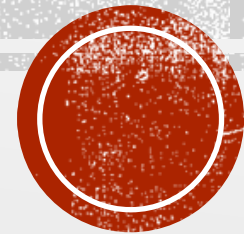


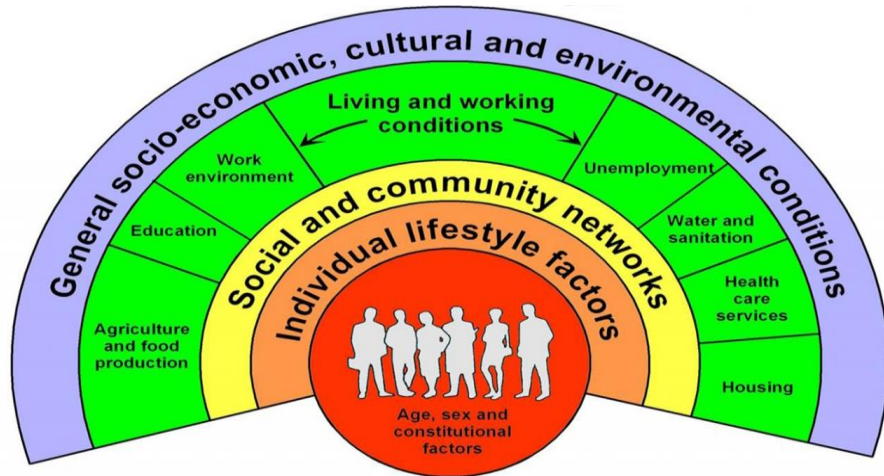
# A (VERY BRIEF!) HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr Victoria Turner  
Public Health Consultant  
North Yorkshire Council

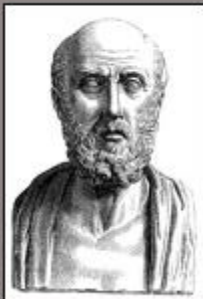


# HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- Public health measures have existed for thousands of years!



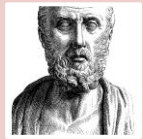
Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991



# EARLY PUBLIC HEALTH



Code of Hammurabi



Hippocrates



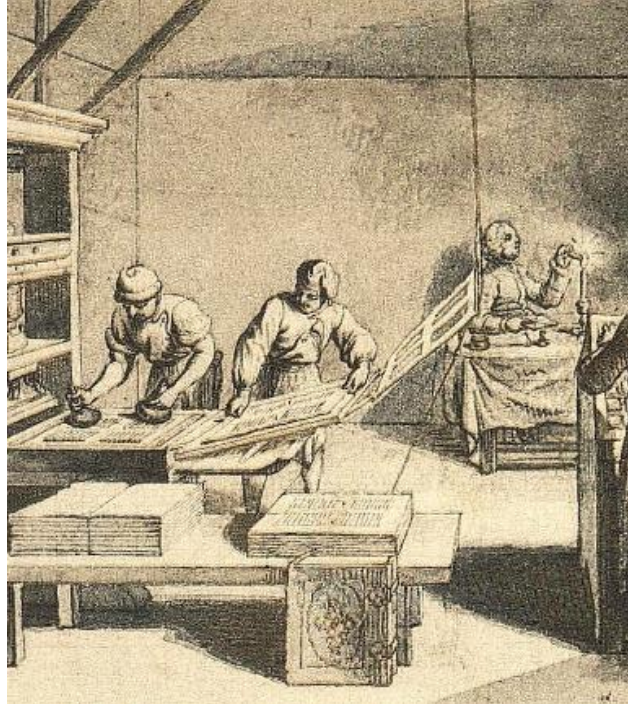
Galen

6 'non-naturals': diet, exercise, sleep, environment, psychological state, evacuations

*“If we could give every individual the right amount of nourishment and exercise, not too little and not too much, we would have found the safest way to health.”*

Hippocrates. *Hippocratic Writings*. Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, 1955





# MEDIEVAL PUBLIC HEALTH

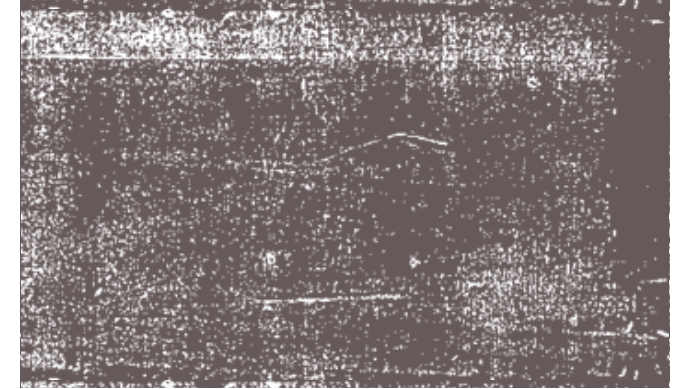
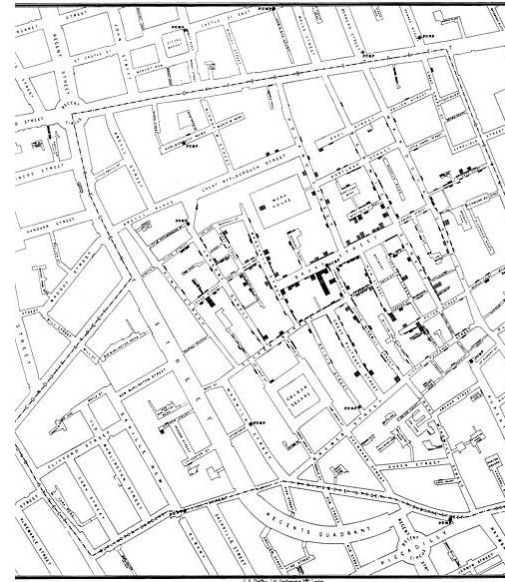
- 'Black Death' (1347-8) and subsequent plague waves
- Response to pandemics
  - Increase in legislation
  - Increase in public information
  - Particular focus on environmental health
- Everyone's health is important, not just yours

Citizens of Tournai burying plague victims  
By Pierart dou Tielt (fl. 1340-1360) -  
<http://balat.kikirpa.be/photo.php>

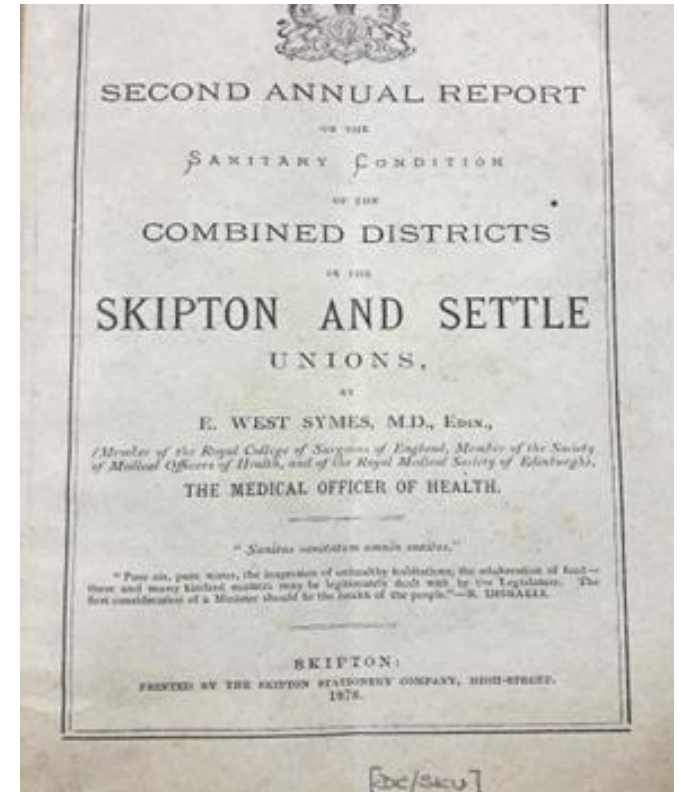


# INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION & VICTORIAN REFORMS

- Edwin Chadwick – 1842 ‘Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain’
- William Farr – ‘Annual Reports to the Registrar General’
- 1848 Public Health Act (and subsequent PH Acts)
  - Local Boards of Health
  - Medical Officers for Health, Inspectors of Nuisances
  - MOH Annual Reports
- John Snow – ‘On the mode of communication of cholera’ (1849)

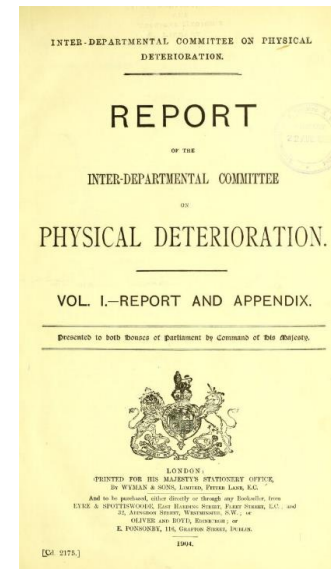


A COURT FOR KING CHOLERA.



# C20TH EVOLUTION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

- Early C20th developing welfare state
  - Free school meals
  - School-based medical inspections
- Increased medicalisation
  - Health visitors, screening
  - Social care, community health services
- 1970s NHS reform
  - Increasing prevalence of chronic conditions
  - Financial pressures
  - Impact of 'lifestyle' on health
  - Public health joins NHS in 1974



**NHS**

*“When the national health service was started an opportunity was lost to organise medical practice in such a way that a tradition of early intervention could have replaced the normal clinical practice of waiting for patients to present themselves. In other words, medicine in this country is not organised for the prevention of disease but for the treatment of the obviously ill.”*

H. Hunter, Medical Officer for Health. Annual Report for the year 1967 No 1 (Craven) Health Division by the MOH and Senior Public Health Inspectors



# C21ST PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Health and Social Care Act 2012**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013: Public Health returns to local authorities under Directors of Public Health
  - Public Health England established
- **2010 Marmot Review**
- **Legislation**
  - 2006 Health Act – ban on smoking in enclosed public places
  - 2012 Alcohol Minimum Pricing Scotland Act
  - 2018 Soft Drinks Industry Levy
- **COVID-19 pandemic**
  - 2021 PHE → UKHSA, OHID, NHS England

