Dear Friends:

This month we’re taking a look at the complex history of drugs and drug use as seen through materials in the Library’s collections. Below, you’ll find links to our latest Then & Now event, “Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Services,” and to the related Virtual Visit and blog post.

Noted Elsewhere: “Snake Oil to Social Media”

Our colleagues at the Samuel J. Wood Library, Weill Cornell Medicine, recently posted “Snake Oil to Social Media: Drug Advertising & Your Health,” an online exhibit that looks at the misinformation and disinformation around drugs from the 19th century to the present. Check it out!

Images from the Past: Lilly Langtry and Brown’s Iron Bitters

Lilly Langtry (or “the Jersey Lily,” a British society lady and sex symbol from the island of Jersey, was a pioneer of media personality. Here she reposes “Brown iron Bitters,” a 19th-century patent medicine claiming to cure “weakness, inertia, depression, loss of appetite” and other ailments through alcohol and quinine. The image is from the William H. Rall Collection of Pharmaceutical Trade Cards.

The NYAM Library Team

NYAM’s work to ensure health for all is more critical than ever.

Your support helps us preserve the Library’s treasures, share them with researchers and the public, and safeguard the history of medicine to inform the future of health.

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