

OVERLOOKED IMAGES OF MEDICINE
IN AMERICA'S NEW MASS MEDIA OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY

Selected from Holdings of the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library of Yale
University

Bert Hansen, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus of History at Baruch College

www.BertHansen.com

To aid students and teachers, this Study Guide is organized into six sections.

- I. General works on the full-color political graphics of this era.
- II. Scholarship on medicine and public health in cartoon and caricature of this era.
- III. A few on-line sources for images like these
- IV. Citations for all images, in order of appearance in the presentation.
- V. Names of people in the images.
- VI. Acknowledgements and credits.

SECTION I. General works on America's full-color political graphics of this era.

The Pen, Not the Sword: A Collection of Great Political Cartoons from 1879 to 1898 (1970) by
Mary and Gordon Campbell.

Satire on Stone: The Political Cartoons of Joseph Keppler (1988) by Richard Samuel West.

*What Fools These Mortals Be! The Story of Puck, America's First and Most Influential
Magazine of Color Political Cartoons* (2014) by Michael Alexander Kahn and Richard
Samuel West.

SECTION II. Scholarship on medicine and public health in cartoons and caricature of this era.

Hansen, Bert. "America's First Medical Breakthrough: How Popular Excitement about a French
Rabies Cure in 1885 Raised New Expectations of Medical Progress," *American
Historical Review* 103:2 (April 1998), 373-418.

_____. "The Image and Advocacy of Public Health in American Caricature and Cartoons
from 1860 to 1900," *American Journal of Public Health* 87:11 (November 1997), 1798-
1807.

- _____. “New Images of a New Medicine: Visual Evidence for Widespread Popularity of Therapeutic Discoveries in America after 1885,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 73:4 (December 1999), 629-678.
- _____. *Picturing Medical Progress from Pasteur to Polio: A History of Mass Media Images and Popular Attitudes in America* (Rutgers University Press, 2009).
- _____. “La réponse américaine à la victoire de Pasteur contra la rage: Quand la médecine fait pour la première fois la ‘une’,” in *L’Institut Pasteur: Contributions à son histoire* ed. Michel Morange (Paris: La Découverte, 1991), pp. 89-102.
- Helfand, William H. *Health for Sale: Posters from the William H. Helfand Collection* (Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2011).
- _____. *The Picture of Health: Images of Medicine and Pharmacy from the William H. Helfand Collection* (Philadelphia Museum of Art: Distributed by the University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991).
- _____. *Quack, Quack, Quack: The Sellers of Nostrums in Prints, Posters, Ephemera & Books: An Exhibition on the Frequently Excessive & Flamboyant Seller of Nostrums as Shown in Prints, Posters, Caricatures, Books, Pamphlets, Advertisements & Other Graphic Arts over the Last Five Centuries* (New York: Grolier Club, 2002).

SECTION III. A few on-line sources for studying images like these.

In many cases, a Google search on any of the citations below will turn up a color image on line, which can be enlarged, saved, or printed for study.

The Hathi Trust has supported the scanning of historical works in a number of libraries. Their pdf files are generally in black and white, but for *Puck*'s bound volumes, most of the covers and centerspread appear to be preserved in color. Sometimes the Hathi listings include two copies of the same volume from different libraries.

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008886840>.

Bound volumes of *The Judge* are much harder to find. My copies of a long run on black and white microfilm were donated to the Columbia University Library. The Hathi Trust has digitized only a portion of the magazine's run

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000056566>.

The Library of Congress has digitized and made publicly available many political graphics from this era. Search in their “Prints & Photographs Online Catalog” at

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>.

A complete finding aid for the Bert Hansen Collection of Medicine and Public Health in Popular Graphic Art at Yale is referenced at the start of **Section IV** below.

Many *Puck* and *Judge* issues were microfilmed and then digitized for a large database of 19th-century newspapers and magazine, originally called “American Periodicals Series,” and now just American Periodicals. It contains over 1,100 periodicals that first began publishing between 1740 and 1900. This database is not free to the public and must be

searched through the websites of libraries with subscriptions. Many college libraries subscribe.

For biographical information on the people in these cartoons and on the artists who created them, basics are readily at hand for most of them in Wikipedia. Two more specialized on-line databases are also helpful. (1) “The Political Graveyard” is a rapidly expanding web site about U.S. political history and the cemeteries where politicians’ bodies are buried. It includes more than 180,000 politicians, living and dead. This site has links to many other biographical sources. <http://politicalgraveyard.com/>. (2) [Congressional Biographical Directory](http://congressionalbiographicaldirectory.com/) Search may be done on members of the US Congress from 1774 to the present day by entering a name, position or state. One advantage is that you can find office holders without knowing the person’s name. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>.

SECTION IV. Citations for all images shown, in order of appearance in the presentation.

Original prints of all the cartoons shown may be found in the Bert Hansen Collection of Medicine and Public Health in Popular Graphic Art, MS. Collection 67 at Yale University’s Medical Historical Library, described at <https://library.medicine.yale.edu/blog/bert-hansen-collection-medicine-and-public-health-popular-graphic-art> . The 152-page finding aid is available at <https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/10/resources/11447>

1. “The Smallest Specimen Yet” by Frederick Opper, February 19, 1890, *Puck* 26:676, cover, p. 431. (Uncle Sam using microscope with books on microbes at hand to view Benjamin Harrison, the current, twenty-third President, diminutive in contrast to his grandfather, William Henry Harrison, the ninth President).
2. “He’s Got to Take It!” by Louis Dalrymple, May 4, 1892, *Puck* 31:791, cover, p. 161. (The national Republican party is giving a huge spoon of Harrison Re-Nomination Medicine to Tom Platt, head of the party in New York City.)
3. “Convalescent” by Louis Dalrymple, December 23, 1896, *Puck* 40:1033, centerspread, [pp. 8-9]. Caption: Uncle Sam (to his three eminent doctors of different schools), “Say, gentlemen, I’m getting over my prostration so fast that all I need is a good dose of that bottle on the table, and you can throw all this stuff here out of the window!” (Uncle Sam, feeling good, is asking doctors Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, and Thomas Brackett Reed for currency reform medicine and abandoning William Jennings Bryan’s remedies [shown on the tables as bottles, pills, electrical machine, and air/water thermometer]).

4 and 5 are close-ups of 1 and 2.

6. “An Unexpected Chance for a Very Sick Party” by Frederick Opper, June 11, 1884, *Puck* 15:379, back cover, p. 240. (The Democratic Party is in bed with softening of the brain, and his case is being discussed by three “doctors”: from left to right Samuel J. Tilden, Charles A. Dana, and Henry Watterson.)

(A similar image is not shown but should be noted. Two weeks later the same paper ran a similar image, with the patient improving, “The Very Sick [Democratic] Party Becomes Convalescent” by Joseph Keppler, June 25, 1884, *Puck* 15:381, back cover, p. 272.)

7. “A Dreadful Attack of Presidential Fever in the U. S. Senate” by Frederick Opper, February 21, 1883, *Puck* 12:311, centerspread, pp. 392-393. (About ten named senators are soaking their feet. Puck is dosing one with “anti-presidential quinine” [to get him out of the race?]; reform bills in the wastebasket. A visible thermometer is not for use with people, only for water temperature.)

8. “The Republican Presidential Candidate Now on View, by James Albert Wales, August 11, 1880, *Puck* 7: 179, cover, p. 401. (Charles A. Dana is using the “Sun” microscope to look at Garfield’s record, with slide of sea creatures. He says, “Come and see! Two cents a sight! Great Sun Microscope! Magnifies 100,000,000,000 Diameters.”)

9. “Only a Comet. It will soon be out of sight.” by Grant Hamilton, October 31, 1896, *Judge* 31:785, cover, p. 273. (Uncle Sam is operating the Great Judge Telescope, with a nicely detailed depiction).

10. “Dangerous Doctors for a Desperate Case” by “J. R.” or “J. K,” probably Joseph Keppler, June 11, 1890, *Puck* 27:692, centerspread, pp. 248-249. (Eight senators are trying to cure a patient, the McKinley Tariff Bill, with saws, scissors, senatorial chloroform; one with a pocket watch is using it to take a pulse. Six of the doctors are labeled by name, from left to right as Aldrich, Evarts, Hiscock, Allison, Hoar, and Somes. They are probably identifiable as Nelson Wilmarth Aldrich, William Maxwell Evarts, Frank Hiscock, William Boyd Allison, George Frisbie Hoar, and perhaps Daniel Eton Somes—though Somes was never in the Senate and his term in the House had been in 1859-1861.

11. Close-up of number 10.

12. “A Final Autopsy. Verdict: Died from swallowing an utterly indigestible object,” by William Allen Rogers, February 15, 1893, *Puck* 32:832, cover, p. 409. (Whitelaw Reid and

Benjamin Harrison, using a knife and a saw have cut open the Republic Party elephant and found undigested inside the McKinley Tariff Bill.)

13. “Easing Her Last Days” by Joseph Keppler, Jr., July 5, 1893, *Puck* 33, 852, cover, p. 305. (We see a bearded doctor, the *Sun*’s Charles A. Dana, injecting the arm of a frail Republican Party resting in a chair. He is using a syringe labelled “Sun Morphine.” A medicine box is labelled “False and Misleading Reports about the Administration.”)

14. Close-up of number 13.

15. “Our Merciless Millionaire, Vanderbilt: ‘The Public Be—Doctored!’” by Frederick Opper, October 29, 1884, *Puck* 16: 399, cover, p. 129. (Puck is trying to stop William Henry Vanderbilt, the richest man in American from making a half-million-dollar philanthropic gift to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, later the medical school of Columbia University. The utterance is clearly an echo of Vanderbilt’s famous line, “The public be damned.”)

16. Close-up of number 15.

17-19 are black-and-white newspaper extracts shown as a group, all examples of early media coverage of Louis Pasteur’s successful prevention of rabies after a dog bite. More information about them may be found in my book *Picturing Medical Progress from Pasteur to Polio*.

17. Column of text with small illustrations typical of newspaper layouts in this era. This example is part of a long article entitled, “The Children’s farewell. Dr. Pasteur’s Little Patients Sail on the Steamer Canada,” *New York World*, December 10, 1885, p. 5.

18. A rabies vaccination session conducted by Dr. Jean Joseph Grancher under the watchful eye of Louis Pasteur. This engraving appeared in *Le Journal illustré* of March 28, 1886, and was also reprinted in other papers. The crowd of on-lookers confirms that the vaccinations were a subject of great public interest.

19. The American magazine *Harper’s Weekly* centered its article of December 19, 1885, on “Pasteur’s Latest Discovery,” around the image of an injection being given to Jean Baptiste Jupille, Pasteur’s second rabies patient, reproducing an engraving that originally appeared a few weeks earlier in *L’Illustration*.

20. “Another Patient for Pasteur: Let Him Be Taken to Paris and Treated for Blainiac Rabies” by Frederick Opper, *Puck* 18:458, December 16, 1885, cover, p. 241. (Here the intent was political satire and the Paris rabies-cure sensation simply a vehicle for other messages. The reference is to James G. Blaine, Grover Cleveland’s unsuccessful opponent in the

1884 presidential campaign and a politician infamous for several scandalous indiscretions.)

21. “Judge’s Wax Works—The Political Eden Musee,” by T. Bernhard Gillam, *Judge* 9:227, February 20, 1886, centerspread, pp. 8-9.
22. Close-up of number 19. The handbill below the baby reads, “Pasteur Cleveland Inoculating the Democracy against Spoils, Rabies.” (Main figures in this center section, from top to bottom are Joseph Pulitzer as Lady Liberty, the popular preacher Thomas De Witt Talmage as Sam Pecksniff, a character in a Dickens novel, Civil War General John A. Logan as an American Indian on the warpath, Grover Cleveland as Louis Pasteur, Daniel Scott Lamont as a performing dog, and Jacob Sharp, a street-railroad baron who was accused of bribing members of the city’s board of alderman, attending to the Tammany tiger while trimming its claws.)
23. “Hopeless Cases,” by Grant Hamilton, *Judge* 16:411, August 31, 1889. (The relevant medical breakthrough here and in the next image was the use of testicular extracts from animals injected into aged or debilitated men, a discovery by Dr. Charles-Edouard Brown-Sequard. We see the office of Dr. Brown-Sequard Randall, referring to Samuel Jackson Randall. He declines the cases saying “Take them away, they are too near dead for treatment.” The primary patient is the Tammany Hall tiger, being supported by Charles A. Dana and Joseph Pulitzer. Randall, a Democrat, had earlier been speaker of the House of Representatives, but lost his leadership role because his support for high tariffs put him in conflict with the free trade position held by most other Democrats. Dana was editor of the New York *Sun* newspaper. Pulitzer was a competitor as owner of the New York *World*. Both were Democrats, but were often in conflict about party politics.)
24. Close up of number 23.
25. “It Beats Brown-Sequard—Tanner’s Infallible Elixir of Life, for Pension-Grabbers Only,” by Louis Dalrymple, *Puck* 26:651, August 28, 1889, centerspread, pp. 8-9. (The magazine was critical of more liberal support for Civil War veterans as unnecessary. As indicated by a paper in James R. Tanner’s coat pocket he was the Commissioner of Pensions, a position he held for only a few months, being forced to resign within three weeks of this cartoon’s appearance. The Wikipedia article about him reports that he was pushed out for hiring in his office disabled veterans instead of party loyalists. And though our artist did not show it, Tanner himself had both legs amputated below the knee in 1862 because of war injuries.)

26. “The Rival Doctor Kochs. The Debilitated Party— ‘Begob, I have me own private opinion that yez are both quacks!’” by Grant Hamilton, *Judge* 19:478, December 13, 1890, back cover, p. 198. (This Republican paper is making fun of two Democratic leaders, Grover Cleveland, the immediate past-president, and David B. Hill, the Democratic governor of New York and party boss, prefixing Dr. Koch to each of their names. Dr. Koch-Cleveland’s bottle is marked “Humbug Reform Lymph-A Hypocritical Preparation,” and Dr. Koch-Hill’s reads “Hill’s Spoils System Lymph-with Peanut Essence.” The mean of the peanut reference is unclear to me though many caricatures of Hill in this era use phrases like “peanut politician” and “peanut politics.”)
27. “A Bad Case of Consumption—Reciprocity Lymph” by Joseph Keppler, *Puck* 28:718, December 10, 1890, centerspread, pp. 276-277. (Here in front of the Treasury Building, with the Capitol in the distance, a sick Republican elephant is to receive an injection of Reciprocity Lymph from James G. Blaine, who is standing on a stage labeled Blaine’s reversible platform. This image was in response to the Republican Party’s a poor showing in the 1890 midterm elections the prior month. The other figures observing the administration of a curative lymph can be tentatively identified from comparisons to these men’s appearances in other *Puck* caricatures published in 1890 and 1891. From left to right they are probably John James Ingalls (Senator from Kansas, 1873 to 1891), George Franklin Edmunds (Senator from Vermont, 1866 to 1891), George Frisbie Hoar (Senator from Massachusetts, 1877 to 1904), and William Maxwell Evarts (Senator from New York, 1885 to 1891).
28. Close-up of number 27.
30. Book cover of Bert Hansen, *Picturing Medical Progress from Pasteur to Polio: A History of Mass Media Images and Popular Attitudes in America* (Rutgers University Press, 2009).
31. NYAM Rare Book Reading Room courtesy of librarian Arlene Shaner (upper photo) and Yale Historical Medical Library Reading Room, photograph by Terry Dagradi, courtesy of librarian Melissa Grafe (lower photo).

SECTION V. Alphabetical list of people identified in the image descriptions above.

- Aldrich, Nelson Wilmarth (10)
- Allison, William Boyd (10)
- Blaine, James G. (20, 27))
- Brown-Sequard, Charles-Edouard (23, 25)
- Cleveland, Grover (3, 20, 22, 26))
- Dana, Charles A. (6, 8, 13, 23)
- Edmunds, George Franklin (27)

Evarts, William Maxwell (10, 27)
Garfield, James A. (8)
Harrison, Benjamin (1, 12)
Harrison, William Henry (1)
Hill, David B. Hill (26)
Hiscock, Frank (10)
Hoar, George Frisbie (10, 27)
Ingalls, John James (27)
Koch, Robert (26)
Lamont, Daniel Scott (22)
Logan, General John A. (22)
McKinley, William (3)
Pasteur, Louis Pasteur (22)
Platt, Tom (2)
Pulitzer, Joseph (22, 23)
Randall, Samuel Jackson (23)
Reed, Thomas Brackett (3)
Reid, Whitelaw Reid (12)
Sharp, Jacob (22)
Somes, Daniel Eton (10)
Talmage, Thomas De Witt (22)
Tanner, James R. (25)
Tilden, Samuel J. Tilden (6)
Vanderbilt, William Henry (15)
Watterson, Henry (6)

SECTION VI. Acknowledgements and credits.

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