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Weeding Out Piso's Cure



Originally formulated in 1864 with opium and morphine as “Piso’s Consumption Cure,” this glorified cough syrup shed its opiates by the 1880s. By 1904 “Piso’s Cure” was renamed “Piso’s Remedy for Coughs and Colds” (left). In May of 1909 the American Medical Association blacklisted “Piso’s Cure” as a “habit-forming drug.” Perhaps that is understandable, since “piso” (Spanish for “floor”) was a marijuana-chloroform elixir which “floored” its imbibers. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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