



## EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## APS UNIT 28

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## 19TH CENTURY HEALTH CARE — QUACK QUACK?

By Gerald Wiley

Perhaps in these days of debate about the best means of providing everyone with adequate health care, a look back at how this was done in the past might be of interest.

Envelopes provided by Merchant's Gargling Oil Company of Lockport, New York, to hotels and businesses advertised their products, notably Gargling Oil Liniment, "good for man & beast." It was advertised on the back of one of their envelopes used by the Crouner House in Watertown hotel in 1884.

C. L. Frederick, Druggist of Carthage, New York, sold Frederick's Lungwort Syrup. According to an 1885 article in the *Watertown Daily Times*, many who died from pneumonia or other lung disease would still be alive if they had taken a few doses of lungwort.

A cover mailed at Schoharie in 1893 by Dr. T. J. Kilmer & Co. illustrates their Sanitarium and Dispensary and advertised cures for various diseases.

A circular mailed in 1875 from Buffalo advertised Dr. Dimock's Self-Retaining Auricles for those hard of hearing. (When I started using a hearing aid last year, these were no longer available.)

Although none of the above remedies are still in use, some of those we now have are probably just as effective. They lack the miracle ingredient in most patent medicines — alcohol! ■

