



PATENT MEDICINES

A long time ago anybody could make medicine. This was not a good idea. People would mix together all sorts of things and say that it was good for you when it really wasn't. Sometimes people became very sick from taking the patent medicine. Patent medicine was fake medicine.

The fake medicine was sold at Medicine Shows. People would travel from town to town and put on a show sort of like a circus. When a big crowd began to gather, they would start selling the fake medicine. Someone in the crowd was paid to say the medicine helped them, but it was a lie.

In 1906 our government passed a law so that patent medicine had to stop saying it was good for you when it really wasn't. They also had to stop putting things in the medicine that were not safe. Today medicine is much safer because of this law.