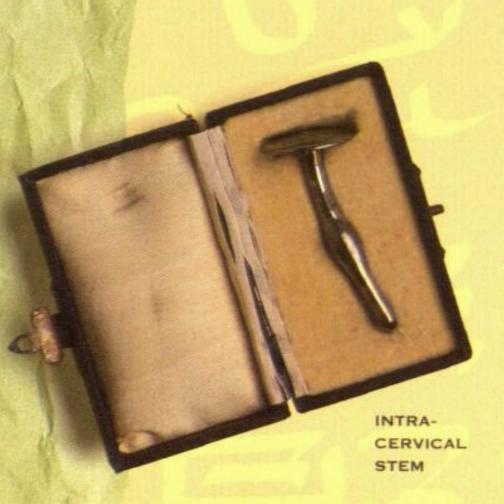
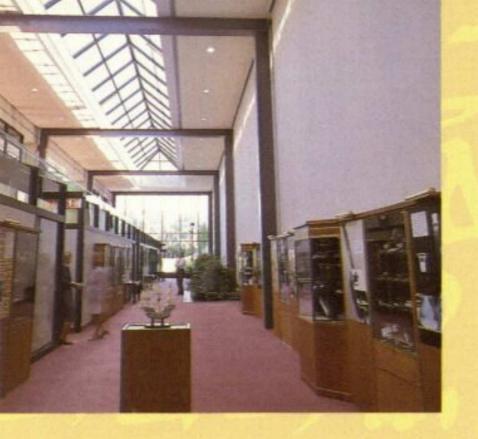


ORTHO-MCNEIL INC.
IN DON MILLS, ONTARIO
IS A COLLECTION
OF CONTRACEPTIVE
ARTIFACTS THAT
REPRESENTS THE
UNENDING QUEST
THROUGH THE AGES
FOR THE PREVENTION OF
UNWANTED PREGNANCY.





THE MUSEUM IS ALSO A TRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF PERCY SKUY, PRESIDENT OF ORTHO-MCNEIL INC., WHO FIRST BEGAN THE TEACHERS AND PAINSTAKING SEARCH FOR HISTORICAL CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES BACK IN 1966. SINCE THEN, THROUGH THE HISTORY OF INTENSIVE SEARCH AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A FASCINATING INSIGHT AROUND THE WORLD, THE COLLECTION HAS GROWN TO BECOME

THE LARGEST

RETROSPECTION ON CONTRACEPTION EVER ASSEMBLED.

FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, RESEARCHERS -IN FACT, ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH AN INTEREST IN CONTRACEPTION -THE MUSEUM PROVIDES INTO HUMAN INVENTIVENESS AND PROGRESS.

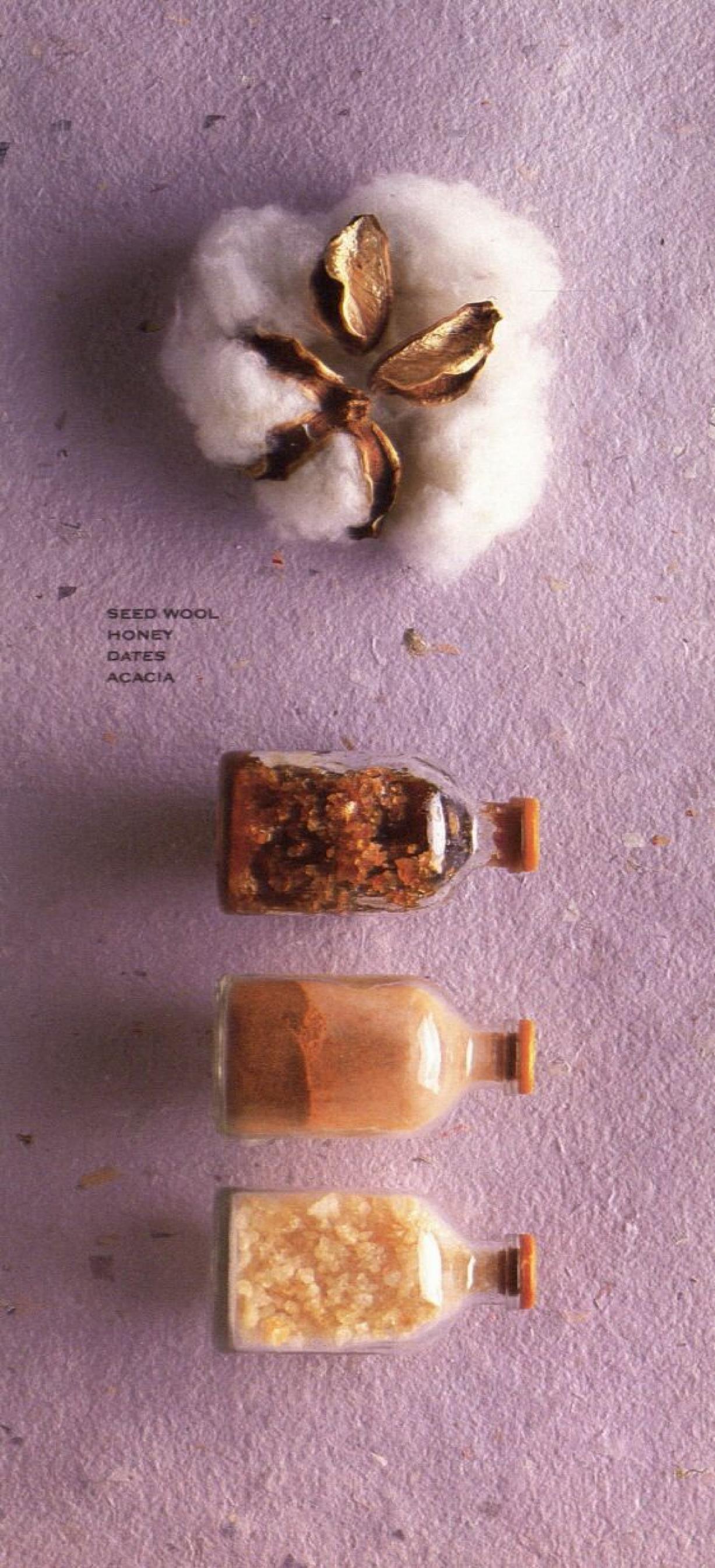
he history of contraception can be traced back thousands of years. The first mention of contraception – coitus interruptus – can be found in the Bible, in the book of Genesis, Chapter 38:9.

What is probably the first-ever written prescription for a contraceptive tampon can be found in the Ebers Papyrus, a compendium of medical practices written in 1550 B.C. The prescribed contraceptive was a medicated lint tampon designed "to cause that a woman should cease to conceive for 1 year, 2 years or 3 years. Acacia and dates are ground fine with a hin* of honey, seed wool is moistened therewith and placed in her vulva". Despite the primitiveness of the method, there is an element of fact in it: for it is known that acacia ferments into lactic acid, a substance still recognized as a spermicide today.

*an ancient measurement

AND ONAN KNEW THAT THE SEED

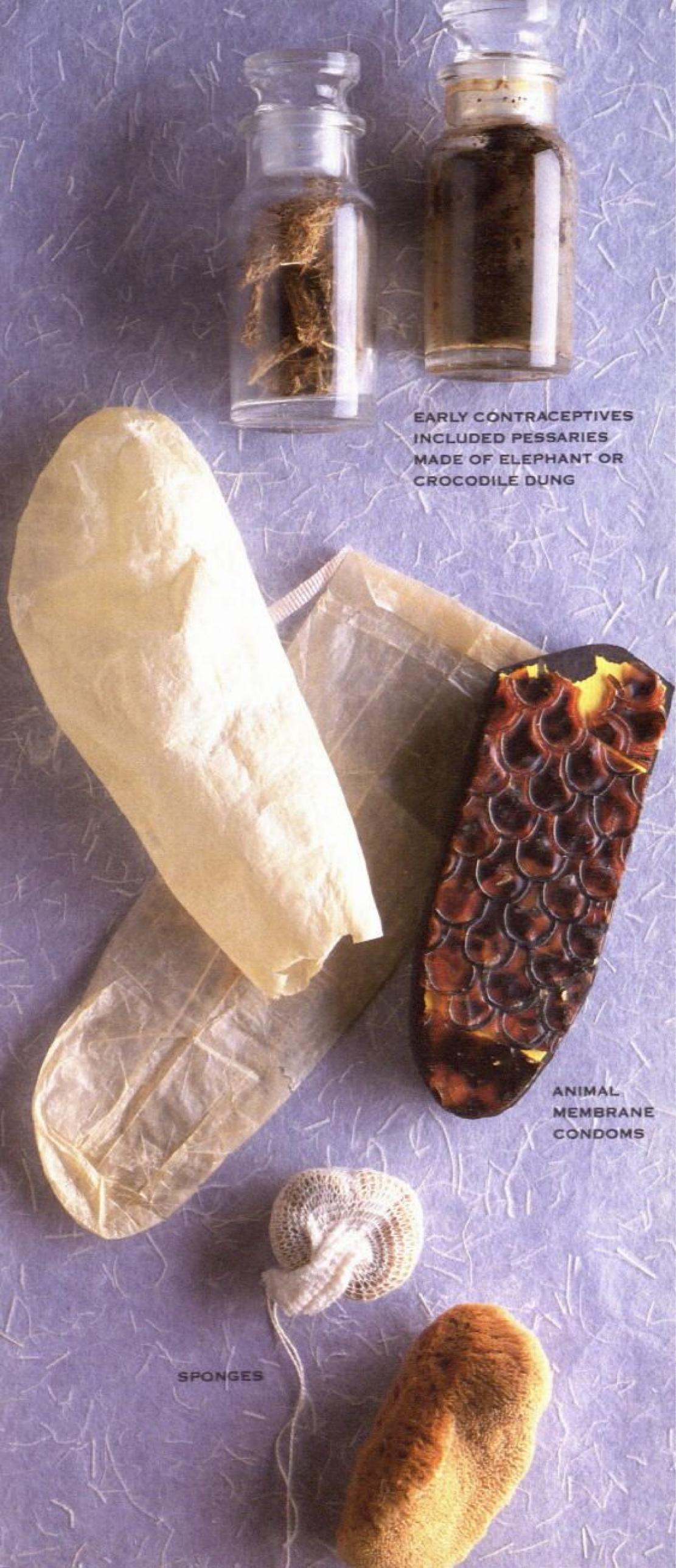
SHOULD NOT BE HIS; AND IT CAME
TO PASS, WHEN HE WENT IN UNTO
TO PASS, WHEN HE WENT IN UNTO
HIS BROTHER'S WIFE, THAT HE
HIS BROTHER SHOULD GIVE SEED TO
THAT HE SHOULD GIVE SEED
HIS BROTHER.
BOOK OF GENESIS, 38:9



uring the second century, vaginal plugs, tampons and suppositories were used in a bid to prevent pregnancy. These were often composed of such gummy agents as honey (which acted as a barrier), cedar gum and oils - as well as more bizarre matter like the dung of crocodiles and elephants. The latter was mixed with sodium carbonate which was believed to act as a spermicide. Other spermicides commonly used with sponges included lemon juice, vinegar or a soap solution. And in the Talmud (about 200 A.D.), the Hebrews wrote of "spongy substances" used by women as tampons to prevent sperm from entering the womb.

Condoms were originally used to protect against disease - a practice that has assumed an even greater importance today. Early Egyptian men wore "penis protectors" made from animal membranes, more often as a symbol of status or rank than for its more practical purposes alone. By the 18th century, condoms had taken on a new role: the prevention of pregnancy. The word "condom" is said to have originated from a Dr. Condom (or Conton), a physician who is purported to have invented the condom for King Charles II (1600-1685).

Since then, the condom (male and female) has evolved alongside our own progress through the ages: from rubber to latex to modern-day polymers.



he cervical cap has a history that embraces the rakish escapades of Casanova in the mid-1700's. He advocated the use of half a lemon, from which the juice had been extracted, as a cervical cap to be fitted over the cervix. By the end of the 19th century, cervical caps were being produced in a variety of shapes, sizes and materials such as metal, rubber and later, plastic. One of the more bizarre barrier items was the Block Pessary - a square block with concave sides that was inserted into the vagina with the expectation that one of the concave surfaces would fit over the cervix. It was quite aptly described in 1931 as "an instrument of torture."

The wishbone intra-cervical device and stem plugs of the early 1900's were the precursors of the intrauterine device concept. Some wishbones were fashioned from 10 kt and 14 kt gold and stem plugs were sometimes sutured to the uterine wall to prevent expulsion. It is hardly surprising that infection, cervical erosion and other complications frequently followed.

The intrauterine device (I.U.D.) has a long history that dates back 3,000 years when, according to popular legend, smooth pebbles were inserted into the uterus of camels to prevent them from becoming pregnant during long desert crossings. The first contemporary report on the use of I.U.D.s was written during the early 1900's and, since then, the intrauterine device has grown to encompass an ever-evolving range of designs, from butterflies to bows, rings, loops, T's and many, many more.

THIS INSTRUMENT FOR MEASURING THE UTERINE CAVITY WAS DEVISED BY A PRISONER OF WAR IN INDONESIA - USING PARTS FROM DOWNED AIRPLANES INTRA-CERVICAL WISHBONE I.U.D.S 1000

hen one thinks of oral contraception today, it is the pill that comes to mind. But throughout history, women have orally consumed an unorthodox array of potions and toxic substances in their efforts to prevent pregnancy. Over 4,000 years ago, women in China drank mercury to combat fertility, while 400 years ago, women in India swallowed carrot seeds as a post-coital contraceptive. Here in the New World, dried beaver testicle was brewed in a strong alcoholic solution and drunk by women in the backwoods of northern New Brunswick. In the more recent 1930's, the Barbasco Root was discovered in Mexico - and with it, a steroid used in the manufacture of the oral contraceptive pill.

With such an inventive history behind us, it is easy to see how today's more common contraceptive methods have evolved. But the history wouldn't be complete without mention of the diaphragm; douching with a variety of solutions; spermicidal gels, suppositories, film and foaming tablets; and of course the most natural of all contraceptives, the Rhythm Method.

MERCURY AND CARROT SEEDS



he perfect contraceptive still remains elusive. Today's researchers are continually exploring new methods, fortunately with more skill and knowledge than was shown by our ancestors. Among the more advanced of these are long-acting skin implants, nasal sprays, vasectomy plugs, male and female injectables, patches and the male oral. And who knows? Perhaps by the time the "perfect contraceptive" is found, people will then look upon the methods we find acceptable today with equal curiosity - and awe. VAGINAL RINGS



he Public Affairs Department at Ortho-McNeil welcomes any enquiries from parties interested in the museum.

The artifacts are on display at:
Ortho-McNeil Inc., 19 Green Belt Drive,
Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 1L9
and can be viewed by appointment
with the Museum Curator, at
(416) 449-9444.

Donated artifacts form a large part of the Contraception Museum and such contributions are acknowledged alongside their display. We greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who may have an artifact to contribute and thank the following for their generous donations.

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