

Dentist & Chemists

The working class would have tried to avoid the cost of having to call a doctor and would instead have relied on home remedies passed down through mother to daughter etc. Or bought a medicine readily available at the local druggist. Enoch Sutcliffe was one of Bacup's earliest druggists who had a shop at number 13 St James Street, eventually moving to number 3 St James Street, which in the early 1930s was taken over by Meads Chemists who had moved from their shop on the site which would become Woolworths and which had previously been Pickup's Druggists.

In 1915 Boots the Chemist arrived in Bacup opening a shop on what was known as Bridge Street today's St James Square.

The early chemist shelves often contained such concoctions as, bear's grease for baldness, ipecacuanha for whooping cough and mugwort for hysteria. Many of our Bacupian and Stacksteads ancestors would have resorted to the cheaper quack medicines, often with fatal results.

The Bacup Times was often filled with advertisements for "cure-all pills, potions and lotions".

On the opposite side of St James Street in 1868 Mr James Smith was advertising his mechanical and surgical dentistry skills, he also advertised "two cisterns" made from galvanised iron and those of his watchmaking and jewellery skills. In an advertisement from 1869 he states: *Extracting Teeth, J.S Considers it unnecessary, to say anything about this part of his profession, from the unbounded confidence placed in him since his business came to Bacup, and would like to say that all care is used for their safe, easy and certain removal. He is happy to repair decayed teeth and make serviceable.*

Mr Smith sold his gold teeth for 12s, each. At this time there was no authority governing dentistry or those calling themselves such with no overseeing authority or register it is hardly surprising that death sometimes occurred following a visit to the dentist.



Sutcliffes Chemist 3 St James Street

In 1867 a report appeared of the death of a Mrs Richard Ashworth, of New Line, who have suffered from toothache had had a tooth pulled out by the local chemist. Unfortunately for the poor woman, she contracted blood poisoning and died the day after.

At 18 Market Street in 1869 a Mr C Nuttall practised his trade of dentistry. His prices were as follows, A single 18-carat gold tooth from 11s a full set from £10. In 1869 Mr Nuttall advertised that he could perform dentistry without any pain or discomfort. This he was able to do because he had after considerable expense and trouble purchased such American Apparatus for the manufacture of Nitrous Oxide Gas. Which of course today we know as laughing gas.



Dentist on Bridge Street

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EASE, ELEGANCE, AND EFFICIENCY.
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SURGICAL AND MECHANICAL DENTIST,
BANK SIDE, RACIP

C. N. is prepared to insert Teeth on Gold, Palladium, and the Patent Vulcanite Gums, which have been greatly improved by C. N. since their first introduction; they are acknowledged by the most skilful to be superior to anything that has been brought before the public.

The Best Material used and Work Guaranteed, or no charge

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