abortifacient Produces premature childbirth

abscesses Circumscribed collection of pus, in any part of the body, formed by the disintegration and stretching of the tissues, with accumulation of pus cells, usually due to infection by bacteria.

acaricide Kills acari (mites), esp. the sp. causing itch (ex. sulfur).

alexipharmic (used for) Expelling or counteracting poison; antidotal.

alternative Is presumed to alter (i.e., modify or affect) the course of a disease for the better; often by stimulating nutrition and repair and promoting the expulsion of waste matter; thus to improve morbid conditions by modifying metabolism inducing a gradual return to normal function; usually given over long periods in convalescence and in treating chronic diseases. (Cf. discurrit, resolvent). Ex.: organic (or plant): sarsaparilla, cod liver oil and other vitamin materials; inorganic (or mineral): mercury, $\text{As}_2\text{O}_3$, sulfur, iodides.

amenorrhoea Absence or suppression of the menstrual discharge from any cause other than pregnancy or the menopause.

amoebic dysentery (See dysentery) A disease attended with inflammation and often ulceration of the large intestine, and characterized by griping pains, constant desire to evacuate the bowels, and the discharge of mucus and blood. It is caused by pathogenic microorganisms in the intestinal canal. It may be acute or chronic, sporadic or epidemic. Amoebic, or tropical, dysentery is caused by amoebae (Entamoeba histolytica), and is usually ulcerative.

anaemia A condition in which the red corpuscles of the blood are reduced in number or deficient in haemoglobin. Pallor of the skin and mucous membranes, shortness of breath, and palpitation of the heart are prominent symptoms. Primary or idiopathic anaemia is called pernicious anaemia. Secondary anaemia results from loss of blood by hemorrhage, from internal destruction of red corpuscles as a result of poisons produced by disease, or from toxic interference with blood formation.

2. Physiol. Deficiency of blood supplied to any given organ; as, cerebral anaemia in fainting.
analgesic

Relieves or reduces perception of or sensitivity to pain by quieting (or depressing) nerve sensory centers, or by reducing conductivity of nerve fibers (without sensibly affecting other parts of body). Types: (a) general or systemic (e.g. morphine, codeine, acetylsalicylic acid, aspirin); (b) local (e.g. aconite; methyl salicylate; liniments).

anaphrodisiac

Allays (lessens) or depresses (reduces) sexual desire (appetite) or ability (function, activity); act by lessening excitability or depressing genital centers. Exs: cocaine, camphor, tobacco, belladonna, henbane, stramonium, bromides, opium, vegetable diet, purgation.

ancylostomiasis

Infestation with worms of Ancylostoma or closely allied genera, esp. A. duodenale or the tropical American species Necator americanus; specific, a severe anemia caused by the sucking of blood from the small intestine by large numbers of these parasites; called also hookworm disease, miner's anemia, brickmaker's anemia, Egyptian chlorosis, unciniarisis.

anesthetic

Numbs or paralyzes or destroys feeling or sensation temporarily, esp. of pain. Types: (a) general: affects whole system by bringing unconsciousness and (general) anesthesia (ex. CHCl₃, N₂O, Et₂O, EtBr); (b) local: acts on specific parts of system (paralysis of sensory nerves of local area) (ex. cocaine, extreme cold (through ether spray)). (c) spinal: actually form of local anesthesia, induced by injection into spinal subarachnoid space (ex. Nupercaine), (d) others: rectal and intravenous; used to induce general anesthesia; pre-operative; refrigeration; etc.

angina angina

(Not listed) Any inflammatory affection of the throat.

anidrotic

Checks (or prevents) or lessens (or reduces) sweating (or perspiration) (the opposite of diaphoretic). Exs: ergot, opium, belladonna, hyoscyamus, stramonium, zinc salts, tannum, acids locally; local cold (Cf. antihydrotic).

anodyne

Analgesic. (allays pain).

anorexia

Want of appetite, without a loathing of food.

anthelmintic

Provides remedy or cure for worms, usually in the alimentary tract; which destroys (vermicide) or expels (vermifuge) worms inhabiting the intestinal canal; also Cf. tenifuge, tenicide, etc.

For fauces, as quinsy or gout, esp. such as tends to produce spasmodic suffocative attacks.
2. *Anthrax.* (a) A carbuncle. (b) A malignant pustule, a characteristic lesion of the disease anthrax. (c) An infectious, and usually fatal, disease of animals, esp. cattle and sheep, and occasionally man, to whom it may be transmitted by inoculation. It is characterized by ulcerations of the skin, enlargement of the spleen, and general collapse, and is caused by *Bacillus* (syn. *Bacterium*) *anthracis*. Called also spleen fever, woolsorter's disease, milebrand, charbon, and, from its lesion, malignant pustule. (d) Blackleg; used with the qualifying word symptomatic. 3. The microorganism causing anthrax.

antibiotic

Combats variously bacteria, *Rickettsiae*, viruses, protozoa, etc., and is derived from the bodies of plants, particularly the fungi (ex. tetracycline).

antidote

Counteracts poison (by chemical, physiological, or physical means); ex., starch for iodine, tannic acid for digitalis (gives insol. tannate).

antifebrile

Antipyretic

antilithic

Prevents formation or aids in solution of calculi (stones of various ducts of body, esp. urinary and to lesser extent biliary concretions) (ex. water, Li and other metallic salts).

antiperiodic

Checks symptoms of periodic febrile disease; sometimes specific antimalarial; (ex., quinine in malaria).

antiphlogistic

Reduces or allays inflammation (swelling, redness, heat) esp. in bronchial area; term becoming obsolete (ex. cold locally, aconite, clay poultice).

antipruritic

Is used to relieve itching (ex. phenol).

antipyretic

Reduces febrile temperatures of body (ex. quinine, antipyrine, aconite, camphor, acetanilid).

antiseptic

Inhibits (or retards) or prevents the growth and reproduction or arrests the development of bacteria or other microorganisms causative of infection or other deleterious processes (ex. alcohol, KMnO₄). Types: digestive, intestinal, ophthalmic, oral, genital, urinary, etc.

aperient

Mild laxative, causing no irritation (ex. manna, sulfur).
aperitive  Is aperient; stimulates appetite.

aphrodisiac  Stimulates sex desire (appetite) or power (ability) (ex. cancharis, nux vomica, cannabis, blood; meat diet).

ascaricide  Destroys round worms.

ascarifuge  (Not listed)

ascites  The collection of serous fluid in the cavity of the abdomen; dropsy of the peritoneum.

asthma  A disease characterized by difficulty of breathing (due to a spasmodic contraction of the bronchi), recurring at intervals, accompanied with a wheezing sound, a sense of constriction in the chest, a cough, and expectoration. Commonly called bronchial asthma. Cf. cardiac asthma.

astringent  Contracts tissues and checks sacrations (as perspiration), allays inflammation, acts as styptic (stops capillary blood flow), stimulates epithelial growth locally, hardens tissues to form crust on surface, hence acts as antiseptic and protective (ex. tannic acid, alum, silver nitrate, ferric chloride, lead acetate, witch-hazel).