

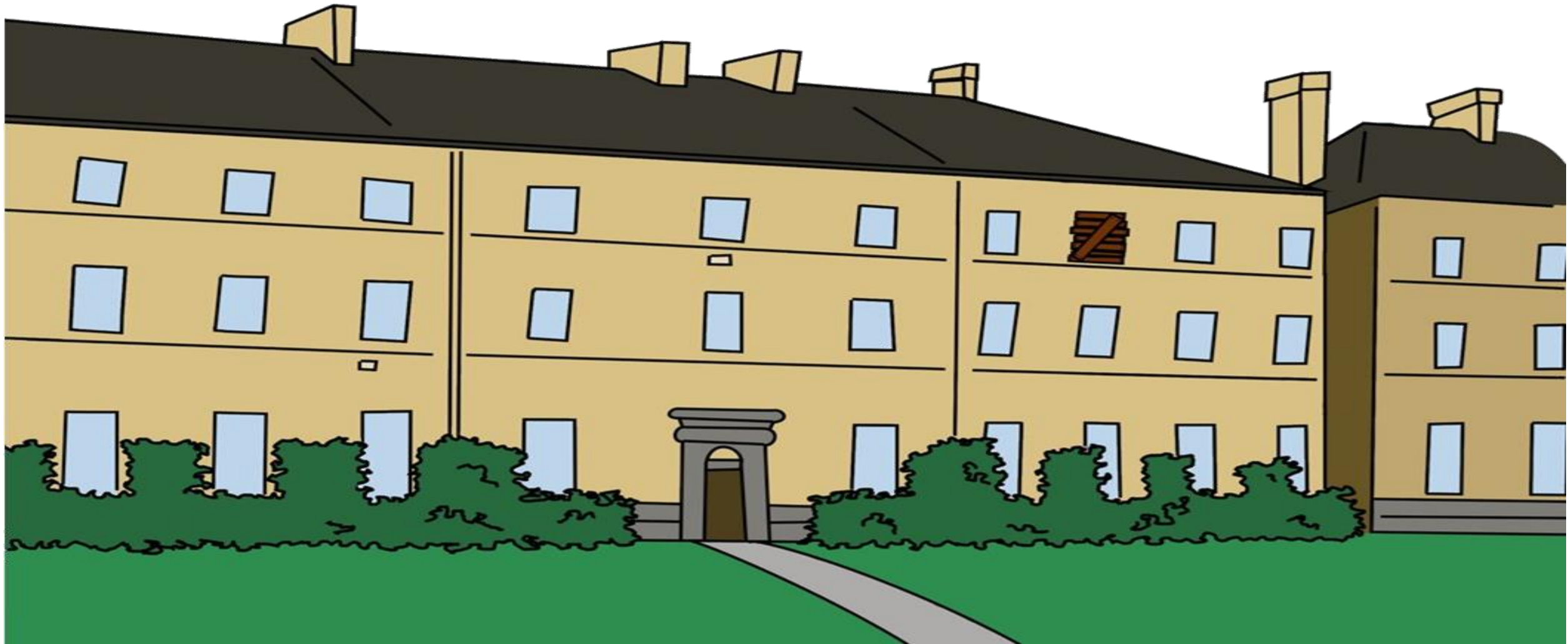
Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street Elementary

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
093 - VICTORIAN ADDICTIONS -- NOVEMBER, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 093... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT ADDICTIONS IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND.



SADLY, YOUR COCAINE USE WAS WELL-KNOWN AS AN ADULT... SHORTLY AFTER MOVING IN TOGETHER, I SUSPECTED YOU OF USING SOME NARCOTIC.



*IN THE SIGN OF THE FOUR, I WARNED YOU
COCAINE USE INVOLVES INCREASED TISSUE-
CHANGE, AND I REPORTED I SUCCESSFULLY
'WEANED YOU FROM THAT...MANIA' IN 'THE
ADVENTURE OF THE MISSING THREE-QUARTER.'*



*MY EFFORTS TO TREAT YOUR DRUG USE
REFLECTED A CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE
CONCERNING THE PUBLIC'S GROWING
DEPENDENCE ON SUCH SUBSTANCES.*



NO LONGER A MATTER OF WILL-POWER, THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY ACCEPTED IT AS A DISEASE BY THE END OF THE 1800s, EVEN APPLYING A NEW TERM: 'ADDICTION.'



*WHILE COCAINE WAS MY DRUG OF CHOICE,
VICTORIANS, IN GENERAL, CONSUMED A GREAT
NUMBER OF ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES.*





THESE INCLUDED ALCOHOL, OPIUM, CANNABIS, COCA, MESCAL, AND, AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THE 1800s AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HYPODERMIC NEEDLE, MORPHINE AND HEROIN.



ALL WERE AVAILABLE OVER THE COUNTER FROM A PHARMACIST OR IN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS DESIGNED FOR EVERYONE FROM BABIES TO ADULTS.



**FEW CONSIDERED IT MORE THAN A 'HABIT'—AT
LEAST FOR THEMSELVES.**



**BY THIS POINT, THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY
RECOGNIZED ADDICTION AS A PROBLEM, AND A SHIFT
OCCURRED TOWARD DEFINING IT AS A DISEASE.**



CONTINUED DRUG USE FIRST CREATES A TOLERANCE (REQUIRING A HIGHER DOSE FOR THE SAME EFFECT) AND THEN A PHYSICAL DEPENDENCE (EXHIBITED BY WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS).



*THESE CONSEQUENCES WERE NOTED AS EARLY AS
THE 1500s IN EUROPE.*



ONLY A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THOSE EXPERIENCING THESE SYMPTOMS, HOWEVER, ACTUALLY CONTINUE ON TO A TRUE ADDICTION—A CHRONIC DISORDER THAT HIJACKS BRAIN CIRCUITS AND LEADS TO A PREFERENCE FOR IMMEDIATE REWARDS DESPITE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES.



1073^c

TRADE



MARK.

The Universal Household
Medicine

LAUDANUM

Dose—10 to 25 Drops.

As an Anodyne, Sedative hypnotic

POISON,

in Excessive Quantity.

Prepared by
CHAS. HOOPER & SONS,
Chemists and Druggists, London.

WHILE THE BEHAVIOR AND SYMPTOMS OF CHRONIC ALCOHOL USE HAD BEEN OBSERVED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THE TERM 'ADDICTION' AS APPLIED TO SUCH DEPENDENCE ONLY ENTERED THE MEDICAL VOCABULARY AROUND THE 1900s, REPLACING TERMS SUCH AS INEBRIETY.





**PRIOR TO THE 19TH CENTURY, THE TERM
ADDICTUS REFERRED TO A PERSON WHO WAS
ENSLAVED (TURNED OVER TO A MASTER) TO WORK
OFF UNPAID DEBTS.**





**THE SHIFT TO THIS PHRASE FOR DEPENDENT
SUBSTANCE USE INDICATED A CHANGE IN
PERSPECTIVE—THE USER HAD BEEN 'ENSLAVED' BY
THE SUBSTANCE.**





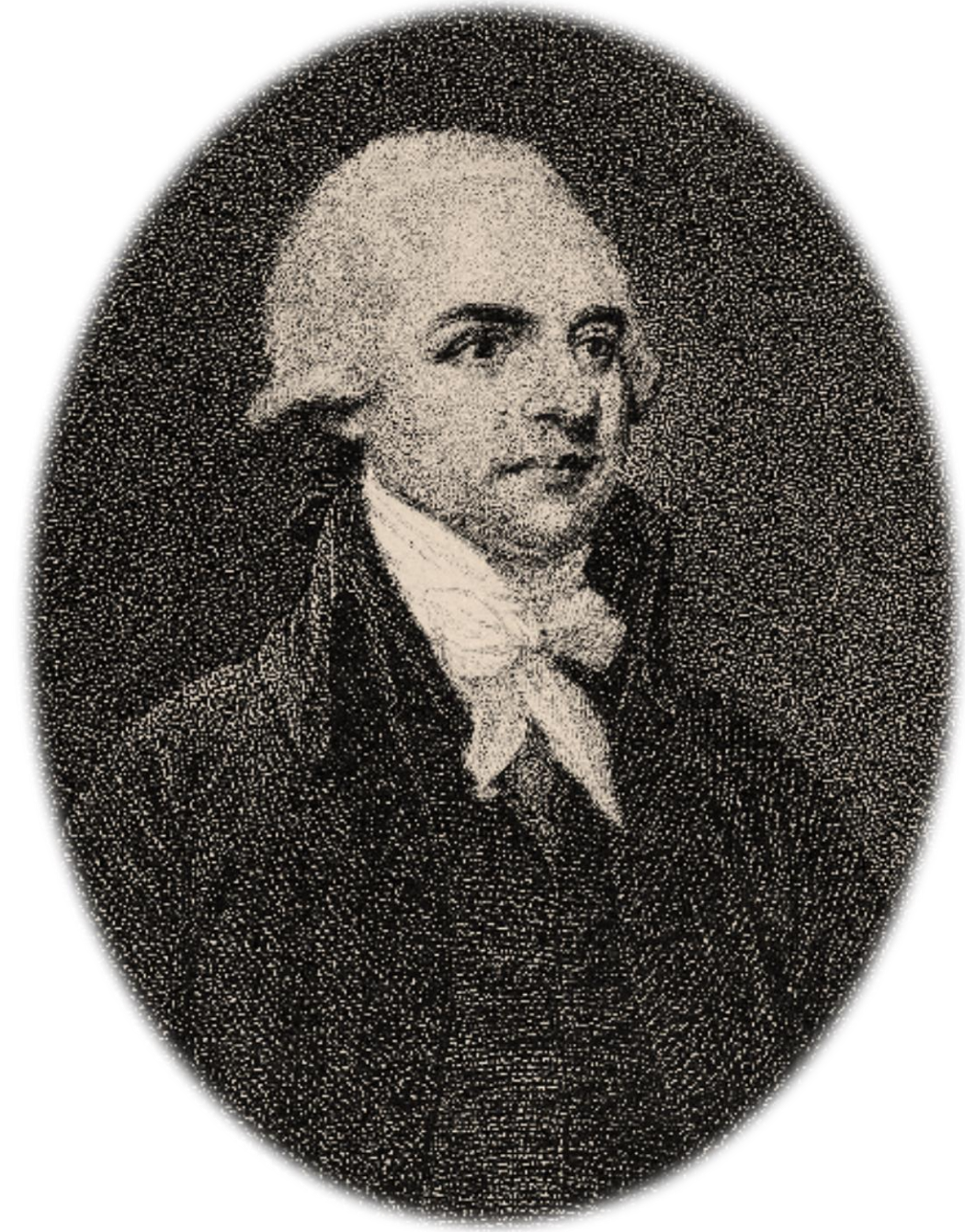
YOU EVEN USED THE TERM TO PORTRAY ISA
WHITNEY'S OPIUM USE IN 'THE MAN WITH THE
TWISTED LIP.'



WHILE DR. NICOLAES TULP AND CORNELIUS BONTEKOE USED A DISEASE MODEL TO EXPLAIN THE LOSS OF CONTROL OVER ALCOHOL INTAKE IN THE 1600s, THE PARADIGM DID NOT ENTER THE MEDICAL LITERATURE UNTIL THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY.



DR. BENJAMIN RUSH IN THE US AND DR. THOMAS TROTTER IN THE UK DOCUMENTED THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM ALCOHOL USE (THE MOST PREVALENT SUBSTANCE AT THE TIME) ON DIFFERENT ORGANS, SUCH AS THE LIVER, AS WELL AS CHRONIC USERS' MORTALITY RATES.



THOMAS DAVISON CROTHERS, EXPANDED ON THESE CONCEPTS IN THE LATE 1800s IN A SERIES OF BOOKS THAT ADDRESSED THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT SUBSTANCES.



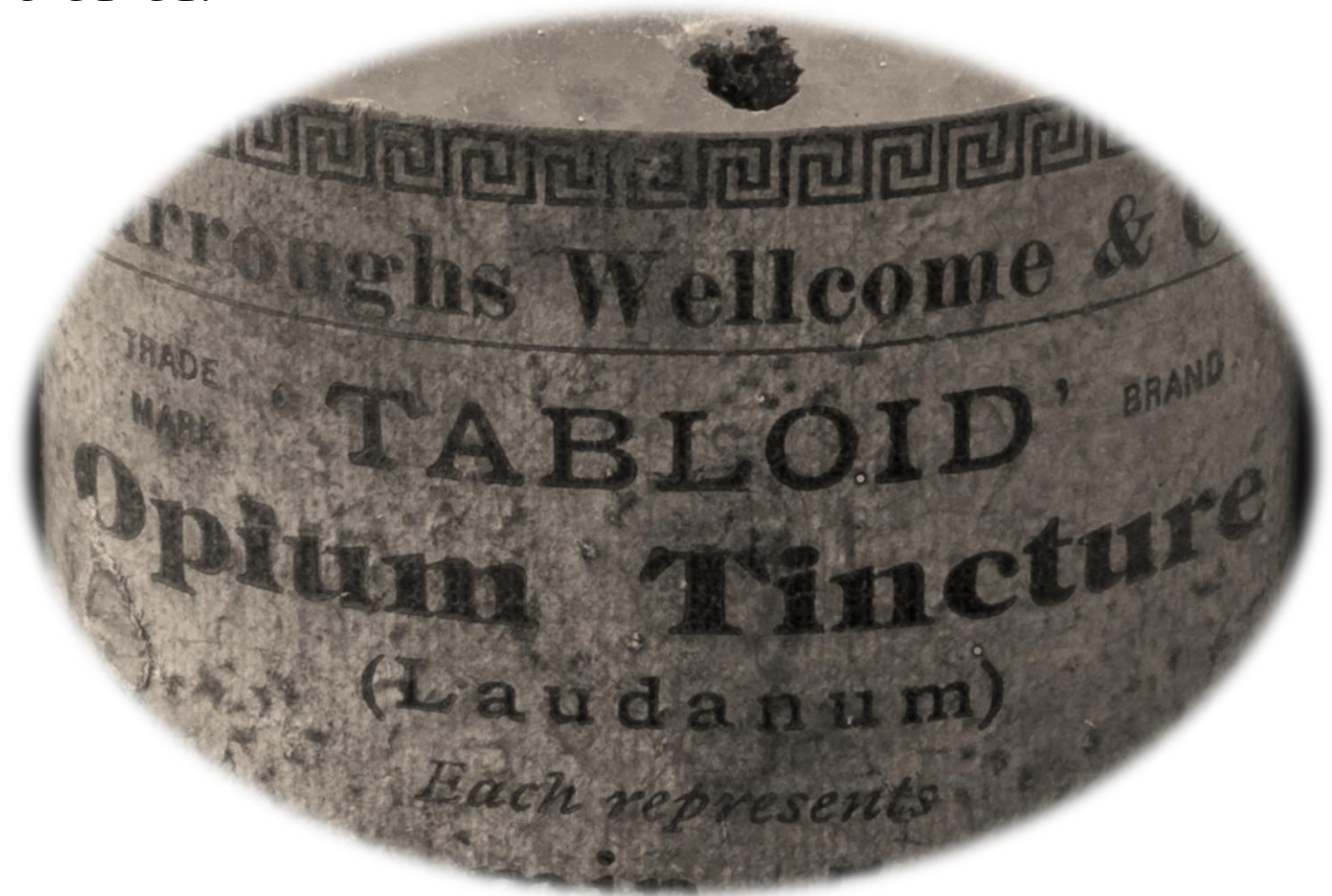
THE 20TH CENTURY SAW A RISE IN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY IN FURTHER IDENTIFYING AND DEFINING ADDICTIONS AS A DISEASE, INCLUDING SUCH PROMINENT ORGANIZATIONS AS THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



World Health
Organization



LATER, SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT NOT PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE WAS ABLE TO DOCUMENT CHANGES IN THE BRAIN, MARKING IT AS A DISEASE.



YOU SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO MY ADDICTIONS
TWICE: TO 'SOME' NARCOTIC IN A STUDY IN
SCARLET AND TO MAKING OR LISTENING TO
MUSIC AT STRANGE HOURS IN 'THE ADVENTURE
OF THE DYING DETECTIVE'.





*YOU WERE ABLE TO CURE ME OF THE FIRST, BUT
NEVER REPORTED ANY SUCCESS WITH THE
SECOND.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 093 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 094, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT LIFE IN LONDON DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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