

**4.1. PURIFYING THE BLOOD**

There are numerous disorders that affect the blood, some affect the different cells of the blood and others that cause malfunction of specific proteins carried in the blood.

Many substances were thought to purify the blood whatever the cause, during the 1800's advertisements for a cure of all blood disorders were common.

Rasilla extract was celebrated for purifying and cleansing the blood > others include...  
 GB postal stationery envelope 1d pink, sold at a reduced rate on account of adverts.  
 Copy (reduced) of reverse showing 1d embossed stamp



Left hand advertising tab. One of four adverts within booklet No. 2, issued 1911



Encased postage stamp (jeton) used as currency during First World War, with advert on reverse, an interesting example of a non-philatelic use of a postage stamp.  
 Photocopy of front (not reduced)

Lauchstädter Blumen for refreshing the blood (aufrischung des blutes) and for improving poor blood condition (schlechter blutbeschaffenheit)  
 postal cheque letter from Berlin on official postal cheque envelope with advertising

**Lauchstädter Berlin**

zur Aufrischung des Blutes zur Stärkung des Körpers

Rheumatisches Gicht (Podagra) Nervosität Mattigkeit Blutarmut Bleichsucht schlechter Blutbeschaffenheit

Bestes Kurgetränk bei Zucker- & Nierensteinen

Druckersverord. der Heilquelle an Lauchstädt in Thüringen

Herrn Richard Kayser Fabrikbedarfsartikel

118 52 Cottbus P S 9 Schützenstr.

**...blood diseases and treatments some early universal medications**

**THE Anglo-Colonial Letter Co. Limited**  
 1, SOUTH JOHN ST., LIVERPOOL.  
 TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "COLONIAL," LIVERPOOL.

**RASILLA EXTRACT.**  
 The celebrated Remedy for all Skin and Blood Diseases, including Mercurial Poisoning, Rheumatism, Scrofula, Gout, Scabby, Eczema, Glandular Swellings, and Sores of all kinds.

The Extract acts as a mild tonic, and by building up the system enables even the most delicate to withstand the traditional attacks of disease.

Change your blood at any time you feel it is foul, more especially during heating and Autumn—the health of the system is sure to follow.

Bottle and Packet is guaranteed to contain nothing injurious to the constitution of either sex.—Price 2s. 2d. per Bottle.

To be obtained from ERNEST & CO., 12a, Finchbury Square, LONDON, E.C.

**4.1. PURIFYING THE BLOOD**

Tea, pills, tonics and thermal cabinets are all recommended

**four more treatments to cleanse or purify the blood**



Even a cup of tea can cleanse the blood or...



**SALI "JODATI" DI MONTECATINI**  
 sicuri depurativi del sangue

SAVONA DA S. S. KERMAGIOW GIBRALTARRADIC - 131 7

2 Cermelonoli ... Anari Savona

XXI ARRIVING TUESDAY MORNING

...Beecham's pills to purify the blood



Advertisement on reverse of NZ 1893 1d and 2d stamps. A variety inks were used for the various adverts - 240 per sheet divided into 4 panes, 6th row-4th column

'Jodati' can do both - a safe and sure way to cleanse and purify the blood'

Italian advertising telegram, 1937



Scan of single ring cancellation dated 15.01.37, and receivedrepty

**Thermal-Cabinet**  
 heilt Rheumatisches, Hart- und Hinderkrankheiten

5 Pfennig pro Bad! Prospekt kostenlos!

Berlin A. W. 8

But thermal cabinets were probable of little use in treating blood diseases (blutkrankheiten), especially blood borne infections...

4.2. BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS

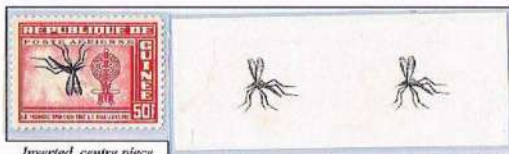
from ancient plagues to AIDS, diseases transmitted by blood

'purifying the blood cures' will not prevent the transmission of some infectious diseases via the blood, from a carrier host.

One of the most common and ancient parasitic diseases to infect humans is malaria. The life cycle of the malaria parasite is dependant on human blood, it is introduced into the blood stream by the Anopheles mosquito.



The mosquito breeds in marsh areas, La Palud is named after the surrounding marshy areas, hence 'paludisme', French for malaria.



*Inverted, centre piece*  
A dangerous adversary in any format, inverted or on its own.

*Proof pair printed on gummed paper. Stamps printed by E.A. Wright Bank Note Co. in line-engraved, except for the mosquito printed in photogravure.*



Laveran was the first to observe the parasites within the red cells, where they can be seen when the cells are stained with special dyes.



DDT kills the mosquito but the mosquito is an elusive insect, perhaps avoiding DDT sprays when found on both sides of these stamps!



Part of reverse of 1925 India telegram, front scan reduced by 50%

Attempts at curing malaria are numerous- Dr. H.L. Batliwalla, of Warli sold a medicine which was reputed to cure malaria, was it the extract of *Funtumia elastica* (Silkrubber) another traditional cure for malaria, but it is quinine which is effective in destroying the parasite within the blood.



59 Congo Belge - Beletsch Congo  
Foste de la Looe. Plantations de Funtumia  
Standsplatsen van de Looe. Plantations Funtumia.

Belgium Congo



*Printing error, strip of 3 printed on both sides (reverse print on gum side, shown on left).*



4.2. BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS

yellow fever

In 1881 Finlay, working in Cuba proposed the theory that the disease was transmitted by mosquitoes



*Print proof, with security punch hole made by the printers, Waterlow & Sons Ltd*



Reed proved Finlay's theory and Gorgas emulated the disease from Panama, which had decimated workmen building the canal



Precautions such as the early notification of the disease to the health authorities was far more beneficial

In the early 1800's yellow fever appeared in Italy, many attempts were made to contain the disease, one of which was to disinfect mail, by various methods for both incoming and outgoing. However, the precaution of disinfecting mail was completely unnecessary as yellow fever was not transmitted by touch



▲ 1827 letter from Turkey to Trieste, probable disinfected by fumigation, note lighter area of long marks at bottom centre. Manuscript '5' for postage rate, and '15' overwrd

Again, attempts at controlling these types of diseases by lazaretto (quarantine) stations was to no avail, although there was some success in controlling blood borne bacterial diseases such as plague...

*Disinfected letter from Cephalonia to Trieste, mailed via Ancona (Papal States) route instead of direct, with straight line Ancona transit handstamp in black on front and manuscript forwarding agents endorsement on reverse, (ink struck with a scarce framed Italian disinfection cachet LAZARETTO ANCONA / NETTO DENTRO, E FUORI (clean outside and inside) in black, Trieste arrival cds in red alongside.*



Public Health notification post card - free postage



Schistosoma ► - these worms penetrate the skin and travel via the blood circulation to other organs in the body, even a double layer of skin will not protect you!  
*Double paper on reverse between the two stamps and gummed over. Scan of reverse not reduced*



4.2. BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS.

The plague or Black Death swept across Europe in the 14th Century, caused by a bacterial infection.



Yam is best known for being the "plague village" that chose to isolate itself when the plague was discovered there in 1665, rather than let the infection spread



In this painting by Gros, Napoleon indicates a plague node on the axilla



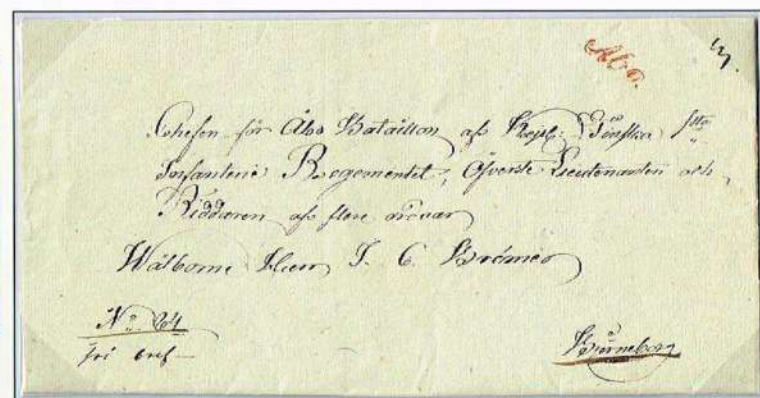
The causative bacteria, Yersinia pestis was first discovered by Alexander Yersin, a Swiss scientist who is well remembered in Vietnam for his work on the plague, and known as Ong Nam (Dr Nam Fifth).

4.2. BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS.

trying to prevent black death

More practical attempts at preventing the disease were largely unsuccessful.

In the middle ages charms were often used



Following rumours of a plague outbreak in 1822 in Finland, it is thought that the postmaster of Abo (Turku) used a red hand-stamp instead of black to warn the citizens of plague, although there is no record of a plague outbreak in Finland at this time. **▲** The red Abo postmark on cover to Björneborg (22 May 1822). Reference: *The Early Postmarks of Finland - "The red Abo postmark strike is unique in Finnish postal history. When the plague threatened, the Turku Postmaster started to use the red warning cancel which had earlier been used elsewhere in Europe." Known dates are from April to October. ONLY A FEW COPIES RECORDED*



In Amsterdam several plague epidemics occurred in 1647-65. The City Coat of Arms indicates this with 3 crosses of St. Andrew, which are supposed to protect the city from flood, fire and plague. **▶** 1704 letter from Rotterdam to Amsterdam with the Amsterdam SS postmark showing the Coat of Arms, a post horn and the letter R.

Disinfecting mail was also used to try and control the disease during an outbreak of plague in Hawaii. During the period 12 Dec 1899 to 13 Apr 1900, all mail from Honolulu was disinfected by the the Hawaii PO, by cutting of least one envelope corner and fumigating with sulphur dioxide.



The Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co.,

# 633-655 Market Street,

San Francisco, Cal.

Belgium Giro Service official envelope



A fatal form of plague is septicemic plague, in which bleeding occurs due to D.I.C. (diffuse intravascular coagulation of the blood coagulation system), blood pustules form under the skin, which turn black - a possible reason why it was called black death



The bacteria are carried by rats and other rodents such as squirrels, and transmitted to humans by the blood sucking bite of the rat flea.



Hooke's flea of 1665

**MORT AUX RATS** **BESTRUDT DE RATTEN**

100% Efficacité

100% Doeltreffend

**AEROXON**

76, Rue Léopold, Malines

76, Leopoldstraat Mechelen

**Raxon**

est: 1° inoffensief voor mensen en huisdieren  
2° à l'emploi très économique et on consomme peu

is: 1° onschadelijk voor menschen en huisdieren  
2° spaarzaam in 't gebruik en daardoor goedkoop

Office des créateurs de brevets et de marques  
Service des postes et des télégraphes  
N° 1405

PROPAGÉZ LE SERVICE DES CHEQUES POSTAUX HISTORIQUES

BEVORDERT DEN DIENST DER POSTAUX HISTORIQUES

Demandez prix à la S. A. Etablissements AEROXON 76, Rue Léopold, Malines

Vraagt prijs aan de M. V. Etablissements AEROXON 76, Leopoldstraat Mechelen

**4.2. BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS.**

Septicaemia or blood poisoning had long been recognised, and with the introduction of antibiotics the lives of many with this type of blood infection would be saved



Semmelweis discovered that the incidence of puerperal fever and septicaemia could be drastically cut by the disinfection of hands and obstetric instruments.

HOSPITAL MIASMA RECOGNIZED PUERPERAL FEVER AS A BLOOD-POISONING OR SEPTICAEMIA

enlarged section

Trench Fever caused by the bacteria  *Bartonella quintana*, is acquired after a bite from infected blood sucking lice *Pediculus humanus corporis*, during WW1 infected soldiers were transported on separate specialised ambulance trains for infectious diseases.

It wasn't until the discovery by Fleming of the antibiotic effect of the penicillin mould and...



*Kuk Infektionskrankung No 206 - improvised Military Infectious Diseases Ambulance Train, and Field Post Sorting Office. Kuk - Kaiserlich und Koniglich (Imperial and Royal) With circular cachet Kuk Infektionskrankung No 206 and Franz Weidner medical assessor and a civilian postmark - Vienna 13-6-1917*

... the extraction and purification by Florey, that provided the drug we know as penicillin



Mass production of penicillin and the introduction of other antibiotics saved countless lives of patients suffering from blood poisoning (septicaemia)...



Meter: Francotyp, Prama ME, specimen

... but a new blood borne plague resistant to these drugs, was soon to appear...



**4.2. BLOOD BORNE INFECTIONS**

AIDS or SIDA (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), is a relatively new disease first described in 1979,

**AIDS, a new blood borne infection appears**

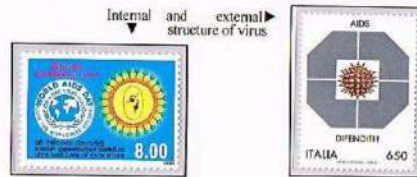


The appearance of the virus in humans is a result of multiple cross-species transmissions from the chimpanzee.

Multiple transverse missing perforation



The AIDS virus enters the blood stream of the infected person and is capable of damaging the immune system by altering the function of lymphocytes (white cells) in the blood.



Internal and external structure of virus

Since 1987 campaigns to warn of the dangers of AIDS are extensively used



The 1st philatelic item to refer to AIDS. GB slogan 1st used on 26 Jan 1987 and at irregular intervals until 1990, 500 dies used.

Knowing your HIV status assists the numerous AIDS campaigns directed at preventing the virus entering the bloodstream, eg controlled blood transfusion, auto transfusion etc.



Research into AIDS continues, but conditions such as AIDS, malaria and chronic infection can lead to one of the most common blood disorders...

4.3. BLOOD DISORDERS

the most common blood disorder is anaemia

Anaemia is a reduction in the number of circulating red blood cells.



this can result in tiredness and exhaustion (anemic ed esaurimenti).



There are many causes of anaemia, chronic infections such as malaria, AIDS or TB...

◀ 1st ever charity stamp issued in 1897 to raise funds for the Queen Victoria Homes for Consumptives (TB) a postage value of 1d, with an additional 1/-, the design is of an angel supporting an exhausted person.



Some anaemia's can be inherited e.g.

◀ thalassaemia, & sickle cell anaemia ▶



SUPPORT THE NEW ORLEANS SICKLE CELL ANEMIA TELETHON IN JULY



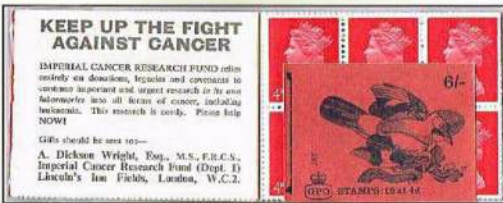
toxins such as lead, can interfere with the absorption of essential elements for red cell production,



Blood diseases such as leukaemia a disease of the white cells, is a cause of anaemia too, radiation poisoning has been known to cause leukaemia



Research into controlling and curing leukaemia continues, attempts to cure leukaemia (leucemia) and anaemia (anemia) were made by the pharmacy and laboratories of J. Hugh of Barcelona with the medicine of cal ferruginosa ▶



LIBRERIA UNIVERSAL de Miquel Miquelins San Joan

Representante general de la empresa suministradora en comarcas de las provincias de Cádiz, Almería, Málaga, y Cádiz.

ARANA CARTA DE CARRAJES de alquilar D. Constitución, 46 Cádiz costado de 100 y 150

FARMACIA Y LABORATORIO DE J. HUGH Baja San Pedro, 04. - Barcelona

SOLUCIÓN SOLUBLE DE HUGH CLORHIDRO-FOSFATO DE CAL FERRUGINOSA

Este nuevo solución viene a llenar un vacío en el campo de la materia médica, pues esta doble necesidad, tanto preventiva como curativa, es tan garantizada para tratar las fuerzas agotadas, produciendo resultados satisfactorios en enfermedades graves como anemia, hidremitia, clonemia, leucemia, leucodermia, escorbuto, reumatismo, sífilis, tisis, etc., así como en casos como tuberculosis, hipoplasia, inflamaciones crónicas de la aorta, etc., y siempre que es necesario levantar las fuerzas del organismo.

8 PENICILIN PLASCO Venta en las principales farmacias, droguerías y los Farmacéuticos.

Las principales localidades de la provincia de Cádiz, están previstas de representaciones delegadas en correspondencia con el General, para la recepción de pedidos.

Reverse of 1850s Spanish advertising booklet, with insert. And scan of front. ONLY A FEW COPIES WITH IN-SERT EXIST

4.3. BLOOD DISORDERS

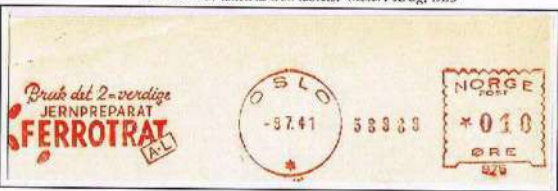
treatment of anaemia - iron deficiency

The most common cause of anaemia is due to a deficiency of iron (Fe), an essential element for haemoglobin & red cell production...



...this type of anaemia can be treated with iron supplements...

... and can be taken as iron tablets. Meter: Krag, BB3



It had long been known that certain springs contained beneficial elements for health and well being



The Great Seal of Nevis used in 1861 on its first stamp issue. In the Stamp Collectors magazine of Jan 1867 it is described as 'representing a sick female in the Spa bath, supported by a companion, extending out her arm to the nymph of the stream for a bowl of it's healing waters'

Plate proof second issue, position 6 in sheet of 12



Pre-cancelled stamp

The presence of iron contained in spring waters, known as Chalybeate (iron rich or ferruginous) springs were considered to be particularly good for the treatment of anaemia.

The community of Chalybeate, in USA took its name directly from the above meaning. These springs, such as Tunbridge Wells, and Bussang, became popular health spa resorts.

Stamps from within booklet, and scans of booklet from cover and insert (reduced)

CARNET de 20 TIMBRES-POSTE 0 50 10

A BUSSANG ON GUÉRIT L'ANÉMIE

Desolé tous les malades et à la SOCIÉTÉ DES SOURCES DE BUSSANG, 47, rue de Valenciennes à Paris, 10, le 12.

Le seul objectif autorisé l'ordre de la Société des Sources de Bussang.

BUSSANG ON GUÉRIT L'ANÉMIE

LEAU DE BUSSANG RÉGÈRE LES FORCES EN UN RABDOACTIVE NATURELLEMENT GAZEUSE, ANÉMIE, MANGANESE, LÈGE, REMENT FERRUGINEUX, NEUVE ÉLÉMENTAIRE DES PRINCIPES CONSTITUTIFS DU SANG.

1860 Tunbridge Wells 820 sideways duplex cancellation, with manuscript 'not known' and return postmark



4.3. BLOOD DISORDERS.

These types of spas were popular all over Europe during the 19th and early 20th centuries...



... the ferruginous spas were particularly popular in Germany, spa towns such as Bad Lauchstädt, Bad Pyrmont, Bad Liebenstein and Herzbad Kudowa.

health spas for the treatment of anaemia

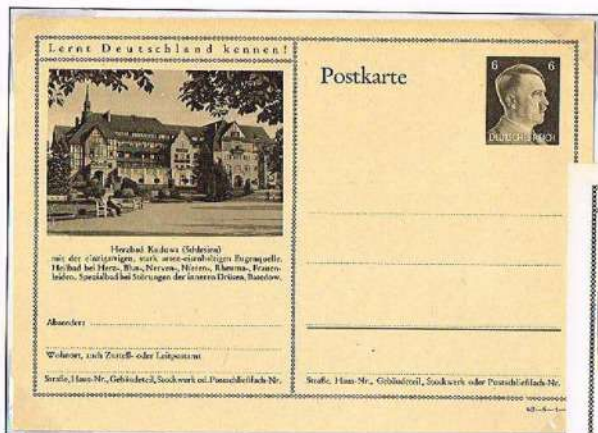


They all advertised their curative properties. Bad Liebenstein even claimed its waters could cure metabolic disorders (stoffwechselkrankheiten).

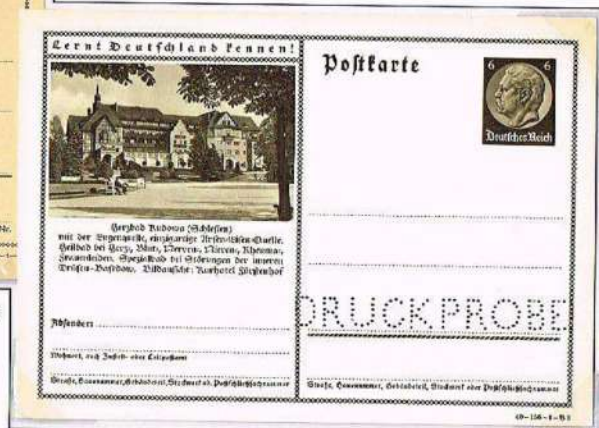


Meter: Francotyp, D

Herzbad Kudowa water contains a high concentration of iron (eisenhaltigen) and is recommended for the blood. The wording on the later Hitler head (1942) has been changed to include eisenhaltigen, which does not appear on the earlier Hindenburg head card



Hitler head design used 1941-42  
Hindenburg head design used between 1933-1940 (Printing proof)



4.3. BLOOD DISORDERS.

Although these spas and springs are a natural cure, other treatments may be recommended.

from water to wine and beer



Bottling the spring water is a possible solution.



Postal Union Congress 1929 booklet, edition 168, showing stamps within (reduced)

Wine and beer have also been advocated

Private printed to order postal stationery, with 5 heller imprinted stamp for letter rate first issued in 1908.



French advertisement letter card (1887) - Lettres annonce edition No.255, sold for 5c with a 10c surcharge paid by the advertiser, for international rate.



Private printed to order postal stationery card of the local Berlin post company, Berliner packetfahrt AG, 2 pfennig rate, in use c1890