A NUTRIENT... WHILE OTHER ALCOHOLS (SUCH AS WHISKEY, RUM, OR GIN) COULD REPLACE IT, PHYSICIANS CONSIDERED BRANDY THE MOST PURE OF ALL DISTILLED SPIRITS.



Health Benefits Of Brandy

Boosts immune system

Relieves respiratory issues

Improves heart health

Helps in the treatment of cancer

Has anti-aging properties

Helps in weight management

Cardiovascular benefits

Helps in inducing sleep



PHYSICIANS WOULD PRESCRIBE BRANDY (OR OTHER LIQUORS) WITH WATER AS A STIMULANT... EFFECTS WERE DESCRIBED AS BRINGING COLOR TO THE FACE AND INCREASING THE HEART RATE AND MENTAL ACUITY.



BRANDY

- 🍷 Improves heart health
- 🍷 Slows down ageing
- 🍷 Reduces the risk of cancer
- 🍷 Soothes colds and coughs
- 🍷 Boosts immunity





GREATER QUANTITIES, HOWEVER, WERE OBSERVED TO SERVE AS AN ANESTHETIC AND DECREASE MOTOR FUNCTION... ONE DOCTOR DESCRIBED PRESCRIBING BRANDY AS A RESTORATIVE, A SEDATIVE, AND 'SOOTHER OF NERVES.'



ALCOHOL, PARTICULARLY BRANDY, WAS ALSO RECOMMENDED AS A PART OF A PATIENT'S DIET FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM A VARIETY OF AILMENTS, INCLUDING CANCER, DIABETES, AND OTHER FEVERS (ILLNESSES).



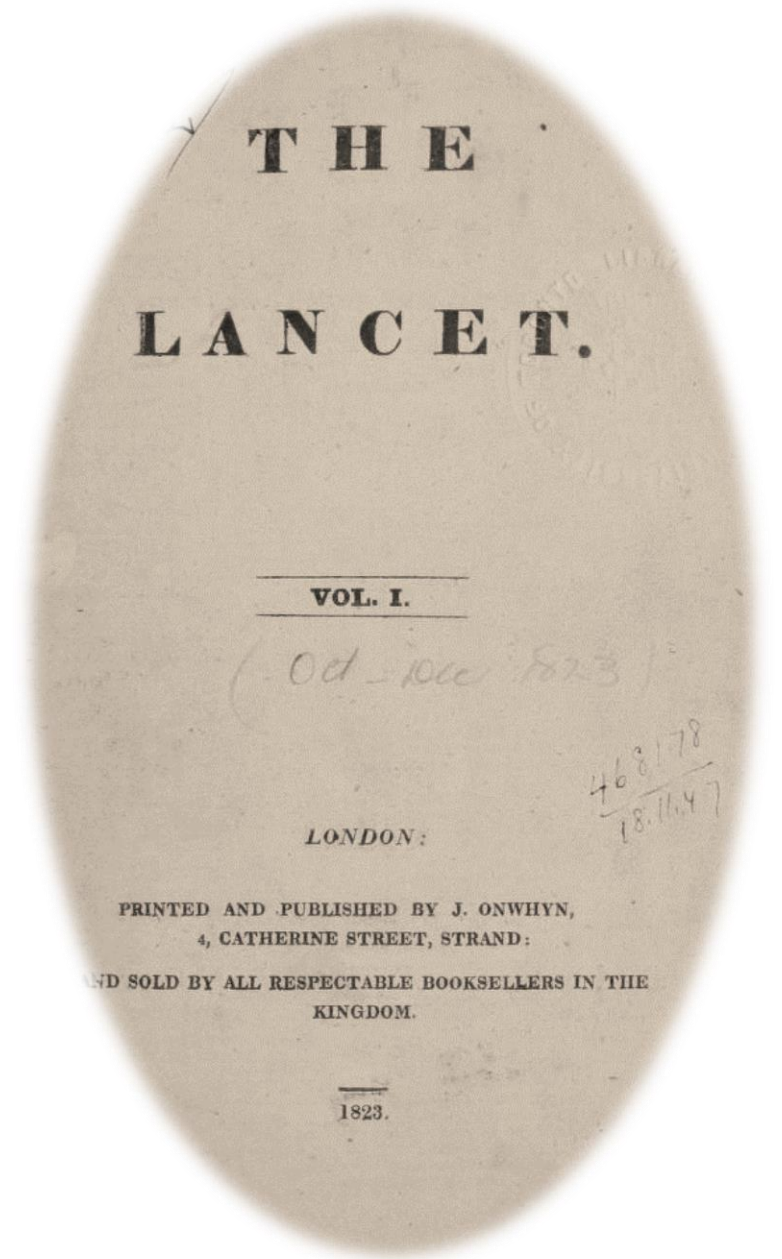
...Y AND SALT.—THE UNIVERSAL MEDICINE
...clap your feet into the Salt Bo...
...of your corns...



BECAUSE IT WAS ABSORBED IN THE STOMACH, IT
REQUIRED NO DIGESTION, AND HAD A HIGHER
CALORIC VALUE THAN SOME OTHER FOODS... FOR
THOSE CONVALESCING, ALCOHOL WAS
RECOMMENDED AS PART OF THE MEDICAL
COMFORTS PROVIDED TO THE PATIENT.



THUS, PHARMACISTS DISPENSED BRANDY AS PART OF THEIR FORMULARY, AND IT WAS EVEN LABELED AS SUCH... THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL THE LANCET CARRIED ADVERTISEMENTS FOR MEDICINAL BRANDY DIRECTED AT PHYSICIANS AND PHARMACISTS AS EARLY AS 1845.

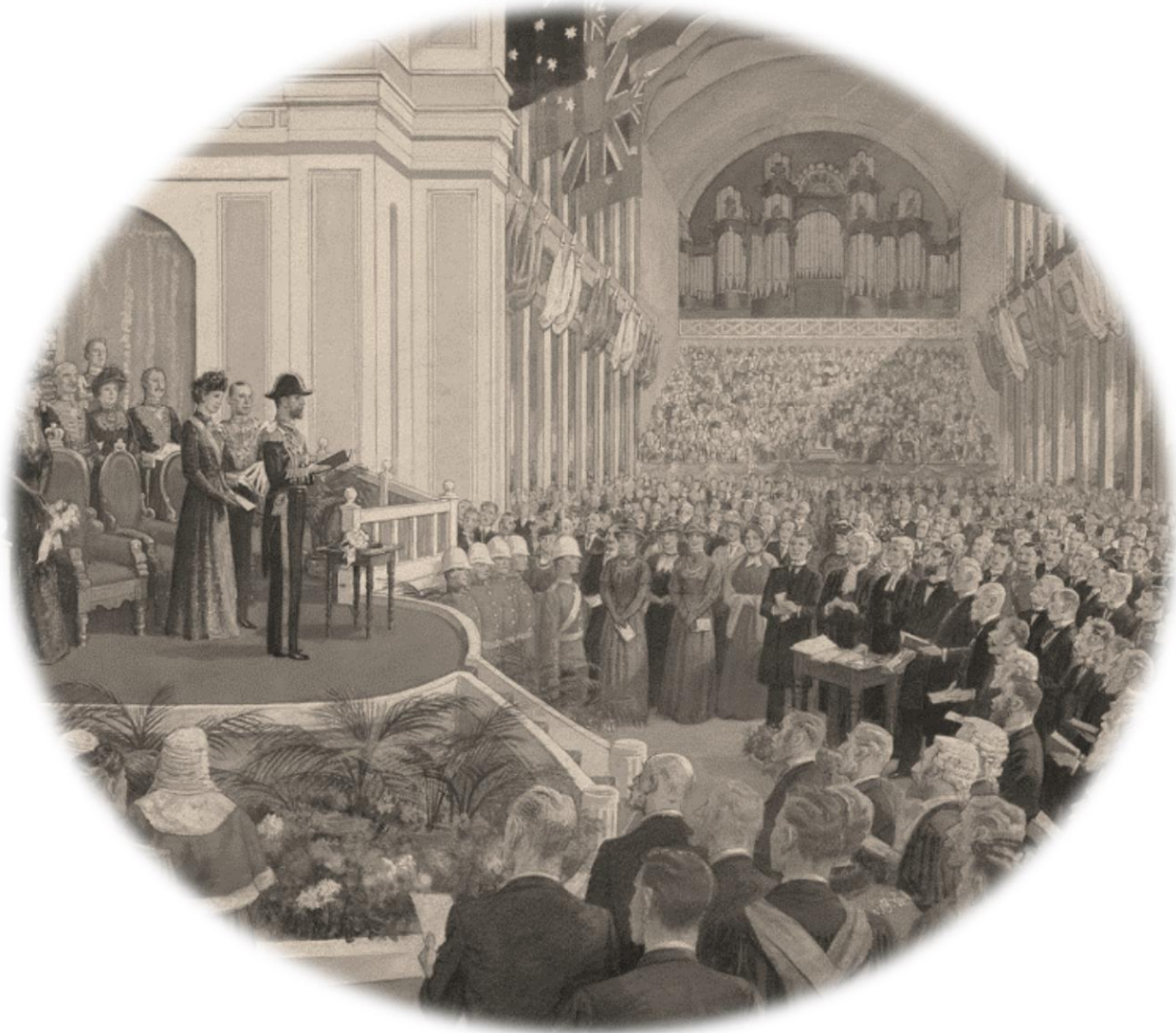


AT THE SAME TIME, BRANDY AND OTHER SPIRITS WERE RECOGNIZED AS LEADING TO ALCOHOLISM, AND THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR ITS USE IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES.



THE LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL WAS RECORDED AS HAVING DISPENSED IT ONLY ONCE IN TEN YEARS OF OPERATION... THUS, AS LAWMAKERS SOUGHT TO CONTROL THE SALE OF ALCOHOL, THEY HAD TO CONSIDER ITS RECOGNIZED USE IN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY.





FOR EXAMPLE, THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT DEBATED THE NEED TO EXCLUDE PHARMACIES FROM A PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL SALES ON SUNDAY NOTING THAT SOME WOULD BE TEMPTED TO DISPENSE THE LIQUOR TO THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO PURCHASE IT ELSEWHERE.



**PERHAPS THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL USE OF
MEDICINAL BRANDY AND OTHER SPIRITS OCCURRED
IN THE U.S. DURING PROHIBITION.**



THE PRESCRIPTION COST ABOUT \$3 (MORE THAN \$37
IN CURRENT DOLLARS) AND REQUIRED ANOTHER
VISIT TO THE DOCTOR IF A REFILL WAS REQUIRED.



**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY,
THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY ACTIVELY OPPOSED
GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION OF THEIR ABILITY TO
PRESCRIBE A WIDELY ACCEPTED TREATMENT AND
TOOK THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO COURT TO
SEEK RELIEF FROM ITS ENCROACHMENT ON THEIR
ABILITY TO TREAT PATIENTS.**



**FENNEL'S GREATER PHARMACY
DRUID HILL AVENUE AND BIDDLE STREET**



THIS HAD A LASTING EFFECT BY CREATING AN
ADVERSARIAL RELATIONSHIP LONG AFTER THE
REPEAL OF THE 20TH AMENDMENT.





WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE CASE WHERE YOU HAD TO RUN TO A PUB TO FETCH SOME BRANDY, IN ALL THE OTHER INSTANCES, THE MEDICINE APPEARED IN A FLASK, A DOCTOR'S BAG, OR A NEARBY TANTALUS.



AND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JULIA STONER'S BITE FROM A SWAMP ADDER, A FEW SIPS OR A DASH OF IT IN WATER OR TEA BROUGHT THE AFFECTED PERSON BACK FROM THE BRINK.



APPARENTLY, EVEN BRANDY HAD ITS LIMITATIONS.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 068 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 069, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE CROWN JEWELS OF THE KINGDOM.



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY
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RUSTY MASON
&
STEVE MASON

