

# Weird Tales

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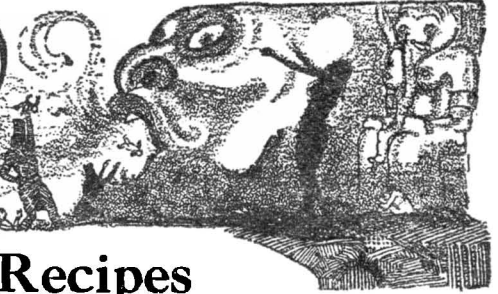
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# Folks Used to Believe

by ALVIN F.  
HARLOW

## Weird Recipes



**F**ROM the household book of Sir Kenelm Digby (1603-65) we cull the following formulæ which the honest knight regarded as of high merit in the treatment of disease.

For "a Sudden and Infallible Cure of Bleeding, either at the Nose or by a Bloody-Flux," you had a very simple remedy. You had only to "take two parts of the Moss growing on the skull of a dead-man (pulled as small as you can with the fingers) and one part of Mastick (in Powder), mingle them well together; then make them into the consistence of a soft Plaister with Gum Dragaganth brought into Mucilage by steeping in Plantain and red Rose-water." Of this you made a plaster upon linen or leather to lay upon the forehead for nose-bleed and upon the abdomen for flux.

Dead men's skulls must have been easily procurable in those days, for another method of curing hemorrhage was to scrape up one drachm of human skull, put it into a glass of white wine, let it stand over night, and drink it in the morning, fasting.

This, it was said, would inevitably cure in two or three days.

For aches in any part of the body, there was a very curious remedy. The instructions were: "Cause a dyer to dye you some thiek, spungy Flannel of the blew colour called Coventry-blew. When it is dry, dye it again; dye it thus five times, at last the Dye will be so deep that it will look almost black." This you laid on and around the aching part in several folds, and after a time the ache would disappear.

If you suffered an injury to the bladder, you were directed to hang by a string about your neck a "little Bag containing some Powder of Toads calcined; so that the bag lay always upon the Pit of the Stomach next the Skin"; and presently it took away all pain and inconvenience, that is, if you left it hanging there; but if you took off the bag, the pain returned. "A Bag continueth in force but a month," says the book; after so long a time, you must wear a fresh one."