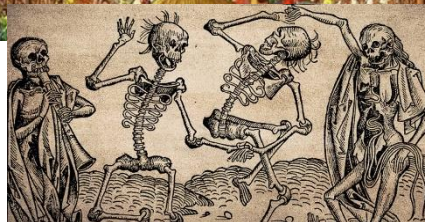
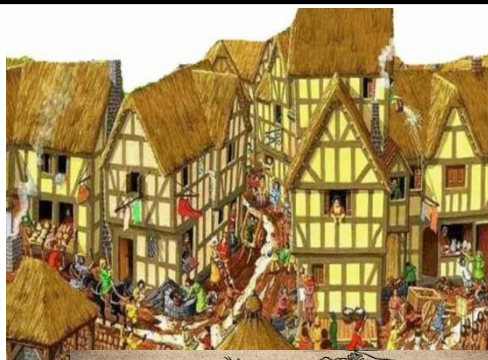


## Medieval hospitals

- In the Medieval period there was the belief that God gave people an illness as a test and that a cure should not be administered to the patient, they need to fight off the illness. The Church believed it was their job to care and make the patients comfortable as hospitals were attached to churches and monasteries.
- Hospitals in the medieval period were centres of rest where sick people might recover in quiet and clean conditions. Some were small, with **enough space for 12 patients**. Many hospitals did not have doctors and were run by monks and nuns on a strict diet.
- In the Medieval period there was specialised hospitals called '**Lazar houses**' to care for people with leprosy and normally set up outside of town- these were not controlled by the church.
- There was **no centralised funding** for hospitals. In the medieval period they had to rely on charity from a wealthy person, but more often relied on the charity of the church. For example, the Lazar houses were set up and privately funded by the **Knights Templar**.

### Key:

- Red box**= Medieval medicine
- Purple box**= Renaissance and 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Century medicine
- Green box**- Industrial medicine
- Blue box**= Modern medicine



## Public Health in a Medieval town

- Due to **the lack of compulsory education**, and no understanding that germs spread disease, it meant peasants and ordinary citizens in towns had no concept for good **sanitation**.
- Businesses chucked their waste in to rivers which people would collect water from to wash themselves.
- They did believe that smells (**miasma**) caused the plague, and some efforts were made to improve this with laws in Worcester which stated that animal guts had to be carried away straight away rather than being dumped.
- Towns were **large and cramped** where many people could not gain access to an efficient sewage system.
- This caused health problems as people chucked their waste on to the streets and this was collected and put into **cesspit** which were only cleaned out annually by a **gong farmer**, this attracted vermin and led to many health problems, such as the spread of the Black Death in 1348.

## Why were monasteries better regarding public health?

- Monasteries were located in **isolated** areas but in an area close to important resources such as water. They were very wealthy and as a result this brought health benefits as there was no dirt on the streets and pavements which ensure that vermin were not attracted to the monasteries. They could also afford to build better **sanitation systems** which reduced the chances of disease spreading.
- Due to the work of the **monks in monasteries** they were expected to read old medical books and write them out. They learned from the ancient world that good sanitation was to separate clean water from wastewater. This led to monasteries having a **lavatorium** for washing and had separate privies for the toilet bringing better health benefits.
- Health was better in the **monasteries** as monks learned the basic idea of separating clean water from wastewater and used the Roman ideas of diet, sleep and exercise. They used **bathhouses** connected to drainage systems to keep clean and ensured they put their waste in privies, located them directly above rivers. The spaced-out areas helped them more dealing with the spread of plague than the overcrowded towns.

## Government actions to **TRY** and improve public health.

- Towns were extremely dirty as people chucked their waste on to the streets and **cesspits** often overflowed.
- Mayors & councils did not want to raise taxes as this would be unpopular. Towns tried to stop businesses from polluting rivers, but it was hard to make people obey laws/catch them. In **Worcester 1466**, a law was introduced that banned animal carcasses from being chucked in the river. Could not enforce though!!
- £20 fine introduced to people and businesses to try and stump waste being dumped.
- During 1348 plague outbreak, councils tried to **quarantine** infected places, but people did not follow the simple laws on street cleaning, so plague still spread.
- After plague, peasants' lives got better as could demand higher wages- Ended by **1351 Statute of Labourers**.



## Causes of the 1665 Great Plague

The Great Plague of 1665 in London was caused mainly through flea bites from infected rats. Densely populated and unsanitary conditions in the city facilitated its spread, worsened by factors like international trade and the unusually hot summer climate. Overcrowding and poor sanitation allowed the disease to increase rapidly. The connection of global trade routes helped the spread of the plague from other affected areas.

## Hospitals in the Renaissance period

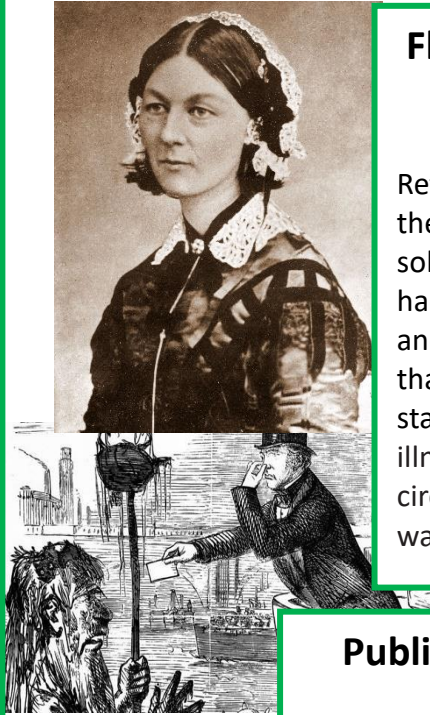
- In 17/18<sup>th</sup> Century hospitals became places where doctors **would try to cure the patients**. They were used as places to train new doctors, for example the charity hospital in Edinburgh gave **final year students the opportunity to gain experience** in the wards. This would lead to doctors being able to find new cures for diseases and experiment new methods of treatments rather than amputations.
- In the **17/18<sup>th</sup> Century, London hospitals alone treated 20,000 patients** whereas in Medieval England they only had room for 10 patients. Religious arguments started to change where they believed in committing good deeds and trying to cure the sick, especially as attitudes started to go away from illness as a punishment by God. This led to a more scientific approach to illnesses as the church started to back that cures were given as a gift to those who found it.
- The number of **specialised hospitals grew**. St Luke's in London became the second largest hospital designed for the mentally ill and **specialist hospitals for sexually transmitted diseases** and a maternity hospital. It was **still focused on religion**, but some Christians wanted to increase the number of hospitals and amount of patients to be cured due to the change in attitude to God giving people illnesses as a punishment.
- 17/18<sup>th</sup> Century hospitals were founded and funded by private benefactors who had the intention of curing and finding new methods to treatments. For example, **Westminster Hospital in 1719 was funded by a private bank** and some hospitals were built by local people funded it as a community. This was due to lack of government intervention into public health in both periods due to the **laissez-faire** attitude, meaning society had to deal with the problems themselves.

## How did the government try to deal with the plague of 1665.

- During the Great Plague of 1665, homeowners were ordered to sweep the streets in front of their houses.
- Women searchers used= quarantine identified victims= watchmen put on the doors and red cross painted on door= **first track and trace**.
- The words **'Lord have mercy upon us'** would be above the doors still refers to the belief that people though God would help to cure those infected.
- Many cats and dogs were caught and killed, 200,000 in London.
- The government banned plays or games that would cause large crowds.  
People would transfer coins in shops by putting money into vinegar.
- The border with Scotland was closed and trade with infected towns was stopped.
- After 1666, quarantine laws were enforced on ships coming from infected areas.
- The bodies of those who died from plague were brought out at night when fewer people were about.

## Governments actions to improve public health.

- Developments in industry led more people to move to towns & cities. By 1851, more people lived in towns than the countryside, and more worked in industry than in agriculture. 57% of children died before age 5. This led to overcrowding, poor public health & demands for action to be taken.
- The government did not act on Chadwick's public health report which said it was overcrowded dirty houses and poor sewage systems that were allowing disease to spread until 1848, after another outbreak of cholera, as some believed it was not the role of the government to intervene (this was called a laissez faire (leave alone) approach).
- They gave local councils the power to clean up towns in 1848 through Boards of Local Health, but many councils did not set one up. Some cities like Liverpool improved.
- It was not compulsory until 1875, after working-class men had been given the vote. Medical officers had to be hired, fresh water had to be supplied and councils had to keep streets clean.
- The government forced local councils to provide clean water & collect rubbish, regulated food and medicines, and knocked down bad housing.



## Florence Nightingale trying to improve Public Health

Reformers like Florence Nightingale argued that cleaning up the environment would stop diseases. She discovered the soldiers had been dying high numbers in dirty conditions. Beds had gone unchanged, meals unserved, toilets pots overflowed, and the hospital was filthy, resembling more a rotting house than a place of healing. Florence immediately created a basic standard of care. Patients were separated according to their illness. Beds were spaced apart and clean air was allowed to circulate. Strict hygiene rules were enforced, eg patients were washed and bedding was changed regularly.

## Public Health campaigners; Chadwick and John Snow

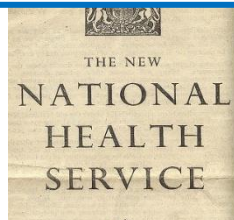
- Edwin Chadwick's report on the living conditions of the poor made Parliament aware of bad conditions. He said that disease is caused by bad air, overcrowded and damp houses and poor sewage systems. If all of this was dealt with= lower death rate.
- John Snow demonstrated that cholera was waterborne, not airborne, during the 1854 London outbreak. Through accurate mapping and analysis, he traced cases to a contaminated water pump on Broad Street. His work laid the foundation for modern epidemiology and public health interventions to combat infectious diseases.
- Dr John Snow discovered the causes of cholera from Broad Street Pump. Removed the pump, people stopped dying and notice a split in the filtering system. Showed that cholera was not caused by miasma, but the govt. did little.

## The Great stink and the end of Laissez-faire attitude

- The Great Stink refers to the summer of 1858 in London, when the Thames River emitted foul odours due to untreated sewage. The stench became so unbearable that it led to public outcry and prompted the construction of a modern sewage system, improving public health and sanitation in the city.
- The Great Stink of 1858 led to the government having to leave Houses of Parliament. This, along with Snow's evidence meant they had to pay for improvements. Joseph Bazalgette created a new London sewer system, 83 miles long removing 420 million gallons of sewage a day that ended cholera.
- The government involvement and their realisation of impact led to a new era where Laissez-faire attitude had ended.

## The NHS and modern hospitals

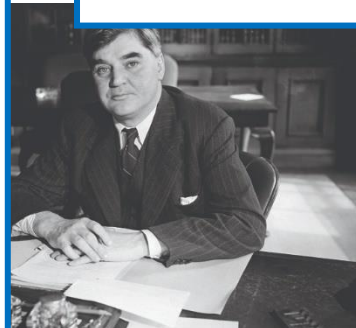
- In 1942, a civil servant named **William Beveridge** proposed a free National Health Service for all. His report sold over 100,000 copies in its first month of publication. He said **FIVE** giants needed to be removed (disease; want; ignorance; idleness and squalor) this led to NHS being set up.
- Labour won 1945 election & created welfare state, creating NHS in 1948 to give '**cradle to grave**' care. Before this, 8 million people had never seen a doctor.
- After Labour won the 1945 election, **Nye Bevan** (as Minister for Health) **led the creation of the NHS in 1948** in the face of great opposition. This would make all medical treatment, doctors, hospitals, ambulances, dentists and opticians for free to anyone who wanted it. Life expectancy has improved for all groups in society.
- The average living age in Britain in the modern day due to the NHS is 83 for a woman and 79 for a man. This is due to medieval care being offered for free and that people can access free medicine, if not a smaller payment than that in other countries. Also, hospitals and doctors have pushed for the public smoking ban in 2007 and banning smokers driving in cars with children in 2015. These laws are all enforced to improve the general public health of the population of Britain, a shift in the influence hospitals have had in public health matters.
- It started at £10 billion but the cost of the NHS in 2010 sat at £130 billion annually. Therefore, this shift in the way hospitals are funded represents the shift in attitudes of governments, where the modern day governments realise the need to keep and intervene with the general health and wellbeing of the population.



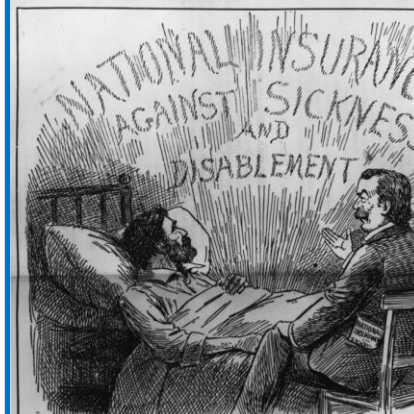
**NHS**

## Causes of the Liberal reforms

In the early 1900s, **Charles Booth found that 30% of Londoners** were so poor that they didn't have enough money- despite working. Showed a high link between poverty and high death rate. **Seebohm Rowntree wrote reports on British poverty & poor health**. He stated that 28% of people in York did not have the minimum amount needed to survive. Both men above gained support of MPs such as Lloyd George and Churchill who started to push the Liberal reforms. Liberal reforms typically refer to a series of social welfare reforms implemented in Britain during the early 20th century.



### THE DAWN OF HOPE



MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S National Health Insurance Bill provides for the insurance of the Worker in case of Sickness.

**Support the Liberal Government**  
in their policy of  
**SOCIAL REFORM.**

### Examples of Liberal Reforms Improving Public Health

#### 1. Free School Meals (1906)

- Provided **nutritious meals** to poor children at school.
- **Impact:** Improved child health and reduced malnutrition, helping them grow stronger and resist illness.

#### 2. Medical Inspections / Treatment in Schools (1907)

- All schoolchildren received **medical inspections**.
- Sick or undernourished children were **referred for treatment** or given **free medical care**.
- **Impact:** Early detection and treatment of illnesses like rickets and tuberculosis.

#### 3. Old Age Pensions Act (1908)

- Provided **5 shillings a week** to people over 70 who were poor.
- **Impact:** Reduced poverty-related illnesses in the elderly, allowing them access to food and basic care.

#### 4. Labour Exchanges (1909)

- Set up **job centres** to help unemployed people find work.
- **Impact:** Reduced poverty-related health problems caused by unemployment.

#### 5. National Insurance Act (1911)

- **Part 1:** Workers paid into insurance; received **sick pay** if ill.
- **Part 2:** Employers and government contributions for **free medical treatment** and medicines.
- **Impact:** Workers could afford **medical care and medicines**, improving recovery from illness and preventing poverty-related disease.