

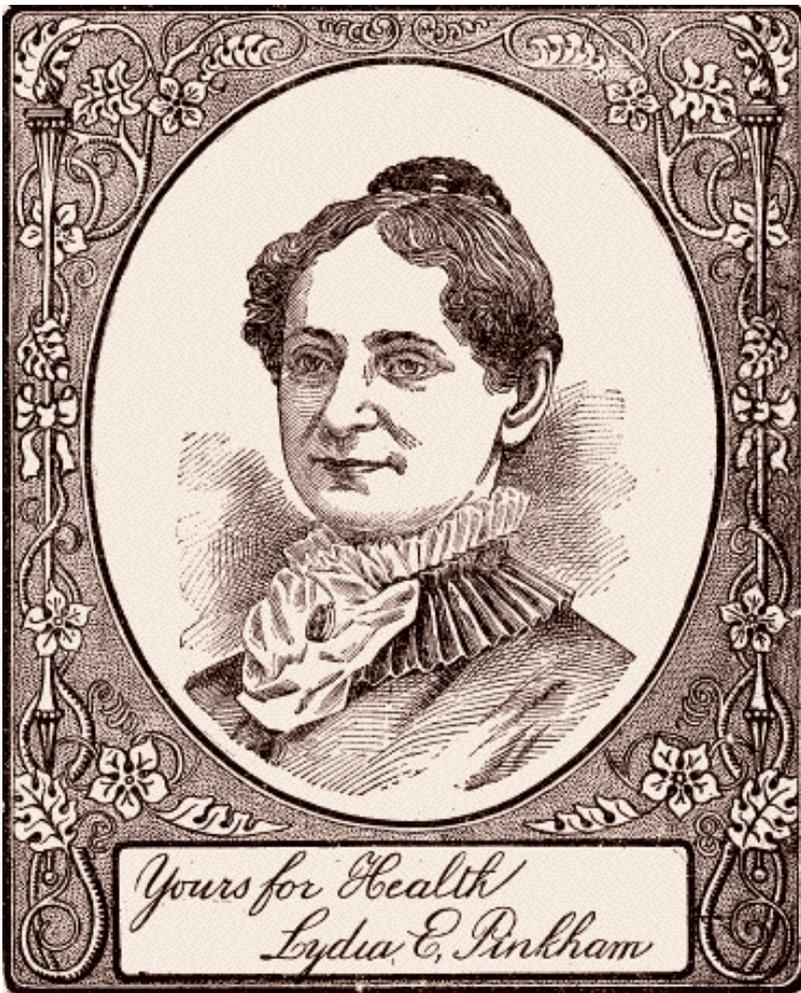


Whores of Yore @WhoresofYore Fri Jul 29 10:11:15 +0000 2022

Remember this one? "Lily the Pink" (1968) by the UK comedy group The Scaffold. This song went to n.1 in the charts & stayed there for 4 weeks. It tells the story of Lily the Pink & her amazing 'medicinal compound' that cures all your ills. But just who was Lily the Pink? Thread <https://t.co/pxyIWDX99t>



Lily the Pink is based on the American businesswoman Lydia Pinkham (1819-83) who did indeed invent a medicinal, or vegetable, compound in 1875. Pinkham's compound was sold as a 'woman's tonic' & was marketed as a cure for menstrual & menopausal symptoms. <https://t.co/c3TSRxYIRC>



Pinkham started making her own medicines in her home & they became extremely popular with her local community. Her original vegetable compound was said to have contained black cohosh, unicorn root, life root, pleurisy root, & fenugreek – preserved in 19 percent alcohol. <https://t.co/v93AHo8L56>



As her fame & success grew, so did the list of complaints Pinkham's vegetable claimed to be able to cure. It was even marketed as an aid to fertility & marketed under the strapline 'there a baby in every bottle'. You can see some of the claims it made here. <https://t.co/bOqdl7xNU>

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

IS A POSITIVE CURE

For all those painful Complaints and Weaknesses so common to our best female population.

It will cure entirely the worst forms of Female Complaints, all Ovarian troubles, Inflammation, Ulceration, Falling and Displacements of the Womb, and the consequent Spinal Weakness, and is particularly adapted to the Change of Life.

It will dissolve and expel Tumors from the Uterus in an early stage of development. The tendency to cancerous humors there is checked very speedily by its use. It removes faintness, flatulency, destroys all craving for stimulants, and relieves weakness of the stomach. It cures Bloating, Headaches, Nervous Prostration, General Debility, Sleeplessness, Depression and Indigestion.

That feeling of bearing down, causing pain, weight and back-ache, is always permanently cured by its use.

It will at all times and under all circumstances act in harmony with the laws that govern the female system. For the cure of Kidney Complaints of either sex this Compound is unsurpassed.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is prepared at Lynn, Mass. Price, \$1.00; six bottles for \$5.00. Sent by mail in the form of Pills, also in the form of Lozenges, on receipt of price, \$1.00 per box, for either. Send two two-cent stamps for our new Guide to Health and Etiquette Book. *All letters of inquiry promptly answered.* Address as above.

No family should be without LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S LIVER PILLS. They cure Constipation, Biliousness, and Torpidity of the Liver. 25 cents per box.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Blood Purifier.

This preparation will eradicate every vestige of Humors from the Blood, and at the same time will give tone and strength to the system.

It is far superior to any other known remedy for the cure of all diseases arising from impurities of the blood, such as Scrofula, Rheumatism, Cancerous Humors, Erysipelas, Canker, Salt Rheum and Skin Diseases

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Compliments of

F. A. Smith,
Druggist & Apothecary,
Braintree, Mass.

Lydia Pinkham's face was used in all the branding & she is the first woman whose likeness was used in a brand. The success of Pinkham's tonic can't be understated. She was probably one of the most famous women in America in the late 19th century. But, not everyone liked her. <https://t.co/RX6bJcBaFV>

MRS. LYDIA E. PINKHAM, OF LYNN, MASS.,

Woman can Sympathize with Woman.



Health of Woman is the Hope of the Race.

Yours for Health
Lydia E. Pinkham

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND.

Is a Positive Cure

for all these Painful Complaints and Weaknesses
so common to our best female population.

It will cure entirely the worst form of Female Complaints, all ovarian troubles, Inflammation and Ulceration, Falling and Displacements, and the consequent Spinal Weakness, and is particularly adapted to the Change of Life.

It will dissolve and expel tumors from the uterus in an early stage of development. The tendency to cancerous humors there is checked very speedily by its use.

It removes faintness, flatulency, destroys all craving for stimulants, and relieves weakness of the stomach. It cures Bloating, Headaches, Nervous Prostration, General Debility, Sleeplessness, Depression and Indigestion.

That feeling of bearing down, causing pain, weight and backache, is always permanently cured by its use.

It will at all times and under all circumstances act in harmony with the laws that govern the female system.

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No family should be without LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S LIVER PILLS. They cure constipation, biliousness, and torpidity of the liver. 25 cents per box.

Sold by all Druggists.

Doctors & the medical establishment really didn't like her & dismissed her as a quack. There is some truth to this, but Pinkham really seemed to care about her female patients & their health. She spoke very openly about women's

reproductive health at a time that was taboo.

She published pamphlets on menstrual & menopausal health to try & educate women. She also encouraged women to write to her to ask questions they were too embarrassed to ask a doctor.

After Pinkham died in 1883, her family took over the business & continued to promote her image. Because the product was said to cure 'female problems' it was ripe for mockery. Crude drinking songs soon appeared about just the kind of 'problems' that could be cured. <https://t.co/iEvqzlvJvg>



This wasn't helped by the fact the compound was almost 20% alcohol. During prohibition, that rose to around 40% & people turned to Pinkham's 'medicinal compound' to get hammered.

'Lily the Pink' by the Scaffold is a highly sanitised version of these early drinking songs about Pinkham. The Ballad of Lydia Pinkham has pretty much the same tune but very rude lyrics. Some original verses can be seen here. You get the idea. <https://mudcat.org/@displaysong.cfm?SongID=449,449&SongID=449,449> <https://t.co/6loxDLdb4W>

Mrs. Jones she had no children,
And she loved them very dear.
So she took three bottles of Pinkham's
Now she has twins every year.

Lottie Smyth ne'er had a lover,
Blotchy pimples caused her plight;
But she took nine bottles of Pinkham's--
Sweethearts swarm about her each night.

Oh Mrs. Murphy (Oh Mrs. Murphy)
Was perturbed because she couldn't seem to pee
Till she took some of Lydia's compound
And now they run a pipeline to the sea!

And Peter Whelan (Peter Whelan)
He was sad because he only had one nut
Till he took some of Lydia's compound
And now they grow in clusters 'round his butt.

By the time we get to the 40s & 50s, the FDA had stepped in & required the company make some significant changes to the tonic, its alcohol content, & the claims being made about what it could cure.

Remarkably, you can still buy Lydia Pinkham's Herbal Supplements today to ease symptoms of menstruation & menopause. It is no longer alcoholic & tightly regulated, but is doubtless still 'most efficacious in every case'.
<https://t.co/X5C1JUCMq7>



You can read more about Lydia Pinkham here. <https://daily.jstor.org/was-lydia-e-pinkham-the-queen-of-quackery/>
Has anyone else had the Lily the Pink earworm all damn day?????

WEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEL drink a drink, a drink
To Lily the Pink, the Pink, the Pink
The savior of the human ra-hey-hace
For she invented medicinal compound
Most efficacious in every case



Adding for the tune and because I haven't been able to get this damn song out of my head for weeks.
<https://t.co/SnKTifOSKK>