

Re: Bromo caffeine: Could CAFFEINE soothe one's nerves?

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.med/2007-09/msg00110.html>

- *From:* "ddnoe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx" <ddnoe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 24 Sep 2007 17:03:46 -0700
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On Sep 23, 3:36 pm, b...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

In article <1190556695.711550.203...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,

dd...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx <dd...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

In the aftermath of the murders of Abby and Andrew Borden, Dr. Seabury Bowen gave Lizzie Borden bromo caffeine in order to calm her down. Regardless of whether she did it or not, Dr. Bowen testified that she appeared greatly distressed.

Caffeine is a stimulant. How could something with caffeine be expected to CALM someone?

Thanks to anyone who helps.

Bromides are sedatives, and were widely used before more modern drugs became available. "Bromo caffeine" might have been a mixture containing both bromides and caffeine. Possible the caffeine was in there to prevent dangerous overdoses, or to elevate mood. Or this may have been one of the patent medicines of the time with undisclosed ingredients far more powerful than indicated by the name, very common in those unregulated days. A lot of them contained opiates, strychnine, cocaine or remarkable amounts of alcohol.

(Denise) Thank you for your answer. May I quote you for publication? If so, how should I identify you? I need both a name — although that can be truncated or pseudonymous — and an occupation.