



# Dentist & Chemists

Whilst there were several Doctors available in Bacup and Stacksteads 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 dispensing chemist of which in Bacup there were plenty Boots, and Sutcliffe's on Bridge street and St James Street to name but two. The early chemist shelves often contained such concoctions has, 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".

Previous to 1878 there was no authority governing dentist, or those calling themselves such with no overseeing authority or register it is hardly suprising that death sometimes occurred following a visit to the dentist.

In 1867 a report appeared of the death of a Mrs Richard Ashworth, of New Line, who having suffered with 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 if course today we know as laughing gas.

At number 12 St James Street Mr James Smith advertised his dentistry skills alongside those of his watchmaking and jewellery skills. In a advertisement from 1869 he states: Extracting Teeth, J.S Considers it unesercary, 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 thier safe, easy and certain removal. He is happy to repair decayed teeth, and make serviceable. Mr Smith sold his gold teeth for 12s, each.



Meads Chemist in St James St Bacup