What are patients looking for when they visit the doctor?

This is a skeptical age, but although our faith in many of the things in which our forefathers fervently believed has weakened, our confidence in the curative properties of the bottle of medicine remains the same as theirs.

This modern faith in medicines is proved by the fact that the annual drug bill of the Health Services is mounting to astronomical figures and shows no signs at present of ceasing to rise.

The majority of the patients attending the medical out-patients departments of our hospitals feel that they have not received adequate treatment unless they can carry home with them some tangible remedy in the shape of a bottle of medicine, a box of pills, or a small jar of ointment, and the doctor in charge of the department is only too ready to provide them with these requirements.

There is no quicker method of disposing of patients than by giving them what they are asking for, and since most medical men in the Health Services are overworked and have little time for offering time-consuming and little-appreciated advice on such subjects as diet, right living, and the need for abandoning bad habits etc., the bottle, the box, and the jar are almost always granted them.

Nor is it only the ignorant and ill-educated person who has such faith in the bottle of medicine.

It is recounted of Thomas Carlyle that when he heard of the illness of his friend, Henry Taylor, he went off immediately to visit him, carrying with him in his pocket what remained of a bottle of medicine formerly prescribed for an indisposition of Mrs. Carlyle's.

Carlyle was entirely ignorant of what the bottle in his pocket contained, of the nature of the illness from which his friend was suffering, and of what had previously been wrong with his wife, but a medicine that had worked so well in one form of illness would surely be of equal benefit in another, and comforted by the thought of the help he was bringing to his friend, he hastened to Henry Taylor's house.

History does not relate whether his friend accepted his medical help, but in all probability, he did.

The great advantage of taking medicine is that it makes no demands on the taker beyond that of putting up for a moment with a disgusting taste, and that is what all patients demand of their doctors—to be cured at no inconvenience to themselves.

Doctors readily provide their patients with medicines because it is the easiest way to get rid of them.

The anecdote about Thomas Carlyle illustrates the author’s argument because it shows the absolute trust patients place in tangible remedies like medicine.

Everyone says our team will win, but I’m extremely skeptical about it.

Throughout his career, my grandfather fervently believed in the right of workers to strike for better conditions.

It is said that the water from this particular spring possesses powerful curative properties.

When I first went to Turkey and used ‘lire’, I just couldn’t get used to the astronomical figures they deal in.

Sculpture is a tangible form of art.

The murderer was caught in the act of disposing of the body.

The man’s request for a leave of absence to visit his family was finally granted.

‘I am afraid Mr. White is suffering from a slight indisposition,’ the man’s secretary said rather pompously.

I am tired of putting up with his general bad behavior.

They apologized for any inconvenience caused by the roadworks.

We may have lost our faith in many things in this modern world, but we still have great confidence in the power of medicine.

The proof of this is in the astronomical rise in the drug bill of the British Health Services.

Further, most patients expect to take home some tangible remedy, and, since this is the easiest way of getting rid of patients, those in charge are happy to oblige.

After all, giving advice is both time-consuming and little appreciated.

A public health service is an essential part of social welfare.

Everyone in society should have the right to a full and free health service, and no one should have the right to buy good health care.

If all working adults pay taxes, then they, their children, and their parents should expect free medical service, at a doctor’s surgery or at a hospital, a free emergency ambulance service, and at least free dental treatment.

It has often been said that a public health service is expensive to run and that it is often abused.

While it is expensive to run, and it is, like many social services, open to abuse, it seems nevertheless to be one of the things that a modern society must offer its citizens.

There is of course, one major problem, and that is the cost of the people who work in it—the doctors, nurses, surgeons, dentists and administrative staff.

Such people often complain that they do not receive the wages or salaries that they could earn in the world of private medical care or in a totally different profession.

And because a health service, like other public services, is run on government lines, bureaucracy often creeps in so that the administration can cost more than the medical services and treatment.

Does a public health service work in all countries?

No, it doesn’t.

There are countries where a public health service seems to be an impossibility: America is a perfect example.

On the other hand, there are a number of countries in the world which have successful, or moderately successful, public health services, for example Sweden, Britain, and Israel.

Even in a country like Britain, however, there is also a world of private medicine that people can join if they can afford it.

A public health service is an excellent idea, but no one should be forced to join it.

These two words are spelled differently, but they are pronounced the same as each other.

John and James are twins, but in character, they are quite different from each other.

Not only was he handsome, but he was also extremely intelligent.

Never have I been so embarrassed as I was that evening.

Only now is she beginning to realize how lucky she was not to be seriously injured in the accident.

There are a lot of people who don’t believe in wasting a doctor’s time.

They told me that they had every confidence in my ability to do the job.

The person in charge of our department is a very young man.

The Smiths have sold their shop and are now disposing of the contents.

We have asked our teacher to give us some advice on careers.

When John told me his news, he impressed on me the need for complete secrecy.

Aspirin is still prescribed for the relief of pain.

He was ignorant of even the basics of operating a computer.

A lot of British people suffer from colds in the autumn and winter.

Come on, get up: there’s nothing wrong with you!

The scientist was sure that his invention would be of great benefit in lots of situations.

Expeditions of this nature demand a great deal of those who take part in them.

It won’t cause any inconvenience to me if they cancel the meeting.

It rained all day without ceasing.

He seized her hand and dragged her into another room.

When did you receive that letter?

He told me to take the keys from his pocket.

The school is asking for contributions towards a new swimming pool.

"**What time did the train arrive?**" he asked.

She gave me some good advice about jobs.

She advised me about applying for jobs.

If these don’t work, I may have to prescribe you something stronger.

Gambling was proscribed by the new government.

The doctor in charge of the department is only too ready to provide them with these requirements.

The soldiers charged at the enemy.

He was arrested and charged with murder.

How much did they charge you for installing this boiler?

You would be ill-advised to buy that car; I've got a suspicion it's stolen.

You might have been told that I was in the bank that day, but you were ill-informed.

The defenders of the city were so ill-prepared that the attackers took it in a few days.

Patients only feel that they have been adequately treated if they have some remedy they can take home with them.

Because doctors are always working under pressure, they are inclined to give patients what they are asking for.

Even educated people can be misled into believing that a remedy that will cure one illness is also good for another.

What patients are looking for are remedies that don’t inconvenience them in any way.

The majority of patients attending the medical outpatient departments...

They only feel they have received adequate treatment when they can carry home a tangible remedy.

Because most medical men are overworked...

It is not only the ignorant person who has such faith in medicine.

Our confidence in the curative properties of the bottle of medicine remains.

The annual drugs bill shows no sign of ceasing to rise.

Patients want a remedy they can carry.

There is no quicker method of getting rid of patients.