Names of Old Time Illnesses

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Ablepsy	Blindness
Ague	Malarial Fever
American plague	Yellow fever
Anasarca	Generalized massive edema
Aphonia	Laryngitis
Aphtha	The infant disease “thrush”
Apoplexy	Paralysis due to stroke
Asphycsia/Asphicsia	Cyanotic and lack of oxygen
Atrophy	Wasting away or diminishing in size.
Bad Blood	Syphilis
Bilious fever	Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis or elevated temperature and bile emesis
Biliousness	Jaundice associated with liver disease
Black plague	Bubonic plague
Black fever	Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high mortality rate
Black pox	Black Small pox
Black vomit	Vomiting old black blood due to ulcers or yellow fever
Blackwater fever	Dark urine associated with high temperature
Bladder in throat	Diphtheria (Seen on death certificates)
Blood poisoning	Bacterial infection; septicemia
Bloody flux	Bloody stools
Bloody sweat	Sweating sickness
Bone shave	Sciatica
Brain fever	Meningitis
Breakbone	Dengue fever
Bright’s disease	Chronic inflammatory disease of kidneys
Bronze John	Yellow fever
Bule	Boil, tumor or swelling
Cachexy	Malnutrition
Cacogastric	Upset stomach
Cacospysy	Irregular pulse
Caduceus	Subject to falling sickness or epilepsy
Camp fever	Typhus; aka Camp diarrhea
Canine madness	Rabies, hydrophobia
Canker	Ulceration of mouth or lips or herpes simplex
Catalepsy	Seizures/trances
Catarrhal	Nose and throat discharge from cold or allergy
Cerebritis	Inflammation of cerebrum or lead poisoning
Chilblain	Swelling of extremities caused by exposure to cold
Child bed fever	Infection following birth of a child
Chin cough	Whooping cough
Chlorosis	Iron deficiency anemia
Cholera	Acute severe contagious diar rhea with intestinal lining sloughing
Cholera morbus	Characterized by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, elevated temperature, etc. Could be appendicitis
Cholecystitus	Inflammation of the gall bladder
Cholelithiasis	Gall stones
Chorea	Disease characterized by con vulsions, contortions and dancing
Cold plague	Ague which is characterized by chills
Colic	An abdominal cramping
Congestive chills	Malaria
Consumption	Tuberculosis
Congestion	Any collection of fluid in an organ, like the lungs
Congestive chills	Malaria with diarrhea
Congestive fever	Malaria
Corruption	Infection
Coryza	A cold
Costiveness	Constipation
Cramp colic	Appendicitis
Crop sickness	Overextended stomach
Croup	Laryngitis, diphtheria, or strep throat

Cyanosis	Dark skin color from lack of oxygen in blood
Cynanche	Diseases of throat
Cystitis	Inflammation of the bladder
Day fever	Fever lasting one day; sweating sickness
Debility	Lack of movement or staying in bed
Decrepitude	Feebleness due to old age
Delirium tremens	Hallucination due to alcoholism
Dengue	Infectious fever endemic to East Africa
Dentition	Cutting of teeth
Deplumation	Tumor of the eyelids which causes hair loss
Diary fever	A fever that lasts one day
Diptheria	Contagious disease of the throat
Distemper	Usually animal disease with malaise, discharge from nose and throat, anorexia
Dock fever	Yellow fever
Dropsy	Edema (swelling), often caused by kidney or heart disease
Dropsy of the Brain	Encephalitis
Dry Bellyache	Lead poisoning
Dyscrasy	An abnormal body condition
Dysentery	Inflammation of colon with frequent passage of mucous and blood
Dysorexy	Reduced appetite
Dyspepsia	Indigestion and heartburn. Heart attack symptoms
Dysury	Difficulty in urination
Eclampsy	Symptoms of epilepsy or convultions during labor
Ecstasy	A form of catalepsy
Edema	Nephrosis; swelling of tissues
Edema of lungs	Congestive heart failure, a form of dropsy
Eel thing	Erysipelas
Elephantiasis	A form of leprosy
Encephalitis	Swelling of brain; aka sleeping sickness
Enteric fever	Typhoid fever
Enterocolitis	Inflammation of the intestines
Enteritis	Inflations of the bowels
Epitaxis	Nose bleed
Erysipelas	Contagious skin disease, due to Streptococci with vesicular bulbous lesions
Extravasted blood	Rupture of a blood vessel
Falling sickness	Epilepsy
Fatty Liver	Cirrhosis of liver
Fits	Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity
Flux	An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea
Flux of humour	Circulation
French pox	Syphilis
Gathering	A collection of pus
Glandular fever	Mononucleosis
Great pox	Syphilis
Green fever/sickness	Anemia
Grippe/grip	Influenza like symptoms
Grocer’s itch	Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour
Heart sickness	Condition caused by loss of salt from body
Heat stroke	Body temperature elevates because of surrounding envi ronment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature. Coma and death result if not reversed
Hectical complaint	Recurrent fever
Hematemesis	Vomiting blood
Hematuria	Bloody urine
Hemiplegy	Paralysis of one side of body
Hip gout	Osteomylitis
Horrors	Delirium tremens
Hydrocephalus	Enlarged head, water on the brain
Hydropericardium	Heart dropsy
Hydrophobia	Rabies
Hydrothroax	Dropsy in chest
Hypertrophic	Enlargement of organ, like the heart
Impetigo	Contagious skin disease charac terized by pustules
Inanition	Physical condition resulting from lack of food
Infantile paralysis	Polio
Intestinal colic	Abdominal pain due to bad diet
Jail fever	Typhus
Jaundice	Condition caused by blockage of intestines
King’s evil	Tuberculosis of neck and lymph

	glands
Kruchhusten	Whooping cough
Lagrippe	Influenza
Lockjaw	Tetanus or infectious disease affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw. Untreated, it is fatal in 8 days
Long sickness	Tuberculosis
Lues disease	Syphilis
Lues venera	Venereal disease
Lumbago	Back pain
Lung fever	Pneumonia
Lung sickness	Tuberculosis
Lying in	Time of delivery of infant
Malignant sore throat	Diphtheria
Mania	Insanity
Marasmus	Progressive wasting away of body, like malnutrition
Membranous Croup	Diphtheria
Meningitis	Inflations of brain or spinal cord
Metritis	Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge
Miasma	Poisonous vapors thought to infect the air
Milk fever	Disease from drinking contaminated milk
Milk leg	Post partum thrombophlebitis
Milk sickness	Disease from milk of cattle which had eaten poisonous weeds
Mormal	Gangrene
Morphew	Scurvy blisters on the body
Mortification	Gangrene of necrotic tissue
Myelitis	Inflammation of the spine
Myocarditis	Inflammation of heart muscles
Necrosis	Mortification of bones or tissue
Nephrosis	Kidney degeneration
Nepritis	Inflammation of kidneys
Nervous prostration	Extreme exhaustion from inability to control physical and mental activities
Neuralgia	Described as discomfort, such as “Headache” was neuralgia in head
Nostalgia	Homesickness
Palsy	Paralysis or uncontrolled movement of controlled muscles. It was listed as “Cause of death”
Paroxysm	Convulsion
Pemphigus	Skin disease of watery blisters
Pericarditis	Inflammation of heart
Peripneumonia	Inflammation of lungs
Peritonotis	Inflammation of abdominal area
Petechial Fever	Fever characterized by skin spotting
Phthiriasis	Lice infestation
Phthisis	Chronic wasting away or a name for tuberculosis
Plague	An acute febrile highly infectious disease with a high fatality rate
Pleurisy	Any pain in the chest area with each breath
Podagra	Gout
PolioPotter’s asthma	Fibroid pthisis
Pott’s disease	Tuberculosis of spine
Puerperal exhaustion	Death due to child birth
Puerperal fever	Elevated temperature after giving birth to an infant
Puking fever	Milk sickness
Putrid fever	Diphtheria.
Quinsy	Tonsillitis.
Remitting fever	Malaria
Rheumatism	Any disorder associated with pain in joints
Rickets	Disease of skeletal system
Rose cold	Hay fever or nasal symptoms of an allergy
Rotanny fever	(Child’s disease) ???
Rubeola	German measles
Sanguineous crust	Scab
Scarlatina	Scarlet fever
Scarlet fever	A disease characterized by red rash
Scarlet rash	Roseola
Sciatica	Rheumatism in the hips
Scirrhus	Cancerous tumors
Scotomy	Dizziness, nausea and dimness of sight
Scrivener’s palsy	Writer’s cramp
Screws	Rheumatism
Scrofula	Tuberculosis of neck lymph glands. Progresses slowly with abscesses and pistulas

	develop. Young person's disease
Scrumpox	Skin disease, impetigo
Scurvy	Lack of vitamin C. Symptoms of weakness, spongy gums and hemorrhages under skin
Septicemia	Blood poisoning
Shakes	Delirium tremens
Shaking	Chills, ague
Shingles	Viral disease with skin blisters
Ship fever	Typhus
Siriasis	Inflammation of the brain due to sun exposure
Sloes	Milk sickness
Small pox	Contagious disease with fever and blisters
Softening of brain	Result of stroke or hemorrhage in the brain, with an end result of the tissue softening in that area
Sore throat distemper	Diphtheria or quinsy
Spanish influenza	Epidemic influenza
Spasms	Sudden involuntary contraction of muscle or group of muscles, like a convulsion
Spina bifida	Deformity of spine
Spotted fever	Either typhus or meningitis
Sprue	Tropical disease characterized by intestinal disorders and sore throat
St. Anthony's fire	Also erysipelas, but named so because of affected skin areas are bright red in appearance
St. Vitas dance	Ceaseless occurrence of rapid complex jerking movements performed involuntary
Stomatitis	Inflammation of the mouth
Stranger's fever	Yellow fever
Strangery	Rupture
Sudor anglicus	Sweating sickness
Summer complaint	Diarrhea, usually in infants caused by spoiled milk
Sunstroke	Uncontrolled elevation of body temperature due to environment heat. Lack of sodium in the body is a predisposing cause
Swamp sickness	Could be malaria, typhoid or encephalitis
Sweating sickness	Infectious and fatal disease common to UK in 15th century
Tetanus	Infectious fever characterized by high fever, headache and dizziness
Thrombosis	Blood clot inside blood vessel
Thrush	Childhood disease characterized by spots on mouth, lips and throat
Tick fever	Rocky mountain spotted fever
Toxemia	Eclampsia
Trench mouth	Painful ulcers found along gum line, Caused by poor nutrition and poor hygiene
Tussis convulsiva	Whooping cough
Typhus	Infectious fever characterized high fever, headache, and dizziness
Variola	Smallpox
Venesection	Bleeding
Viper's dance	St. Vitus Dance
Water on brain	Enlarged head
White swelling	Tuberculosis of the bone
Winter fever	Pneumonia
Womb fever	Infection of the uterus.
Worm fit	Convulsions associated with teething, worms, elevated temperature or diarrhea
Yellowjacket	Yellow fever.