

**The Combined Addiction Disease Chronologies of
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5th BC - 1863**

This first chronology spans the earliest medicalization of excessive drinking through the “discovery” of addiction in America. This discovery occurs during a period that witnessed a dramatic increase in American per capita alcohol consumption and drinking preferences (from fermented to distilled alcohol) as well as a recognition of the addictive powers of opium and morphine. We will also see in this first period the first articulation of a disease concept of alcoholism and the call for the creation of specialized medical institutions for the treatment of the inebriate. Note the early emergence of elements that will become the core of the addiction disease concept: tolerance, withdrawal, progression, loss of control, inability to abstain, and the necessity of total abstinence.

---- Early references to “drink madness” from ancient Egypt and Greece (Crothers, 1893)

5th Century
BC Heroditus (fifth century BC) reference to drunkenness as a body and soul sickness (Crothers, 1893)

4th Century
BC Aristotle (384-322 BC) in comparing licentiousness to drunkenness noted that the former was a functional disorder while the latter resulted from an organic disorder. He viewed licentiousness as permanent but drunkenness curable. (The Cyclopaedia of Temperance and Prohibition, p. 221)

1st Century
AD Seneca (4 B.C.-65 A.D.) (Seneca. Epistle LXXXIII: On drunkenness. Classics of the Alcohol Literature. *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol* (1942) 3:302-307.)

“the word drunken is used in two ways,-in the one case of a man who is loaded with wine and has no control over himself; in the other, of a man who is accustomed to get drunk, and is a slave to the habit...there is a great difference between a man who is drunk and a drunkard.” p. 304

“drunkenness is nothing but a condition of insanity purposely assumed.” p. 306

“...the vices which liquor generated retain their power even when the liquor is gone.” p. 307

St John Chrysostom-first distinctive comparison of inebriety to other diseases. (Crothers, 1893)

1531 Classics of the Alcohol Literature: A Document of the Reformation Period on Inebriety: Sebastian Franck’s “On the Horrible Vice of Drunkenness.” *Quarterly*

Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 2(2):391-395

Refers to intoxication as a “sin that has become a habit.” p. 392.

Franck’s attack is on drunkenness and not on alcohol or drinking; Jellinek notes that this attitude derived from Franck’s religious view that “What God created could not be evil in itself.” p. 395

- 1563 The Portuguese explorer Garcia da Orta describes opium addiction in India: “...there is a very strong desire for it among those who use it.” Early depiction of craving and compulsion. (Sonnedecker, 1962, p. 281)
- 1576 German physician-botanist Leonhart Rauwolf, in describing the opium traffic among the Turks, Moors and Persians, notes of opium consumers: “if they leave off somewhat taking it, so that then they feel physically ill.” Early description of narcotic withdrawal. (Sonnedecker, 1962, p. 280)
- 1592 Classics of the Alcohol Literature: The Observations of the Elizabethan Writer Thomas Nash on Drunkenness. (1943). *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 4(3): 462-469.
Nash’s pened thoughts on “The Eight Kinds of Drunkenesse.”
“All these *species*, and more, I haue seene practised in one Company at one sitting, when I have beene permitted to remaine sober amongst them...”
NOTE: E.M. Jellinek, who introduced and summarized Nash’s work in the above *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol* article, later uses Nash’s term “species” in his own work to separate those types of alcohol problems that warrant designation as a disease.
- 1592 H. van Linschoten of Holland describes opium use in India: “He that is used to eating it, must eat it daily, otherwise he dies and consumes himself...he that has never eaten it, and will venture to at first to eat as much as those who daily use it, will surely kill him: for I certainly believe it is a kinde of poison.” Early depiction of tolerance. (Sonnedecker, 1962, p. 280)
- 17th Century “...the modern conception of alcohol addiction dates not from the late eighteenth century but from the early seventeenth century at the very least. It is in the religious oratory of Stuart England that we find the key components of the idea that habitual drunkenness constitutes a progressive disease, the chief symptom of which is a loss of control over drinking behavior.” (Warner, 1993)
- 1609 English Clergyman John Downame refers to drunkards “who addict themselves to this vice.” (Quoted in Warner, 1993, p. 687)
- 1622 Ward, S. (1622). *Woe to Drunkards*. London: A Mathewes.
English clergyman refers to drunkard’s “disease” (Cited in Warner, 1993, p. 688)

- 1655 Portuguese Physician Acosta notes difficulties experienced by those trying to discontinue opium use--early anticipation of concept of addiction.
- 1673 Increase Mather, minister of the Old North Church, in his sermon, "Woe to Drunkards" declares: "Drink in itself is a good creature of God...and to be received with thankfulness, but the abuse of drink is from Satan; the wine is from God, but the drunkard is from the Devil." (Lender, 1973, p. 353)
- 1675 English minister Richard Garbutt describes tolerance and progression:
 "The greatest Drunkard, what commonly was he at first, but only a frequent needless Drinker? At first he did but sip it, and afterwards he turned to sup, and now he swoops it." (Quoted in Warner, 1993, p. 687)
- 1680 Scrivener, M. (1680). *A Treatise against Drunkenness: Described in its Natures, Kindes, Effects and Causes, Especially that of Drinking of Healths*. London: Printed for Charles Brown.
 Refers to England's "Epidemical Disease of Drunkenness" (Cited in Warner, 1993, p. 688)
- 1682 Stockton, O. (1682). *A Warning to Drunkards Delivered in Several Sermons to a Congregation in Colchester upon the Occasion of a Sad Providence towards a Young Man, Dying in the Act of Drunkenness*. London: J.R.
 English clergyman Owen Stockton's Warning to Drunkards posthumously published:
 "Drunkenness is an enticing, bewitching sin, which is very hardly left by those addicted to it." (Quoted in Warner, 1993, p. 687)
- 1700 In *The Mysteries of Opium Reveal'd*, English physician John Jones describes the opiate withdrawal syndrome and dependence, saying that "the effects of sudden leaving off the uses of opium after a long and lavish use therefore [were] great and even intolerable distresses, anxieties and depressions of spirit, which commonly end in a most miserable death, attended with strange agonies, unless men return to the use of opium; which soon raises them again, and certainly restores them."
 (Acker) Jones concluded his depiction of addiction with the observation that "the mischief is not really in the drug but in people," but does note that the addict eventually loses volitional control of his habit. (Sonnedecker, 1962, p. 283-284)
- 1747 French philosopher Condillac refers to inebriety as a disease and calls for state sponsored treatment. (Crothers, 1893)
- 1772 Benjamin Rush calls for the abandonment of distilled spirits and the substitution of cider, beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks in his "Sermons to Gentlemen Upon Temperance and Exercise." (Wilkerson, 1966, p. 42)

- 1774 Anthony Benezet's *Mighty Destroyer Displayed* is published. Includes what is perhaps the first American reference to alcohol addiction: "The unhappy dram-drinkers are so absolutely bound in slavery to these infernal spirits, that they seem to have lost the power of delivering themselves from this worst of bondages."
 Notes progression: "Drops beget drams, and drams beget more drams, till they become to be without weight or measure."
 Refers to alcohol as a "bewitching poison."
 Refers to "grievous abuse of rum," the "abuse of spiritous liquors," and "people may abuse themselves thro' excess." (Benezet, 1774)
- 1784 Benjamin Rush (1746-1813). *Inquiry into the Effects of Ardent Spirits on the Human Mind and Body* is published. Reprinted in *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 4:321-341 (1943).
 Rush refers to intemperance as "this odious disease..." (p. 5) and notes the progressive development of intemperance.
 "...drunkenness resembles certain hereditary, family and contagious diseases."
 p. 8
 Rush notes that the hereditary quality of intemperance should lead one to be cautious in one's matrimonial matches to avoid the risk of inebriate children. p. 8
 Rush presents neither a fully articulated disease concept nor a treatment protocol that flows out of this concept.
- 1789 First American temperance society organized in Litchfield, CT.
- 1790 Rush, B. Plan for an Asylum for Drunkards to be Called the Sober House (1810). In: *The Commonplace Book of Benjamin Rush, 1792-1813*, In: *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush* (1948) Edited by Corner, G.W. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 354-355.
 Rush calls for creation of a special hospital for inebriates ("Sober House")
- 1793 The British observer Samuel Crumpe compares opium use in Turkey and the Levant to use of wine and liquor in Europe; he says in these countries opium serves as "the support of the coward, the solace of the wretched, and the daily source of intoxication to the debauchee." This view, which also takes hold in the U.S., stresses the exotic nature of the drug and its users and ascribes addiction as a problem of the less civilized. (Morgan) (Acker)
- late 18th/early
 19th century Opium as a form of stimulant is a common theme for the theses medical students must write to graduate from America's few medical schools. An example is John Augustine Smith's "Inaugural Dissertation on Opium Embracing its History, Chemical Analysis, and Use and Abuse as a Medicine," submitted to the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, University of the State of New York,

in 1832. (Acker)

- 1803 Wilson, D. (1803). An Inaugural Dissertation on the Morbid Effects of Opium on the Human Body. In: Grob, G., Ed., *Origins of Medical Attitudes Toward Drug Addiction in America*. New York: Arno Press.
Includes cases of the “habitual use of opium” including one submitted by Rush, p. 30
- 1803 Scott, Franklin (1803). Experiments and Observations on the Means of Counteracting the Deleterious Effects of Opium and on the Method of Cure of the Disease Resulting Therefrom. In: Grob, G., Ed., *Origins of Medical Attitudes Toward Drug Addiction in America*. New York: Arno Press.
Refers to opium overdose as a disease. p. 40
Refers to those “habituated to its (opium) use.” p. 45
Withdrawal: “...among those who have been in the habit of eating opium, if they are at any time deprived of the usual dose, they are rendered miserable...” p. 46
- 1803 Serteurner isolates and describes morphine. This, the first isolation of an alkaloid from a plant, is a key moment in the emergence of modern pharmacology, one focus of which will be the production of new drugs. Though created as medicines, some of these will be used recreationally and will be associated with problems of dependence. Later the Progressive Era concerns about opiate and cocaine use follow closely on the introduction and widespread sales of such compounds as morphine, cocaine, heroin, veronal, and aspirin. (Goodman & Gilman) (Acker)
- 1804 Trotter, T. (1804). *Essay, Medical Philosophical, and Chemical, on Drunkenness and its Effects on the Human Body*. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme.
Trotter, an Edinburgh physician, publishes his essay on drunkenness in which he sets forth the proposition that the habit of drunkenness is a “disease of the mind.”
“In medical language, I consider drunkenness, strictly speaking, to be a disease produced by a remote cause in giving birth to actions and movements in a living body that disorders the function of health.”
“The habit of drunkenness is a disease of the mind.”
Recommends regular meetings between physician and patient to formulate and implement a sobriety plan--references to gaining confidence of patient, etc. reflect a type of medical psychotherapy.
Published in U.S. in 1813.
Introduced with excerpts in *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 2(3):584-591 December, 1941.
- 1811 A temperance society in Fairfield, Connecticut calls for total abstinence, acknowledging that this is a harsh remedy, “but the nature of the disease

absolutely requires it.” (White, 1998, p. 3)

- 1812-1813 Delirium tremens recognized and medically described by Lettsom, Armstrong, Pearson and then named by Thomas Sutton. (Wilkerson, 1966, p.64)
- 1815 *Reason’s Plea for Temperance* (1815). (New England Tract Society, Volume 3). Andover: Flagg and Gould.
“To attempt to reform a confirmed drunkard is much the same, as preaching to a madman or idiot.”
- 1819 Christopher Wilhelm Hufeland coins the term *dipsomania* to describe the uncontrollable cravings for spirits that triggers “drink storms.”
- 1820 Bound, J.J. (1820). *The Means of Curing and Preventing Intemperance*. New York: Charles N. Baldwin & Chamber. (Quoted in Brent, 1996)
Intemperance is “considered a vice, treated with ridicule and contempt...people do not dream of it being a disorder, or think it to be within the reach of medicine.” p. 3-4
- 1822 Thomas De Quincey publishes *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*. This work and Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s poem “Xanadu” launch the Romantic image of the aristocratic, bohemian opium user. (Acker)
- 1822 John Eberle characterizes opiate withdrawal: “When the system is entirely free from the influence of the accustomed stimulant, torments of the most distressing kind are experienced.” This is an early statement of the position that opiate withdrawal is a uniquely harrowing physical and mental experience. (Morgan) (Acker)
- 1825 Lyman Beecher delivers his *Six Sermons on the Nature, Occasion, Signs, and Remedy of Intemperance*. (Published 2 years later)
Refers to the intemperate as being “addicted to the sin,” “the evil habit”
Refers to “insatiable desire for drink”, “inordinate and dangerous love of strong drink”
Progression: “...he will hasten on to ruin with accelerated movement”
“Intemperance is a disease as well as a crime, and were any other disease, as contagious, of as marked symptoms, and as mortal, to pervade the land, it would create universal consternation: for the plague is scarcely more contagious or more deadly; and yet we mingle fearlessly with the diseased, and in spite of admonition we bring into our dwellings the contagion, apply it to our lip, and receive it into the system.” p. 37
Excessive drinking marks “...the beginning of a habit, which cannot fail to generate disease.” p. 39
“There is no remedy for intemperance but the cessation of it.” p. 43

Amazingly modern checklist of warning signs. Pp. 44-45

1826 American Temperance Society formed - first national temperance organization.

1828 Drake, Daniel (1828). A Discourse on Intemperance. In: Grob, G. (1981) *Nineteenth Century Medical Attitudes Toward Alcohol Addiction*. New York: Arno Press.

References to “habitual drinking;” “Thus, by repetition we are made to relish equally the savor and the effects of ardent spirits; and, at last become drunkards, from taste as well as constitution.” p. 24

Refers to intemperance as a “vice” and notes that “vices are gregarious...go in flocks.” Intemperance, gambling, profanity

Lists causes of intemperance as: 1) habitual drinking, 2) use of alcohol in business, 3) gambling, 4) use of alcohol in the trades, 5) smoking ASegars@ (“...tobacco disturbs the nervous systems of most young persons to such a degree, that the stimulus of ardent spirits is, in some measure, necessary to sustain or restore them.” (p. 31), 6) matrimonial unhappiness, 7) the multiplication of drinking establishments, and 8) the growth of small distilleries.

“The disorders of body produced by habitual intemperance, are various in different persons, and at different periods of life.” p. 39 -- Lists them in following categories: 1) Stomach, 2) Liver, 3) Lungs, 4) Dropsy, 5) Gout, 6) Sore Eyes, 7) Firey eruption of the nose and skin, 8) Leprosy, 9) Muscular weakness, 10) Epileptic convulsions, 11) Apoplexy, 12) Spontaneous combustion, and 13) Bad habit of the body (lowered immunity to disease).

“...the habit being once established, he will not, I almost say cannot, refrain.” p. 54

1828 Sweetser, William (1828). A Dissertation on Intemperance. In: Grob, G. (1981) *Nineteenth Century Medical Attitudes Toward Alcohol Addiction*. New York: Arno Press.

“...a course of unnatural stimulation cannot long continue operative on the living economy without inducing some morbid alteration in some of the vital tissues, and a consequent derangement in the function of the organ or organs, whose structures become thus affected.” p. 8

“We are born with, inherit from our parents, or acquire from accidental circumstances after birth, different conditions of physical structure, some peculiarities in the life of the tissues, which cause them to take on with great facility particular modes of diseased action, and which constitute what we commonly denominate predispositions.” p. 10

“...it is not an easy matter to set limits to the diseases of intemperance; for though its influence is unquestionably exercised on some tissues with more facility than others, yet it is specially confined to none....there is hardly any vital structure, but intemperance may either directly or indirectly injure.” p. 11

Doesn't use term disease for intemperance but talks about “observed deviations

from healthy structure, and natural function” that have a close relationship with the habitual use of distilled spirits. The man “addicted to intemperance” experiences altered susceptibility to various diseases and his altered state “establishes a new set of morbid predispositions.” p. 12

“...the intemperate are liable to almost all those obscure and varying complaints which ignorance has caused us to generalize under the unmeaning name of *nervous disorders*.” p. 43

Refers to the “habit of intemperance” but describes its hold: “Few habits enthrall by so potent a spell the voluntary and reasoning powers of man and so enslave his moral faculties as that of intemperance, and few are there for, whose shackles we less frequently become delivered.” p. 83

“They now say they must drink...The Poison must now be used as an antidote to the poison.” p. 84

“Now that it (intemperance) becomes a disease no one doubts, but then it is a disease produced and maintained by voluntary acts, which is a very different thing from a disease with which providence inflicts us.” p. 97

“And I feel convinced that should the opinion ever prevail that intemperance is a disease like fever, mania, etc., and no moral turpitude be affixed to it, drunkenness, if possible, will spread itself even to a more alarming extent than at present.” p. 98

1828 Dr. Eli Todd, superintendent of the Hartford Retreat for the insane, urges that an inebriate asylum be established under the direction of an enlightened physician.

1828 Kain, J.H. (1828). On Intemperance Considered as a Disease and Susceptible of Cure. *American Journal of Medical Science*, 2:291-295

Refers to the “depraved appetite which bids defiance to all moral restraint, and impels the unhappy sufferer to the gratification of a propensity which increases with this disease...” p. 291

“In every temperate man, there is an immutable association in his mind between stimulating liquors and the relief they afford to all unpleasant sensation which I have described as forming his disease...To cure him, we must break up this association and convince him, by actual sensations that his remedy has lost its effect.” p. 293

Refers to Rush’s use of an emetic in cure of a drunkard and further references a product--Chamber’s remedy for intemperance--sold as a cure for drunkenness that contains emetic tartar.

Cites a maxim in medicine: “Chronic diseases require chronic cures.” p. 295

1829 Beman, N.S. (1829). *Beman on Intemperance* (rev. Stereotype ed.). New York: John P. Haven. (Cited in Hore, 1991; Dean & Poremba, 1983)

“When the case is formed and the habit established no man is his own master.” pp. 6-7

- 1830-1840 Experiments and clinical observations by Prout, Beaumont, and Percy document the pathophysiology of alcohol on the stomach and blood. (Wilkerson, 1966, p. 98)
- 1830-1850 The social ideology of the new nation is marked by a “cult of curability.” Inebriate asylums grow from the same confidence that births other reform institutions-prisons, insane asylums, orphanages. (Tyler, 1944, “Freedom’s Ferment”)
- 1830 Influenced by Todd, the Connecticut State Medical Society calls for creation of inebriate asylums.
- 1831 Dr. Samuel Woodward, Superintendent at the hospital for the insane at Worcester, MA writes a series of essays that are published in 1836 and again in 1838. “A large proportion of the intemperate in a well-conducted institution would be radically cured, and would again go into society with health reestablished, diseased appetites removed, with principles of temperance well grounded and thoroughly understood, so that they would be afterwards safe and sober men.”
 “...intemperance is too much of a physical disease to be cured by moral means only.” p. 2
 “Intemperance is disease.” p. 19
 Intemperance a product of “morbid appetite.” p. 21
 Reference to “mind and body diseased and debased by this practice.” p. 23
 “The disease [of intemperance] may be hereditary, and thus liable to return...So it is with other diseases; one attack increases the susceptibility of the system to the second.” p. 8
 “The grand secret of the cure for intemperance is total abstinence from alcohol in all its forms.” p. 8
 Woodward believed that any criminality involved in inebriety was in the use and moderate use of spirits when “the individual is a free agent...” p. 1
 “But intemperance can never be cured, if the practice of moderate drinking is persisted in; the only hope is total abstinence. No substitute is admissible: wine, ale, opium, peppermint, must be wholly prohibited, or the appetite will not be removed.” p. 10. This is change in Rush’s position of advocating substitution of cider, ale, wine and opium for distilled spirits.
- 1832 Smith, W. (1832). An Inaugural Dissertation on Opium, Embracing Its History, General Chemical Analysis and Use and Abuse as a Medicine. In: Grob, G., Ed., *Origins of Medical Attitudes Toward Drug Addiction in America*. New York: Arno Press.
 “Opium should never be used as a substitute for the ordinary stimulus of wine or spirits: for when it is thus used, it seldom fails to lay the foundation for a long train of morbid symptoms, which, sooner or later, terminate in all the wretchedness, which disease is capable of inflicting...” p. 21

Springwater, Doctor (1832). *The Cold-Water-Man*. Albany: Packard and Van Benthuisen.

“...the use of ardent spirits produces a disease of the stomach, which goes with the drunkard to his grave. His craving, insatiable appetite, unnatural in its production, as well as its demands, deranges and racks the system...To sustain the vigor of this disease, it must be fed with such an aliment if at first denied, the desire for it increases to such a degree, as to deprive its unhappy victim almost to desperation.” p. 17

“Entire abstinence from all alcoholic drinks does not cure the disease called into existence by the ordinary use, in any quantity of ardent spirits. It only leaves it in a dormant state...Let those who have been once overcome by this deadly foe, never suffer it again to enter their system.” p. 17-18

“He (the drunkard) stalks about like a moral pestilence, scattering his vile contagion with every breath. He is a walking plague, a living death. He caters for hell. He recruits for the devil. Oh! What a deadly damp does he breathe on his country, creating a poisonous influence, and scattering a moral and physical pestilence upon its shores!” p. 24

Refers to the drunkard as a “voluntary slave to his cups.” p. 26

“To use ardent spirits as a beverage, in any quantity, is to prepare ourselves to become food for the monster intemperance. It watches the moderate drinker, ready every moment to make him its prey.” p. 94

All, with one voice, are ready to exclaim, “Slay the monster intemperance. Its crimes are written in blood. It deserves to die...yet many cherish the monster in their bosom; many feed it with their children’s bread...The monster intemperance will never die for thirst while fed with a little alcohol.” p. 99

“ ‘Let all drunkards abstain entirely,’ says another, ‘and this will arrest the progress of intemperance.’ Could this be done, it would not banish intemperance from the earth. In a single year, more than 30,000 moderate drinkers would step forward to fill up the vacated ranks of drunkenness.” p. 100

“The monster intemperance can be slain by the single blow of entire abstinence.” p. 103

“The system therefore of him who gets drunk on alcohol, is deranged and thrown into a diseased state...” p. 147

“As to the appetite for alcohol or the disease of drunkenness, distilled liquor and that only, will usually produce it. It is therefore evident that, though to become intoxicated on any article, is an exceeding aggravated evil, yet to become intoxicated on ardent spirits, injures the drunkard and the community much more than to become intoxicated on fermented liquors, and it is therefore the greater evil.” p. 147-148

“You say, ‘Let the drunkards join temperance societies,’ Do you think these associations are good and useful? When or where did you ever hear of drunkards associating together for any good object?”

Section on “Reformation of the Drunkard” that begins with a case study of a

- drunkard reformed by joining a local temperance society. p. 298
- 1833 Secretary of War, Lewis Cass. (Speech printed in *American Quarterly Temperance Magazine*, 2:121-125).
Intemperance is so “overpowering that it assumes “entire mastery” over the individual.”
- 1833 Sigorney, L. and Smith, G. (1833). *The Intemperate and the Reformed*. Boston: Seth Bliss.
Reference to “fetters which bind them down to tyrant appetite.” p. 5
Growing awareness of morbidity and mortality-references to the distillery and the tavern as “fountains of disease and death.” p. 6
Growing use of disease analogy even where disease isn’t directly applied to intemperance. “There was hope for our friend, if the yellow fever or even the plague was upon him; but none if he became a drunkard.” p. 24
Growing recognition of progression: “the gradations of moderate drinking, of tipping, and of hard drinking have been observable in this case, as in the cases of most drunkards.” p. 27
“Was for a long time a moderate daily drinker--next a tippler--and thence, by quick march, a full grown drunkard.” p. 31
Case studies of 38 reformed drunkard presented; most attribute cures to religion or involvement with the local temperance society.
Fly in spider web metaphor use to describe the drunkard’s entrapment. p. 27
(Note growing pervasiveness of slavery and entrapment metaphors)
- 1835 Macnish’s *Anatomy of Drunkenness* offers a typology of seven types of drunkards: the sanguineous drunkard, the melancholy drunkard, the surly drunkard, the phlegmatic drunkard, the nervous drunkard, the choleric drunkard and the periodic drunkard.
“Some are drunkards by choice, and some by necessity.”
- 1838 In France, Esquirol calls the disease of intemperance a “monomania of drunkenness a mental illness whose principle character is an irresistible tendency toward fermented beverages.” (Paredes, 1976, p. 22)
- 1840 Grinrod, R.B. (MD) (1838). *Bacchus*.
“I am more than ever convinced that...drunkenness is a disease, physical as well as moral, and consequently requires physical as well as moral remedies.” Quoted in Hargreaves, 1884, p. 278
- 1842 A Member of the Society. (1842). *The Foundation, Progress and Principles of the Washingtonian Temperance Society of Baltimore, and the Influence it has had on the Temperance Movements in the United States*. Baltimore: John D. Toy.
“He [the drunkard] knows and feels that drunkenness with him is rather a

disease than a vice.” p. 40 (Italics in original)

- 1842 Nicolay, J.G. and Hay, J. Eds. *Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Lamb Publishing Company, Vol. 1, pp193-209.
Address Before the Springfield Washington Temperance Society, February 22, 1842.
“...those who have suffered by intemperance personally, and have reformed, are the most powerful and efficient instruments to push the reformation to ultimate success...”
“In my judgment such of us as have never fallen victims (to intemperance) have been spared more by the absence of appetite than from any mental or moral superiority over those who have.”
- 1842 Glasgow physician Hutcheson notes that the essence of dipsomania is “the irresistible impulse which drives the unhappy being to do that which he knows to be pernicious and wrong, and which, in the intervals of the paroxysms, he views with loathing and disgust.” (quoted in Carpenter, 1853)
- 1849 Swedish physician Magnus Huss introduces term “alcoholism” in his text, *Chronic Alcoholism* ; it does not appear in the US until after the Civil War. Huss notes: “These symptoms are formed in such a particular way that they form a disease group in themselves and thus merit being designated and described as a definite disease...It is this group of symptoms which I wish to designate by the name *Alcoholismus chronicus*.” (quoted in Marconi, 1959)
“The name *chronic alcoholism* applies to the collective symptoms of a disordered condition of the mental, motor, and sensory functions of the nervous system...affecting individuals who have persisted in the abuse of alcoholic liquors.” (quoted in Marcet, 1868, p. 21)
Huss term focuses on the biological consequences of prolonged heavy drinking.
- 1849 Hills, R. (1849). *On the Pathology and Medication of Intemperance as a Disease*. *Proc. Med. Conv.*, Ohio, pp. 15-20
- 1850 Allen, Nathan (1850). *An Essay on the Opium Trade*. In: Grob, G., Ed., *Origins of Medical Attitudes Toward Drug Addiction in America*. New York: Arno Press.
“There is no slavery on earth, to be compared to with the bondage into which Opium casts its victims. There is scarcely one known instance of escape from its toils, when once they have fairly enveloped a man.” p. 25
“It is not the man who eats Opium, but it is Opium that eats the man.” p. 25
- 1853 The hypodermic syringe is developed as a refinement of the use of cannulae to introduce drugs beneath the skin. Morphine is one of the first drugs for which the syringe is commonly used, to treat such conditions as facial neuralgia. (Acker)

- 1857 Washingtonian Home in Boston. The terms “disease” and “vice,” “cure” and “reformation” were used interchangeably and sober outcomes were attributed to the influences of family, friends, and the fellowship, not to medical intervention.
- 1857 Fitzhugh Ludlow publishes *The Hasheesh Eater*, an American work in the genre pioneered by De Quincey and Coleridge. He writes of opiates, “The emasculation of the will itself, ...is in reality the most terrible characteristic of the injury wrought by these agents.” The idea that opiates debase the will and sap the capacity for moral action becomes the foundation of the view that addiction is a moral vice rather than an illness. (Morgan) (Acker)
- 1857 Dr. James Turner in an address to the Board of Directors of the New York State Inebriate Asylum:
 “Inebriety is the first disease of which we have any record.” p16
- 1860 Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., dean of Harvard Medical School, blames physicians for causing opiate addiction through careless prescribing. He characterizes the problem as especially serious in the Western states where, he says, “the constant prescription of opiates by certain physicians...has rendered the habitual use of that drug in that region very prevalent... A frightful endemic demoralization betrays itself in the frequency with which the haggard features and drooping shoulders of the opium drunkards are met with in the street.” By claiming the problem lies with Western physicians who were likely trained in proprietary medical schools rather than with elite Eastern physicians like himself, Holmes’s statement reflects growing tensions and rivalries within the medical profession in nineteenth-century America. (Acker)
- 1860 Peddie, A. (1860). Dipsomania: A Proper Subject for Legal Provision. *Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science*, 538-546.
 Peddie calls for legal commitment of dipsomaniacs to inebriate asylums. He distinguished between common drunkards whose excessive drinking was a vice and the “insane drinker” whose vice had been transformed into a disease no longer under his volitional control. He believed this disease could be inherited or acquired. p. 539-40
 Peddie suggested that dipsomaniacs suffered from a disease of the brain.
- 1861-1865 The use of opium and morphine in the treatment of disease and injury is widespread during the Civil War and the use of the hypodermic syringe becomes more widespread by the end of the War. While opium addiction will in later years become labeled the “soldier’s disease” because of such use, there are very few accounts of soldiers addicted during the war, but both disease and injury create a large vulnerable population in the post-civil war patent medicine era.