

DOCTOR, DOCTOR

During nomadic civilisations, there were no trained doctors. Instead they may have had witch doctors or medicine men. Witch doctors were usually experienced and wise.



It became much easier to see the medical practices of the Ancient Egyptians as they began to record ideas and theories and write them down. Hieroglyphs recorded many different medical tools.

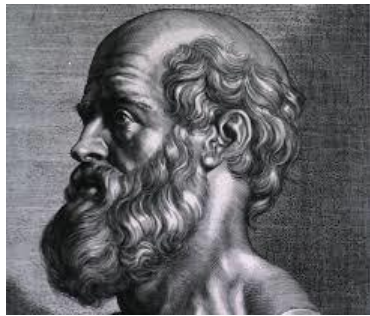
Honey was a very popular ingredient in Egyptian medicine. It was often mixed with wine, milk and different plants and herbs to concoct remedies. Most often it was used to keep open wounds from becoming infected.

- Treatments may have included:
- Incantations or chants to lure away or curse the evil spirits
 - Dances
 - Grimacing
 - Wearing a talisman to ward off evil spirits
 - Herbal remedies.

Medieval time period -
Miasma (bad air) was still widely believed to be the cause of many illnesses and diseases. Doctors were poorly trained and expensive. Many still followed the teachings of Galen (the Ancient Greek physician) as it was still forbidden by religious law to study a human body and there was little study into other theories.



The Egyptians had experienced and wise people to help treat and heal the sick. In Egyptian culture they were called *swnw* (sew-new). Imhotep - a physician to Pharaoh Djoser. The Ancient Egyptians thought of him as a god of medicine and healing.



Hippocrates is often recognised as the father of modern medicine. He believed that the observation and recording of a patient's symptoms vital to medical care. This process is now called 'clinical observation'. He encouraged doctors to record symptoms in the order that they appeared. This allowed the doctor to predict what might come next when they recognised the same symptoms in other patients.

During the Medieval period, monasteries became places to care for the sick. Monks and nuns who lived there would care for people who had become ill. They called them hospitals because they provided hospitalities such as food, shelter and clothing.



- Antibacterial** – a substance produced by living things and especially by bacteria and fungi that is used to kill or prevent the growth of harmful germs.
- Anaesthetic** – A drug given to patients to put them into a deep sleep so that they can feel no pain.
- Antibiotic** - A drug used to kill bacteria that causes infection. The first was penicillin.
- Antibodies** - Proteins produced in the blood to fight harmful organisms.
- Antiseptics** - Chemicals used to kill bacteria and prevent infection.
- Apothecary** – Someone who mixed up different potions.
- Bacteria** – Germs that cause infection and disease.
- Blood group** - The particular type of blood the person. A blood transfusion can only be successful if both patients share the same blood type.
- Cell** - The smallest part of an organism that is able to function on its own.
- Culture** - Micro-organisms grown in the laboratory for use in experiments.
- Diagnosis** - The doctor's opinion about what is wrong with the patient.
- Dissect** - To cut open a body and examine the insides.
- Epidemic** - A disease that spreads quickly to many people.
- Gene** - A section of DNA that contains information about a particular characteristic. E.G. Hair colour.
- Immune** - To protect against disease often by vaccination.
- Inoculate** - To inject a person with a tiny amount of bacteria so that the body can develop immunity towards the disease it carries without side effects.
- Miasma** – Bad air widely believed to be the causes of many illnesses and diseases.
- National Health Service** - Government funded health care which is funded by taxes.
- Sterilising** – The use of heat to deactivate harmful germs.
- Trepanny** – When a hole was cut into the patient's skull to release a trapped evil spirit.