

Odd Medicines of 1900

by Laura Morrison

As I read through the magazines from the year 1900, something stuck out to me. There were these bizarre medicines, and the way they were advertised made them even more interesting. I found myself questioning, “How many of these medicines are there?” and “How much has medicine changed in the last 121 years?” Looking through the advertisements, I reckoned there is no way these medicines are safe by today’s standards. So the goal of my research is to compile all these odd medicines, try to uncover what was actually in them, and then compare them to the medicines of today. Most research will be done by scouring the multiple newspaper issues from 1900, but the rest of my research will be done with scholarly articles found online. As of right now, I have a few advertisements saved in order to create my compilation; further research entails finding more of these medicines and finding what was in them. These results I will compare to modern medicine in order to show just how odd these medicines are.