Expansion of Alternative Health Care in the United States of America
The early 19th Century

“Every Man His Own Physician”
– Samuel Thomson

Samuel Thomson
Every Man His Own Physician

- **Lobelia inflata**
  - Puke-weed, vomitwort, gagroot
  - “operation produced was so remarkable, I never forgot it” – Samuel Thomson


For more information on this herb
Every Man His Own Physician

Thomsonian therapy

Th’ Emetic number ONE’s design’d
A gen’ral med’cine for mankind
Of every country, clime or place,
Wide as the circle of our race.
In every case, and state, and stage,
Whatever malady may rage;
For male or female, young or old,
Nor can its value half be told.
Every Man His Own Physician

- Group 1
  - Lobelia

- Group 2
  - Cayenne

- Group 3
  - Marsh Rosemary & Witch hazel

- Group 4
  - Bitters

- Group 5
  - Syrup for the Dysentery

- Group 6
  - Rheumatic drops
Every Man His Own Physician

- Success and popularity
  - Calomel
- The election of Andrew Jackson
- The licensing of the physician
- The agents and the “Family Right” holder
- Friendly Botanical Society
Every Man His Own Physician

- Medical opposition
  - Always the fault of the physician
  - Never the fault of the Thomsonian
- Attempted murder?
- Continual barbs of ridicule
- The death of Samuel Thomson
- Detractors in the ranks
Physiomedicalism & the Eclectic School

Physiomedicalism
- A short-lived medical branch
- Similar to Thomsonianism

The Eclectic School
- Wooster Beach
  - Orthodox practitioner
  - “Use anything that works”
The Eclectic School

- *vires vitales sustinete*
  - Lobelia, calomel, bleeding

- American school of medicine

- Volatile history of dispute
Mesmerism and Christian Science

- Franz Anton Mesmer
  - 1734 – 1815
  - Austrian physician
  - Considered the use of magnets

- Animal magnetism
  - “the art of healing could reach its final stage of perfection.”

- Everything in his clinic was magnetised

- baquet
Mesmerism and Christian Science

- Hypnosis
  - Refined form of mesmerism
  - First called somnambulism
  - Theories had changed
    - No longer due to a fluidic magnetism
    - Mental effect due to the mesmerist’s willpower
    - Fluidists and animists
  - Ether
  - Introduced into America by Charles Poyen in 1835
Mesmerism and Christian Science

Phineas Parkhurst Quimby

- 1802-1866
  - Employed Lucius Burkmar
  - Was able to diagnose and prescribe while mesmerised

- Quimby has a revelation
  - Denounces mesmerism
  - The power of faith
Mesmerism and Christian Science

Mary Baker Eddy

- Controversial relationship with Quimby
  - Denounced his writings
  - Plagiarised?
- Discoverer of Christ Science
  - Church of Christ (Scientist)
Hydropathy – the Water Cure

- The water cure
  - Physical Puritanism - Hygeiotherapy
- The “taking the waters”
- The great cure of hydropathy
  - All business
  - No frivolity and not for relaxation
  - Can cure any disease!
Hydropathy – the Water Cure

Vincent Priessnitz 1799 - 1851

- Born in Austria
- Learned from self-treatment and farm animals
- 1829 – method was perfected
- Opened the hydropathic institute in Graefenberg
- The method
  - The Lien-tuch
Hydropathy – the Water Cure

- Introduced in 1843 in New York city
- Quickly spread throughout the country
- American “water-curists” were more enterprising
  - Many were allopaths
  - Theories were more sophisticated
- The Grahamite Health Reform Movement
  - Sylvester Graham (1794-1851)
- Hygeiotherapy
  - Russell Trall (1812-1877)
The Rule of the Artery - Osteopathy

- Andrew Taylor Still
  - (1828-1917)
  - Largely self-taught
  - Began practicing medicine in 1854
  - Disillusionment
  - The use of manual techniques
Innate Intelligence - Chiropractic

- Daniel David Palmer
  - (1845 – 1913)
  - Born in Toronto
  - Short education
  - Settled in Iowa
  - Magnetic healing
  - The discovery
  - The theory
Summary

- Political state of the country
  - A new nation
- A diverse and rich mixture of theories and treatments
- A diverse mix of individuals
- A nation of pioneers
- Moving into the 20th Century change was inevitable