



www.stchistory.com

GCSE 9-1

Renaissance Prevention & Treatments

CHANGE & CONTINUITY

Belief in humoral
imbalance is still around!
As a result so are some
of the old balancing
treatments – Bleeding,
Purging & now Sweating



Four Humours

IS IT STILL AROUND?

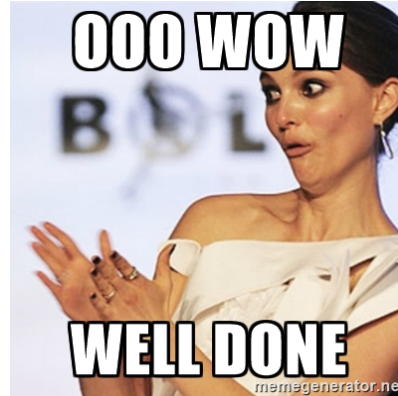
Treatments: Change & Continuity

Treatments: Change & Continuity

Anything new?...

Transference:

A new idea that an illness or disease could be transferred from a patient to something else if you rubbed an object on an ailment (such as a boil) eg: Rubbing an onion on warts would transfer the wart to the onion



Surely they can do better than this?...

Herbal Remedies:

Herbal remedies continued to be popular although their use changed slightly!



- Remedies were chosen because of their colour or shape eg: Yellow herbs, such as radish or saffron were used to treat jaundice
- Smallpox, which had a red rash was treated with the 'red cure' – drinking red wine, eating red foods and wearing red clothes!
- As the age of exploration, new herbal remedies started to appear from the New World, this opened up a huge number of possibilities.

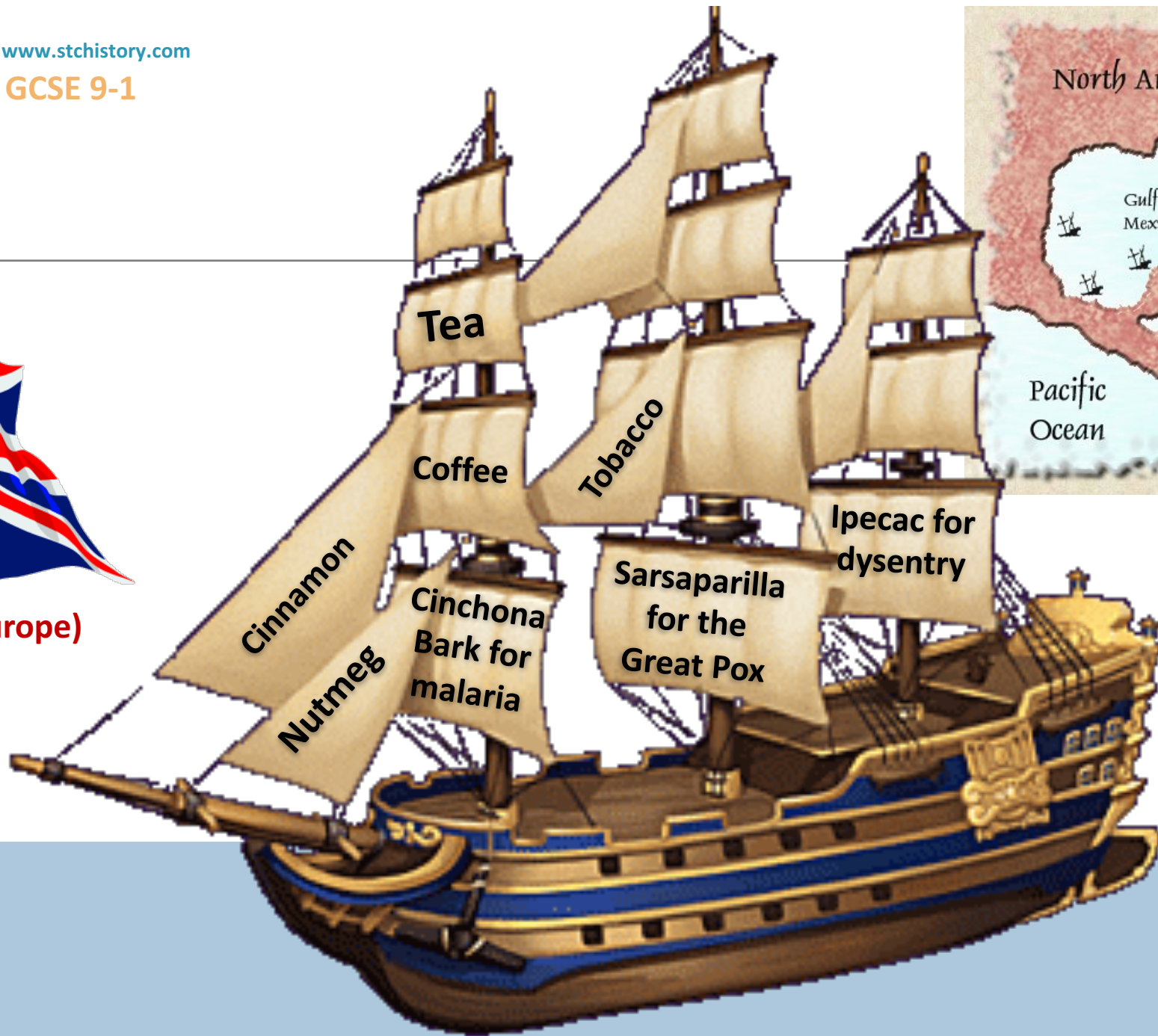


www.stchistory.com

GCSE 9-1



Britain (& Europe)



The New World

Make a note of the herbs the explorers brought back from the New World

Healers:

As you know, physicians were trained in universities and expensive. Even still, people preferred the cheaper remedies from the apothecaries, barber surgeons and their families. Most people were still cared for at home.



- **Women:** Still played a major part in everyday medicine. The first person to treat nearly everyone was the wife or mother of the sick person. Rich women kept detailed notes of the healing / treating she did. Poor women went to cities to work to support their families
- **Folk remedies / Supernatural:**

To cure malaria, take the hair and nails of the patient, cut them small and either give them to birds in a roasted egg or put them in a hole in an oak tree or a plane tree. Stop up the hole with a peg of the same tree.

- **God and the King:** Between 1660 & 1682 over 92,000 people visited the King's court, hoping to be cured from the King's Evil. This was as close to God as you could get on earth.



Treatments: Change & Continuity

Chemical Cures:

The growth of alchemy had a massive impact as people began to look for chemical cures for disease instead of relying on herbs and blood letting. This was known as **iatrochemistry**.



Metals were used to treat common ailments, the College of Physicians published a manual of remedies. There were **2140** in total, of which **122** were chemical preparations including mercury and antimony.

- **Antimony** (in small doses) makes you sweat, therefore cooling you down
- Larger doses made you sick - fitting in the purging idea but a new way of doing it
- **Mercury** was common and used for **Syphilis (aka Great Pox)**



A sixteenth-century illustration of a syphilitic undergoing mercurial treatment.

Treatments: Change & Continuity

Prevention: Change & Continuity

Preventing disease was still considered to be the best way to avoid dying from it: Since treatments had generally not moved on since the Middle Ages, there was still no certainty that a person would recover.

Common prevention in the Renaissance period

- Practising moderation in all things
 - Avoiding draughts, exhaustion, rich and fatty foods, too much strong alcohol and being too lazy
- Condition at birth – being born small or weak might be used to explain illness & death in adulthood
- Cleanliness was still important – both the home and the body needed to be kept clean and free from bad smells (bathing had become less popular since the arrival of syphilis – Henry VIII closed down the public bathhouses *)
- Continued to practise regimen sanitatis



*** Might be more to do with the fact the bathhouses were brothels as well!**



Prevention: Change & Continuity

Preventing disease was still considered to be the best way to avoid dying from it: Since treatments had generally not moved on since the Middle Ages, there was still no certainty that a person would recover.

New preventions in the Renaissance period

- People changed their surroundings (moving away from a diseased area) more than keeping their areas clean
- Weather conditions, or the surrounding atmosphere spreading disease was more popular
- New instruments like barometers and thermometers were used to measure weather to see if there was a link
- Homeowners were fined for not cleaning the street outside their homes (miasmata)
- Draining swamps and bogs was important
- Minor criminals were given jobs to remove sewage and rubbish from the streets

Make a list of all the new treatments we've found in Renaissance Britain.

How many of them are newer versions of old treatments (NVer)

How many are brand new (New)

Preventing disease: things that were the same (continuity)	Preventing disease: things that were different (change)
People still believed that there were many factors that could prevent disease, including superstitions and prayer...	...but people also started to believe that other things could help avoid disease, such as practising moderation and your condition at birth.
Cleanliness was still very important...	...but bathing had become a lot less fashionable in England since the arrival of syphilis. People now kept clean by changing their clothes more often.
People continued to practise regimen sanitatis...	...but, by the end of the 17th century, people also began to think that disease was also related to other factors (for example, the weather).
Miasma was still believed in...	...but more steps were now taken to remove miasma from the air (for example, removing sewage and picking up rubbish from the streets).

Stick this table in your books

Exam-style question, Section B

Explain **one** way in which ideas about the treatment of disease were different in the 17th century from ideas in the 13th century. **4 marks**

Exam tip

The difference between half marks and full marks on this question is how precise your knowledge is. Make sure you give a fact that relates to each time period.

Answer this question



www.stchistory.com

GCSE 9-1

What has happened to training 1500-1700?

Continuity

- Apothecaries – Still mixing remedies



- Surgeons - Carrying out simple surgery



Change

- Apothecaries – organised into guilds (apprenticeships) then spending many years as a 'Journeyman' under the supervision of a master before becoming a master surgeon or apothecary himself.
- Iatrochemistry introduced the need for more training.
- Needed a licence to practice their trade

Both still mainly used by those unable to afford Physicians

- Education increased considerably, largely due to wars fought with new technology, new wounds therefore more surgery
- Needed a licence to practice their trade

Physicians:

"I'd rather have the advice or take medicine from an experienced old woman, who had been at many sick people's bedsides, than from the learnedest but unexperienced physician" **Thomas Hobbes c. late1600s** **What can you infer from this?**

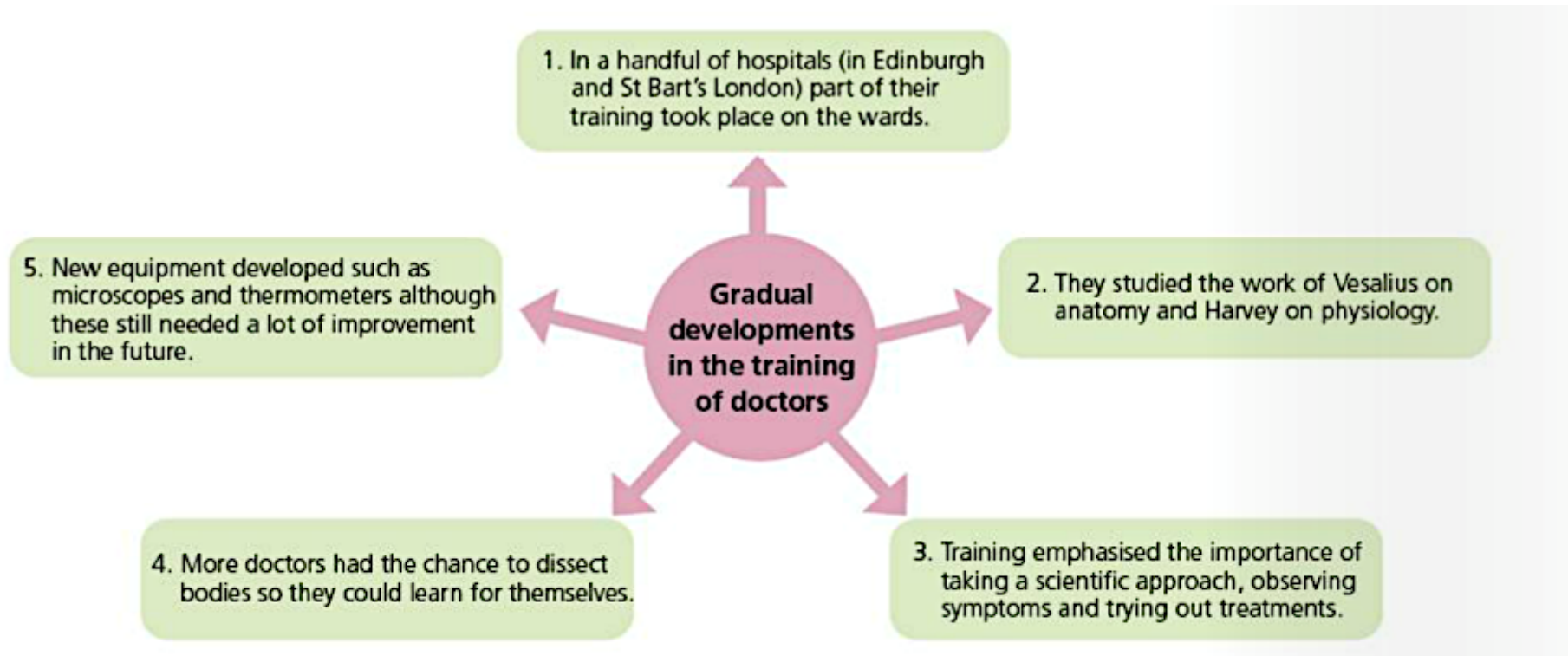


Continuity

- Still trained at University, with little change to courses, some new ideas but slow to take effect
- Most still learning from books and in Latin
- Still little practical training, despite dissection being legalised due to decline of the church

Change

- New subjects like iatrochemistry and anatomy introduced
- Physicians were inspired to challenge the old teachings, observation became much more popular
- Much better access to medical textbooks due to the printing press
- Artists who did decorate churches were now out of work, so they could now make detailed drawings for these text books (Vesalius)



Hospitals:



Continuity

- Travellers, pilgrims, the elderly and a few sick still attended hospitals for food, shelter and prayer - **CARE**

Change

- Patient records suggest that many people went to hospital with wounds and curable diseases such as fevers and skin conditions – **TREATMENT**
- They didn't spend long in hospital suggesting they got better
- A good diet was provided, especially good for the poorer patients
- Physicians would visit to observe and prescribe treatments
- Most hospitals now had pharmacies and an apothecary so medication was given
- Henry VIII's dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 did dramatically affect the availability of hospital care in England

Dissolution of the Monasteries



What can you see happening here?

Since the vast majority of hospitals were connected to the Church, very few were able to stay open after the dissolution. As hospitals were attached to the Abbeys, Monasteries and Convents, it was the Monks and Nuns who administered the care.

Henry VIII re-founded St Bartholomew's hospital himself in 1546. By 1660, it had 12 wards, 300 patients, 3 Physicians, 3 Surgeons and 15 nurses as well as nursing helpers

Smaller hospitals opened up, funded by charities but with less medical treatment being provided.

Eventually, the hospitals reopened without their religious sponsor, but it took a long time to return to pre dissolution days.

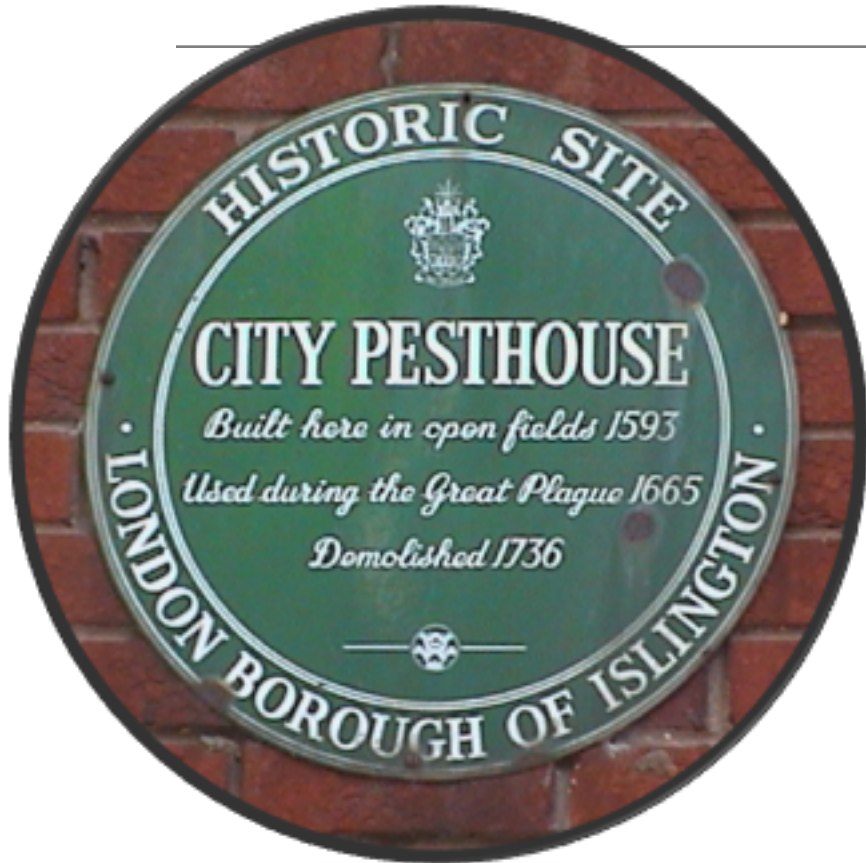


www.stchistory.com

GCSE 9-1

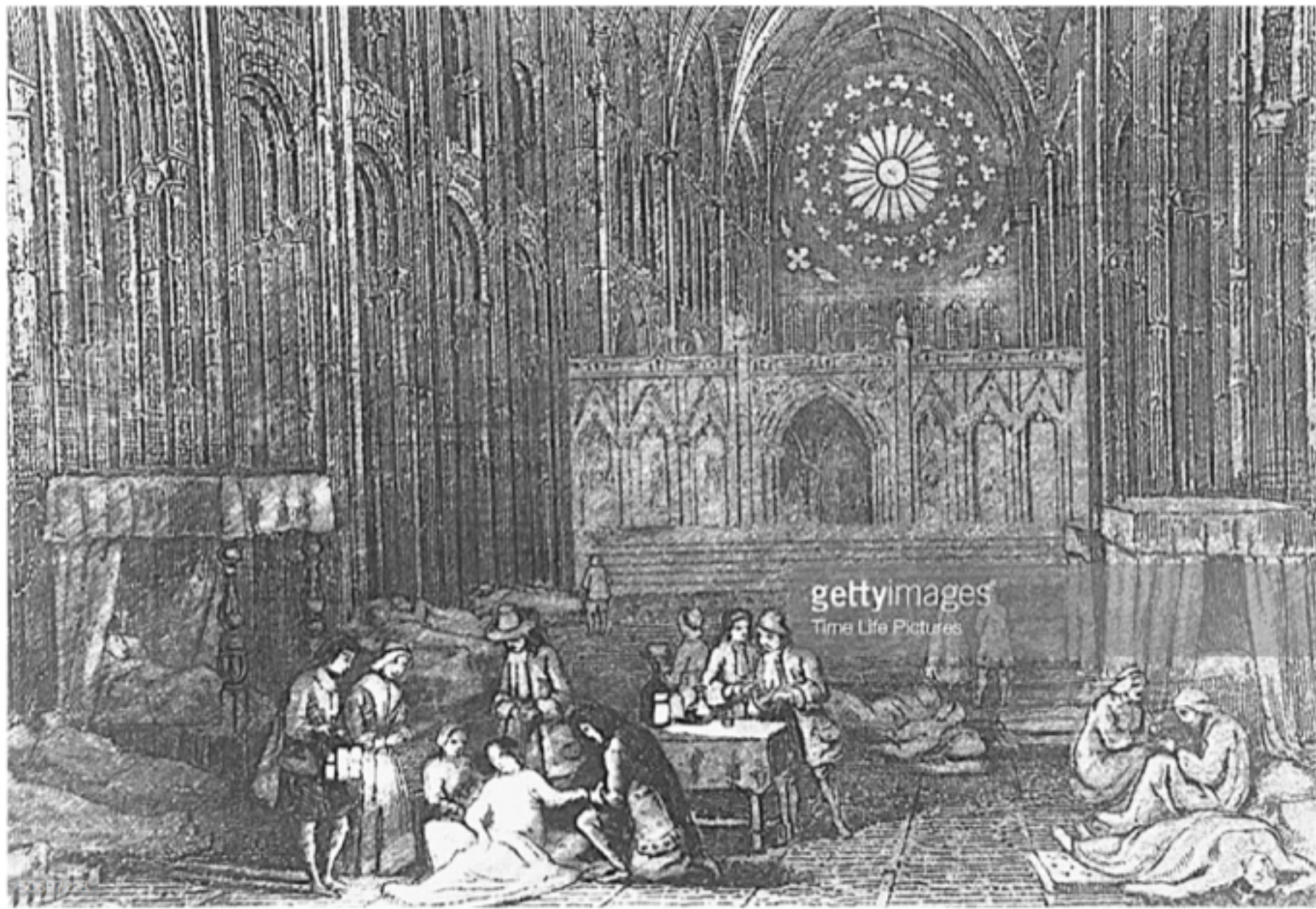
Pest Houses:

What do you think a Pest House was?



- Hospitals began specialising in a particular disease (Lazar houses appeared in Middle Ages for leprosy).
- There was a growing understanding that disease could be spread from person to person (even though they had no idea why).
- These Pest Houses appeared for people suffering from Plague, Pox, Leprosy etc
- This was important as although hospitals were now TREATING more, they still were not admitting contagious patients.

Pest Houses AKA: Plague Houses, Poxhouses



St. Pauls Cathedral converted into a Pest House

This 19th Century English engraving of St. Paul's Cathedral shows it being used as a pest house during the Great Plague of London.

St. Paul's became a Pest House during many outbreaks of disease in the City of London



www.stchistory.com

GCSE 9-1

Summary

- Methods of treatment mainly stayed the same between 1500 and 1700. Bleeding, purging and other humoral treatments were still popular. Herbal remedies were very common.
- New herbal remedies appeared. Exploration to places previously unknown, like the New World, meant that new plants were available.
- There was a new focus on chemical cures. This was known as iatrochemistry. This reflected a new interest in minerals and chemicals in society.
- People still believed in the importance of cleanliness and tried to avoid miasmata.
- Apothecaries and surgeons continued to treat the sick and received more formal training.
- By 1700, physicians studied anatomy and botany alongside their traditional medical courses.
- Vesalius, an anatomy professor, published an anatomy textbook called *On the Fabric of the Human Body*. It corrected many of Galen's mistakes and encouraged physicians to carry out their own dissections.
- Hospitals had more focus on medical treatment by the end of this period, but there were fewer of them in England because of the dissolution of the monasteries. However, the vast majority of sick people continued to be treated at home by women.

Renaissance Treatment, Healing & Prevention

Checkpoint

Strengthen

- S1** Describe the changes in the way that physicians were trained between c1250–c1500 and c1500–c1700.
- S2** List five of the mistakes Vesalius found in the works of Galen.
- S3** Describe the different places that sick people could seek medical treatment between 1500 and 1700.

Challenge

- C1** Attitudes in society were a big factor in both driving and limiting the amount of change in treatment during this period. Select information to show three ways that people's beliefs and suspicions encouraged medical development, and three ways that they held them back.
- C2** Explain the differences between hospital and community care in the period c1250–c1500 and in the period c1500–c1700.

How confident do you feel about your answers to these questions? Share your answers with a partner and see if you can improve them together.



www.stchistory.com

GCSE 9-1