

Contents

Morphine—the Gift of Morpheus	1
Opium Makes International Politics	13
Heroin	19
Synthetic Opioids	24
Dealers in white coats—How Oxycodone Makes America's Middle Class Addicted	32
Cocaine—from Drug to Local Anesthetic	37
The Path of Cocaine to Local Anesthetics	55
Aspirin®—the Most Used Drug in the History of Mankind®	71
The Invention and Worldwide Success of Aspirin®	89
Not Only the German Spirit Should be Healed by Aspirin®	92
On the Trail of the Mechanism of Action of Acetylsalicylic Acid	101
New Painkillers Follow Aspirin®	109
Paracetamol	110
Ibuprofen	114
Steroids and the Pill	119
Margaret Sanger—the Women's Rights Activist and Her Fight for the Contraceptive Pill	126
Margaret Sanger and Natural Product Chemistry	129

Female Sexual Hormones	132
The Path to the Contraceptive Pill	132
Adolf Windaus, the Lord of the Four Rings	140
The Birth of the Contraceptive Pill and its Midwives	150
About Black and Bright Heads	163
Does the Country Need New Men?	190
Male Sexual Hormones	191
The Discovery of Testosterone	194
Gossypol—the Pill for Men?	199
Glucocorticoids	201
Microorganisms in white coats	225
Cortisol as a Miracle Drug	230
Vitamin D? Then rather Cod Liver Oil!	232
Berlin Air and Light Against Rickets	235
Caffeine and Viagra	245
Caffeine, Theobromine, and Theophylline	245
About Chocolate Men in the Snow	247
Maté Tea—the Drink of the Gods	250
Coffee and Caffeine—a Popular Drug?	251
Caffeine and Theophylline—a Strong Coffee Against Asthma	255
Sildenafil—from Waterfalls and Hard Facts	260
Quinine	269
Kina Kina—the Miraculous Fever Tree	271
How Tonic Water and Gin Became Pretty Best Friends	274
Learning from Quinine does not Mean Learning to Win— the Lost Battle Against Malaria	287
The First Will Remain the Last	295
Coumarins—Rat Poison for the President	297
What the Hell—Blood, Blood, Damned Blood	299
Natural Substances as Starting Materials for Drug Synthesis	307
Of Sharks and Christmas Biscuits	307
Scopolamine—About Truths and Veracities	312
Scopolamine—from the Witch’s Kitchen to the Pharmaceutical Lab	314
Scopolamine—from Drug to Psychotherapy	319

Scopolamine in Therapeutic Systems	321
Tiotropium and How Nuclear Power Became Something Good	323
Podophyllotoxin—Medicinal Weed	327
From Rubber to Medical Latex	332
The Invention of the Disposable Glove	335
The Alternatives to Natural Rubber	340
From Parisians and Fromsers	342
Modern Drug Research	355
Leo Sternbach and the Benzodiazepines	360
Paul A.J. Janssen—the Self-made Pharma Entrepreneur	363
Fashionable Diseases and Lifestyle Drugs	367
The Birth of the Pharmaceutical Industry	369
The State Intervenes—Drug Approval	376
Of Rats, Mice, and Humans—Animal Testing in Drug Research	378
How Should We Deal With Animal Testing?	386
Oncomouse—Probably the Most Famous Mouse in Science	388
Is Man Just a Mouse Too?	395
Cell Cultures—the Immortality of Henrietta Lacks	398
The Chimpanzee as a Pharmacist—Even Animals Know What’s Good for Them	410
Healing Earth from Pharmaceutical Mining	413
Biopiracy—the Curse of Colonization	416
Kew Garden—the Marigote Bay of Biopirates?	417
The King of Biopirates	423
Biopiracy Today	424
Hoodia—the Thirst Quencher from the Desert	426
Healing Curry	426
The Potion of the Gods from the Home Garden	426
Umcka What? The Strange Story of a Geranium	427
Are Drugs Only Bad?	437
Amphetamines—Drug or Medicine for the Fidgety Phil?	443
Ephedrine	445
Adrenaline	459
Salbutamol	468
Mothers Little Helpers and Methylphenidate	469
LSD—Lucy in the Sky of Diamonds	479

xviii Contents

Cannabinoids	489
Cannabis for the Treatment of Epilepsy	492
Cannabis for the Treatment of Glaucoma	494
The Declaration of War on Cannabis	496
The Cannabis Moss of the Maori	501
Cannabis—a Bright Future?	502
 Healing Poisons	 505
From Bee Stings and Frog Poisons	507
The Viagra of the Renaissance	509
Ergot—From Plague to Mr. Hofmann’s Problem Child	513
Snakes—from Venom to Blood Pressure Reducer and the Birth of Computer Chemistry	524
Paclitaxel—an Academic Success Story	532
With Genetic Engineering for the Protection of Forests	538
Tetrodotoxin—a Devilish Delight for the Palate	540
 Glossary	 545
References	549