

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Analgin by H. K. Mulford of Philadelphia



Promoting themselves as “Factors of Reliable Tablets” in their advertisements, the Philadelphia pharmaceutical firm of H. K. Mulford compounded pain-relieving Analgin. Stacked in corked cylinders of glass (above), these five-grain compressed tablets were targeted at relieving migraine, neuralgia, and rheumatic pains. Marketed by 1896 as “a most reliable analgesic” that would “not depress the heart,” Analgin became surprisingly popular with the public. Perhaps people enjoyed the proprietary blending of “Acetanilid” with a salicylate and caffeine. Or maybe some customers appreciated the extract of hyoscyamus. Or did the quarter-grain of cannabis per tablet have something to do with Analgin’s success? (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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