Dear Friends:

It is our goal to help you get through these challenging times with treasures from our NYAM Library collections. Enjoy these digital highlights and look for more ways to engage with us on our Stay Connected page.

Images from the Past:
Signs of Spring

This bunch of pansies graces the front of a trade card from H. D. Thatch & Co., wholesale druggists of Potsdam, New York. Introduced as a form of advertising, pharmaceutical trade cards soon became collectibles, much like sports cards, with most produced between 1875 and 1900. Images of this card—among 300 or so more—are found in our digital collection: the William H. Helfand Collection of Pharmaceutical Trade Cards.

From the Blog:
“A Lifetime of Healthiness”

As Older Americans Month comes to a close, we revisit a blog post by Cara Kleinman Fallon, now at the University of Pennsylvania. The Golden Health Library’s “Seven Ages of Men” put forward an optimistic image of life in older age—even while assuming that “man” meant “everyone.”

Featured Video:
George Washington’s Last Tooth

What were George Washington’s dentures made of? This video from Atlas Obscura shares the story behind one of our most popular collection items.

Color Our Collections

This week we highlight the coloring book of the Bernard Becker Medical Library of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, featuring imaginative 19th-century images of science and nature. The book is one of hundreds found on the Color Our Collections website, showcasing images from libraries, archives, and museums around the world.

Noted Elsewhere: The More Things Change…

As Adam Kucharski, a professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, reports, “If you’ve seen one pandemic . . . you’ve seen one pandemic!” Nonetheless, in an article in the Washington Post, Dr. Mary Fissell, a historian of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, finds similarities in the human responses to the plague in 17th-century London and to COVID-19 today. In 2012 Dr. Fissell spoke at the Library on “Something Borrowed, Something Blue: The Strange History of Aristotle’s Masterpiece.”

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Library. In the meantime, stay safe. The NYAM Library Team

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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