

Remedies We'd Rather Forget

Hopping Off the Wagon

AT THE AGE of 15, in 1916, my dad, Ira Schindler, became very ill with typhoid fever.

At the time, a teaspoon or so of whiskey was considered medicine, and the doctor prescribed it. My grandmother, a strict teetotaler, gritted her teeth and somehow obtained enough whiskey to help her son recover.

When the time came for me to sort through my mother's belongings, I found the small bottle that my frugal grandmother, and then my mother, had kept so long.

The bottle, containing less than a teaspoon of well-aged whiskey, was labeled with the original prescription: "July 1916, Ira Schindler, Whiskey, For Typhoid Fever," signed by Dr. J.M. Marks.

—Donna A., Phillipsburg, Kansas

Household Wisdom

A LIST of "Home Remedies and Household Routines," collected by the Home Service Department of the Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company, was shared by Tammy S, of Evansville, Indiana. Here are a few:

If you burn your finger, quickly grip the earlobe with the burned part and blistering will be prevented.

One should be cautious about entering a sick room in a state of perspiration, as the moment you become cool, your pores absorb. Don't sit between the sick and a fire because the heat attracts the vapor.

For heartburn, chew mustard seed mixed with chimney soot.

For warts, rub them with an old bone found in the yard and put the bone back where you found it.

For nausea, drink tea made with the boiled lining of chicken gizzards.

For asthma, cut a piece of bark from a red oak tree, get close and breathe deep in it. Then put the bark back.

Magic Gizzard

WHEN I was small, I had a huge, ugly wart on my upper lip while visiting my grandparents on their farm.

A chicken was chosen for dinner, and the lining from the gizzard was rubbed on my wart. The wart was gone in a few days.

—Brenda W., Knoxville, Tennessee

These remedies are shared for fun and are not recommended for use.