

# The World

## Herbs and drugs



Not poppy, nor mandragora,  
Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world,  
Shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep  
Which thou owedst yesterday.  
*Shakespeare: Othello III.iii*

Give me to drink mandragora...  
That I might sleep out this great gap of time  
My Antony is away.  
*Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra I.v*

Wine and spirits: Extremely popular. When taken at the right dosage it moves one point of Reason to become one point of Passion; continuing to drink is to invite senselessness.

Mugwort: Placing the herb inside the cover of a pillow and sleeping on it is said to induce vivid dreams. It can also be consumed directly, as a tincture or smoked. Colloquially, this practice is known as "Having a tarp before having a nap." +1 dice Lucidity.

Fennel is said to be a ward against bad dreams. Either hang it near the bed or eat it before going to sleep. St. John's Wort is another protective herb, often taken in wine.

Valerian: A sedative, but said to attract night terrors.

Mandrake: A powerful sedative with many medical uses. Putting its juice on the forehead or drinking it in wine causes sleep, and prepared in the right way it can keep someone asleep no matter what happens. Since people sleeping under the influence of enough mandrake do not dream, this can be a way of keeping them from dream mischief. It is said to be one of the few ways of rendering a Cambion truly unconscious.



Among the remedies which it has pleased Almighty God to give to man to relieve his sufferings, none is so universal and so efficacious as opium.

*Thomas Sydenham*

Opium: A very popular medicine. Laudanum, an opium tincture (2 ounces of opium; 1 ounce of saffron; a drachm of cinnamon and cloves - all dissolved in a pint of Canary wine), diminishes pain and melancholy, as well as induces sleep.

As for this salutiferous berry, of so general a use through all the regions of the east, it is sufficiently known, when prepared, to be moderately hot, and of a very drying attenuating and cleansing quality; whence reason infers, that its decoction must contain many good physical properties, and cannot but be an incomparable remedy to dissolve crudities, comfort the brain, and dry up ill humors in the stomach.

*Coffee-Houses Vindicated, 1675*

Coffee: The new "in" drug of Europe. +1 dice Lucidity, suppresses dream nature and signs of Cambions. Unfortunately, it makes going to sleep harder – the character either has to get three successes on an Int+Lucidity roll, or wait half the night.

Jesuits have reported how the natives use a miraculous drug that removes tiredness and the need to sleep in the Andean colonies. King Philip II of Spain issued a decree recognizing the drug as essential to the well being of the Andean Indians but urging missionaries to end its religious use. In Europe this drug, called coca, is very rare and exotic.

According to Hortus Malabaricus by Hendrik Adriaan van Rheede tot Draakestein (the Dutch Governor of Cochin), there exist many exotic and powerful drugs around the Indian Ocean with power to affect dreams. He mentions the Snuff Box Sea Bean and African Dream Root, as well as the miraculous Soma. There is even a kind of hemp (the common ropemaking and cooking crop) said to bring rest and hallucinations.

Tobacco is widely thought to be a healthy (if addicting) herb. During the great plague it was smoked, and it was even made compulsory at Eton ward off infection. At Charles II court french snuffing practices are dominant, while the common people smoke pipes. To preserve the taxes from the Virginian imports the growing of tobacco is forbidden in England except for small lots in medicinal gardens.

Wine is also widely used as a medicinal drug, good for restoring the animal spirits if taken at the right amount.

<http://historyofalcoholanddrugs.typepad.com/SHAD18Dcurth.pdf>

For other herbs, see Culpeper, Nicholas, *The English physitian: or an astrologo-physical discourse of the vulgar herbs of this nation*. London : Peter Cole, 1652.

<http://www.med.yale.edu/library/historical/culpeper/culpeper.htm>

## *Illnesses*



As can be expected, illness and plague are rife. Harmful airs from swamplands, leading to pox and fever, plague many poorer areas. Cities have irregular but fearsome outbreaks of

pestilence. Not even the dreams are safe: several epidemics appear to have occurred as people have been drawn into noxious dreams.

Some medical conditions, based on <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~stephan/Graunt/diseases.html>

<b>Bloody flux</b>	blood in the stools, dysentery
<b>Bursten</b>	hernia or rupture
<b>Dreamtaken</b>	Sleeping sickness, someone or something in the dreams has captured the soul.
<b>Falling Sickness</b>	Epilepsy
<b>French Pox</b>	Venereal disease
<b>Gravel</b>	A disease characterised by small stones which are formed in the kidneys, passed along the ureters to the bladder, and expelled with the urine. See also stranguary. Synonym: kidney stone.
<b>Headmouldshot</b>	this is when the sutures of the skull, generally the coronal, ride: that is, have their edges shot over one another; which is frequent in infants and occasions convulsions and death. Such injury would result from difficulties in childbirth. Ricketts caused by vitamin D deficiency in addition to causing bowlegs also caused deformations of the pelvis. In a woman this could make childbirth more difficult than usual. The obstetric forceps were introduced into more general use in the middle of the 18th century.
<b>Horseshoehead</b>	Inflammation of the brain
<b>Imposthume</b>	A collection of purulent matter in a bag or cyst.
<b>Kings evil</b>	Scrofula, a tubercular infection of the throat lymph glands. The name originated in the time of Edward the Confessor, with the belief that the disease could be cured by the touch of the king of England. A scrofulous distemper, in which the glands are ulcerated, commonly believed to be cured by the touch of a king.
<b>Livergrown</b>	having a great liver. (Possibly as a result of high alcohol consumption!)
<b>Loosness</b>	Dysentery
<b>Overlaid</b>	Infants suffocated when their mother or nurse rolls over on them in bed
<b>Planet Struck</b>	Paralytic, confounded
<b>Purples</b>	spots of a livid colour, which break out in malignant fevers.
<b>Quinsy</b>	An acute inflammation of the soft palate around the tonsils, often leading to an abscess. Synonyms: suppurative tonsillitis, cyanache tonsillaris, paristhmitis, sore throat. A tumid inflammation in the throat, which sometimes produces suffocation.
<b>Rising of the Lights</b>	Croup - any obstructive condition of the larynx or trachea (windpipe), characterised by a hoarse, barking cough and difficult breathing, occurring chiefly in infants and children.
<b>Stone</b>	Gall-stones
<b>Stranguary</b>	Restricted urine flow. A difficulty of urine attended with pain. This could have included bladder stones. See also gravel.
<b>Thrush</b>	A disease in which there are white spots and ulcers in the mouth, and on the tongue, caused by a parasitic fungus,

**Tissick**  
**Tympany**

Candida albicans. There is a similar condition of the vagina.  
Synonyms: aphthae, sore mouth, aphthous stomatitis. Small round superficial ulcerations, which first appear in the mouth.  
Consumption  
A kind of obstructed flatulence that swells the body like a drum.

### *Syphilis*

The Pox is a contagious Distemper occasioned by contact and by means of a Venomous Salt, proceeding from the mixture and corruption of the seeds of divers persons received and contained in the wombs of publick women; by which all liquid substances wherein it mixes do thicken and corrupt the nerves, skin and in general the flesh to which it adheres, becomes prick't, gnawed and dry, and lastly the bones and cartilage's that it penetrates do rise up, rot and corrupt.

*Nicholas de Blegny, New and Curious Observations concerning the art of Curing the Venereal Disease, and the accidents it produces ... Explicated by Natural and Mechanical principles with Motions, Actions and Effects of Mercury, trans. Walter Harris (London, 1676), p. 3.*

A character in intimate contact with a syphilitic person has to roll a Stamina roll. On failure, he or she contracts primary syphilis. A lesion, a chancre, develops on the point of contact and lasts for a few weeks. [Every other week, roll a Stamina roll. If it succeeds the character recovers, to develop secondary syphilis a few months later unless the roll succeeded with three successes or more. A botch moves directly to secondary syphilis. ]

Secondary syphilis: the character develops a rash, which might develop into open ulcers. Flu-like symptoms such as fever, indigestion, headaches, and painful joints are not uncommon, as well as hair-loss. The character is actively infectious. [Every month a Stamina roll can be rolled to "recover" to latent syphilis. A botch moves to tertiary syphilis, three successes affect a cure. ]

Latent syphilis: The illness can remain latent for years to decades. About one third will eventually develop tertiary syphilis, one third will recover.

Tertiary syphilis is the final and most destructive stage. Gummy or rubbery tumours appear that can be seriously disfiguring and disrupt bodily functions. Heart problems can occur, and neurosyphilis can soften the brain to cause progressive paralysis and insanity.

[Each month Stamina is rolled; on a failure a new symptom appears (roll 1d10):

- 1 Further ulceration
- 2 Gumma (rubbery tumour) somewhere on the body
- 3 Disfiguring gumma (removes any beauty advantage)
- 4 Blindness on one eye
- 5 Jaundice (due to liver damage)
- 6 Heart problems (-1 STR)
- 7 Madness or confusion (-1 INT or a new psychological flaw)
- 8 Limited paralysis, seizures or tabes dorsalis (-1 DEX)
- 9 General loss of health (-1 STA)
- 10 Something else – syphilis is very variable.

If an attribute is reduced below zero the character dies. If an attribute is zero the character cannot use it: STR, DEX or STA 0 means the character is bedridden, INT 0 is coma or total psychosis. Botches lead to two new symptoms. Three successes temporarily halts the outbreak and returns the character to latent syphilis for a few months.]

Treatments are available in the form of mercury and turpentine ointments, van Swieten's liquor (mercury and brandy), hot baths with mercury salts or fumigation with mercury vapours and *lignum vitae*. Hopefully the salivation of near poisoning can remove the excess humours. [Treatment gives one extra dice on recovery rolls. Roll for the doctor's medicine: if the doctor botches, the character will take 1d10 levels of damage from poisoning. Note that the skill has little effect, since all that matters is that enough heavy metal is around to poison the disease.]

The pox is common but also seen as a sign that a person has sinned. Prior to 1701, it was a matter of public policy to have women whipped unless she could prove infection from her husband or a soldier.



## Modern Technology



## Current Events



1669

[July 21](#) John Lockes Constitution of English colony Carolina approved

1670

[February 27](#) Jews expelled from Austria by order of Leopold I

[May 2](#) King Charles II charters Hudson Bay Company

[November 28](#) Pierre Corneille's "Tite et Berenice," premieres in Paris

1670 The philosophical arguments of [John Locke](#) inspire the formation of the Board of Trade in London

### *Interesting People*



I rise at eleven, I dine about two,  
I get drunk before seven; and the next thing I do,  
I send for my whore, when for fear of a clap,  
I spend in her hand, and I spew in her lap.  
Then we quarrel and scold, 'till I fall fast asleep,  
When the bitch, growing bold, to my pocket does creep;  
Then slyly she leaves me, and, to revenge the affront,  
At once she bereaves me of money and cunt.



If by chance then I wake, hot-headed and drunk,  
What a coil do I make for the loss of my punk!  
I storm and I roar, and I fall in a rage,  
And missing my whore, I bugger my page.  
Then, crop-sick all morning, I rail at my men,  
And in bed I lie yawning 'till eleven again.  
--Regime de Vivre, John Wilmot, Second Earl of Rochester