

## Did You Know?

That a combination of choral and alcohol is very toxic and is well-known to the underworld as "knock-out drops".

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That Tincture of Digitalis is improved by the use of 4 or 5 minims of Oil of Cinnamon per drachm.

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That most medical students believe that the operation of Caesarean Section was named after Julius Caesar, who was brought into the world this way, when it was not until long after the days of Julius Caesar (104-44 B.C.) that the operation was successfully performed on living women, and it is a matter of historical record that Julius Caesar's mother, Julia, lived for many years after his birth.

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That the greater part of the epiglottis can be removed without any noticeable effect on the individual. The original function of this organ was that of shutting off the mouth from the pulmonary air tract, in order that all air should pass through the nose and keep up the keenness of the olfactory sense.

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That the science of geriatrics is concerned with the prolongation of life, with the maintenance of physical and mental health, the relief of suffering, the lessening of the handicaps of age and the diagnosis and treatment of such diseases as occur.

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That a simple, efficient, and easily available apparatus for drying blood diluting pipettes can be made from an ordinary 10 or 20 c.c. glass syringe and a short length of fine rubber catheter tubing. Also acetone works as well as alcohol and ether with the advantage of shortening the procedure by one step.

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That sucrose is better than glucose for reducing intracranial pressure since the latter is followed by a secondary rise in pressure.

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That there is one disease common to youth which shows no mercy to the aged, namely, whooping cough. Many cases over seventy and not a few over eighty are on record—for example, the famous Sir William Jenner was attacked when over sixty-five years of age.

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Last year Dr. W. M. Stanley of the Rockefeller Institute announced that he had succeeded in reducing the virus of the tobacco mosaic to non-living protein crystals.

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The longer a case of auricular fibrillation persists without signs of congestive heart failure the better the prognosis, for it indicates less myocardial damage than in those cases with early congestive failure.

The Dead Sea was so named by the Romans to indicate the absence of all animal life from its waters. This is a result of a large proportion of bromide and chloride of magnesium. Today, these very chemical properties have converted the region into a very popular winter resort, for the treatment of patients suffering from skin, nervous and rheumatic diseases, by means of bathing in the sea and physiotherapeutic methods.

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The skeleton of the Irish giant, O'Bryan, which now reposes in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, cost John Hunter much labor and a great deal of money. When the giant fell sick, Hunter had him kept under observation. But the Irishman scented danger, and, regarding with horror the thought that his body would be cut up, he made his friends promise that when he died they would never lose sight of his corpse until it had been sealed up in a leaden coffin and sunk in the sea.

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Psycho-analysis has never forgotten that non-sexual instincts also exist. It insists, *not* that they arise from sexuality, but that the neuroses owe their origin to a *conflict* between ego and sexuality.

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Exercise, per se, is of no great help as a reducing method, but when used in moderation it is of general benefit, and properly planned, mild calisthenics may accomplish some desirable redistribution of fat.—*Wilder*.

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*Rabies was first known as a definite malady in the time of Asclepiades.*

*Diocles explained tetanus as a stoppage of the pneuma in the nerves.*

*Pulmonary tuberculosis was rife in ancient Greece and Rome.*

*Hysteria was so named by the women of ancient Rome.*

*Pleuritic empyema was well known in Hippocrates' time.*

*Morgani (1682-1772) described syphilis of the internal organs.*

*Surgery for hernia and the use of the truss were known in Hippocrates' and Celsus' day.*

*Celsus was the first author to mention ligature.*

*Torsion was taught by Herophilus but practised even earlier.*

*Hippocrates diagnosed stone in the kidney.*

*Aretaeus diagnosed stone in the ureter.*

*Smallpox was mentioned in the fifth and sixth centuries.*

*Dysentery was well known in ancient Greece and Rome.*

*Galen taught that no application for wounds was better than wine.*

*Athenaeus in ancient Rome operated for cancer of the breast and uterus.*

*Herodotus is said to have differentiated measles.*