



Dr. BENJAMIN RUSH

Born on January 4, 1746, Benjamin Rush is remembered for accomplishments in a number of different fields. He is primarily remembered today as one of the Founding Fathers and signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a doctor, prolific writer, and social activist with a controversial reputation.

Benjamin Rush was the first American medical professional to write on alcoholism and <u>suggest it might be a disease</u>. This was 100 years before the concept of alcoholism was developed in the 1870s. All of his hard work seemed to fall on deaf ears, though. From 1792 to 1810, alcohol consumption doubled per capita, and by 1830 it had tripled. This forty-year period was later deemed to be the period of the highest alcohol consumption in American history.

He was the first to suggest that alcoholism was a chronic illness, one that got progressively worse as the person became progressively addicted to the drink — saying that the person would become chronically ill and eventually be destroyed by the disease. He was also the first to suggest that alcoholism has a genetic component and can be passed down generationally within families.

Dr. THOMAS TROTTER

ESSAY,

MEDICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND CHEMICAL,

•× DRUNKENNESS,

AND

ITS EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BODY.

By THOMAS TROTTER, M.D.

LATE PHYSICIAN TO HIS MAJESTY'S FLEET UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL EARL HOWE, K.G.; AND TO THE SQUADRONS COMMANED BY ADMIRAL LORB REIDFORT, K. B. ADMIRAL EARL ST. VINCENT, K. B. AND THE HONOURARLE ADMIRAL CONWALLIS; MEMBER OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH; AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURCH, OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF AMERDEEN, OF THE FULLOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETT OF NEWCASTLE, &C. &C.

O! thou invitible fpirit of wine, if thou haft no name to be known by, let us call thee-Devil. SUARSFEARE.

> THE SECOND EDITION, CORRECTED AND ENLARGED.

LONDON: printed for longman, hurst, rees; and orme, paternoster-row. 1804.



Thomas Trotter (1760 – 1832) was a Scottish naval physician and author who was a leading medical reformer in the Royal Navy and an ardent critic of the slave trade. Trotter was born in Melrose, Roxburghshire, and studied medicine in Edinburgh.

Trotter was a champion of vaccinations for naval medical staff, and as the Navy's Physician of the Fleet he required that all naval surgeons and assistants be inoculated against smallpox. Influenced by his career in the Royal Navy, Trotter was also a key figure in the development of modern theories of alcohol addiction, describing *"habitual alcohol consumption as a 'disease of the mind'*. After an extensive naval career, Trotter retired to private practice in 1802 and died in 1832.

Dr. MAGNUS HUSS



Magnus Huss (22 October 1807 – 22 April 1890) was a Swedish physician and professor. He is known for coining the term alcoholism in 1849, which he used to refer to *"the pathological changes in the body due to long-term alcohol intoxication.*" He has also been described the "forefather of Swedish and the "founder of clinical education in [Sweden]"

Dr. ALEXANDER LAMBERT



Dr. Alexander Lambert was President Theodore Roosevelt's personal physician as well as a member of the Committee of One Hundred of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on National Health. He was a professor at Cornell Medicine College. In 1909, Lambert claimed to have discovered a cure for alcoholism and drug addiction, which was a mixture made of belladonna (deadly nightshade), zanthoxylum (prickly ash) and hyoscyamus (henbane). *He had come up with the cure with layman Charles B. Towns*, but he later distanced himself from Towns and the "cure," as belladonna caused hallucinations and the cures were never long-lasting.

Lambert died in 1939.

$${}_{\mathsf{Page}}\mathsf{4}$$

NOTE: The "Towns-Lambert Belladonna Treatment" was incorrectly attributed to Dr. <u>Sam</u> Lambert – not <u>Alexander</u> in <u>Pass It On</u> pg. 101. The two were brothers but it was Alexander who worked with Charles Towns on the "treatment."