

Wolcott's Instant Pain Annihilator . . . for Wartime Pain



During America's Civil War, New York City's Endicott and Company Lithographers produced this color lithograph featuring a patient (presumably a Northerner) plagued by painful "Southern" demons who had planted on his Union scalp a fanciful version of the Confederacy's "Stars and Bars." This advertisement for Wolcott's Instant Pain Annihilator promoted R. E. Wolcott's opium elixir as a panacea for wartime pain. Close inspection reveals a patient (*left*) assailed by ailments that Wolcott's remedy claimed it could "annihilate": the "Demons of Catarrh [on his nasal bridge], Neuralgia [on his cheek], Headache [on his right side of his crown], Weak Nerves [on his left side of his crown], and Toothache [on his beard]." (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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