



Summary

Significant changes in medicine occur in this period. By 1900, there was a better understanding of how germs cause disease and work was being done to develop new vaccines and treatments. The government, which started out with a laissez-faire attitude to public health, began to become more involved, with compulsory small pox vaccination and the Public Health Act of 1875. Hospitals developed into clean, modern institutions thanks to the work of Florence Nightingale and more surgery became possible through the use of anaesthetics. Fewer people died as a result of surgery because of Joseph Lister's pioneering work with antiseptics.



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Key Vocabulary

| | |
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| Amputation | The removal of a limb by surgery. |
| Anaesthetic | A drug or drugs given to produce unconsciousness before and during surgery. |
| Antiseptic | Chemicals used to destroy bacteria and prevent infection |
| Chloroform | Chemicals used to destroy bacteria and prevent infection |
| Diarrhoea | A symptom of a disease (such as cholera); frequent, fluid bowel movements. |
| The Enlightenment | A European intellectual movement of the 18th century emphasising reason and science over religion and tradition; also known as the "Age of Reason". |
| Germ Theory | Germ theory The theory that germs cause disease, often by infection through the air |
| Innoculation | Putting a low dose of a disease into the body to help it fight against a more serious one. |
| Laissez Faire | Belief that governments should not interfere in people's lives. |
| Microbe | A living organism that is too small to see without a microscope. |
| Pasteurisation | A way of preserving food or drink by heating to 55 degrees C and thus killing the bacteria. |
| Public Health Act (1875) | Government legislation that made it compulsory for city authorities to dispose of sewage, build public toilets and provide clean water. New houses had to be built to better quality and food sold in shops had to be checked for safety. |
| Spontaneous Generation | The theory that decaying matter turns into germs. |
| Vaccination | Injection into the body of weakened organisms to give the body resistance. Comes from the word vacca which means cow in Latin. This was because the first vaccination involved injecting cow pox samples into people to develop immunity against small pox. |

1796– Edward Jenner successfully tests small-pox vaccine

1847 : James Simpson identifies anaesthetic properties of chloroform

1848:First Public Health Act, widely ineffective.

1852: Smallpox vaccine made compulsory.

1854: John Snow proved cholera spread through water

1859: Florence Nightingale writes her book " Notes on Nursing"

TIMELINE

Modern Medicine 1900-Present



| Key Figures | |
|----------------------|--|
| Edward Jenner | Pioneered the small pox vaccine after noticing that milkmaids who caught cowpox did not catch small pox. |
| Louis Pasteur | Disproved spontaneous generation with his germ theory; developed vaccines for anthrax and rabies; pioneered pasteurisation. |
| Henry Bastian | Influential doctor in Britain who believed in Spontaneous Generation |
| Robert Koch | Used Pasteur's germ theory to identify which germs caused anthrax. He developed a way of dying germs to find out which diseases they were responsible for. |
| Florence Nightingale | Helped establish nursing as a respectable profession for women; improved the sanitation and standard of care at military hospitals in the Crimea (became known as "the lady with the lamp"); founded school of nursing at St Thomas hospital |
| Joseph Lister | British surgeon who pioneered antiseptic surgery using Carbolic Acid spray. |
| James Simpson | Discovered the anaesthetic properties of chloroform. |
| John Snow | Proved that cholera is spread by water, not miasma. Made chloroform and ether safer to use by working out correct dosage. Administered chloroform to queen Victoria at the birth of her last 2 children. |
| Robert Liston | Famous surgeon before anaesthetics and antiseptics were in use. Liston was sought after by patients for his very speedy operations, often only lasting minutes. |

1861: Pasteur publishes his germ theory

1865: Lister first uses carbolic acid as an antiseptic

1875: Second Public Health Act, effective.

1881: Pasteur develops anthrax vaccine

1882: Koch first stains microbes

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/jenner_edward.shtml

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Challenge

Who was the most influential medical figure between 1700 and 1900?

How did treatments change for ordinary people between 1700 and 1900?

What was the most important breakthrough in medicine between 1700 and 1900 and why?



Y10 Schoology page



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