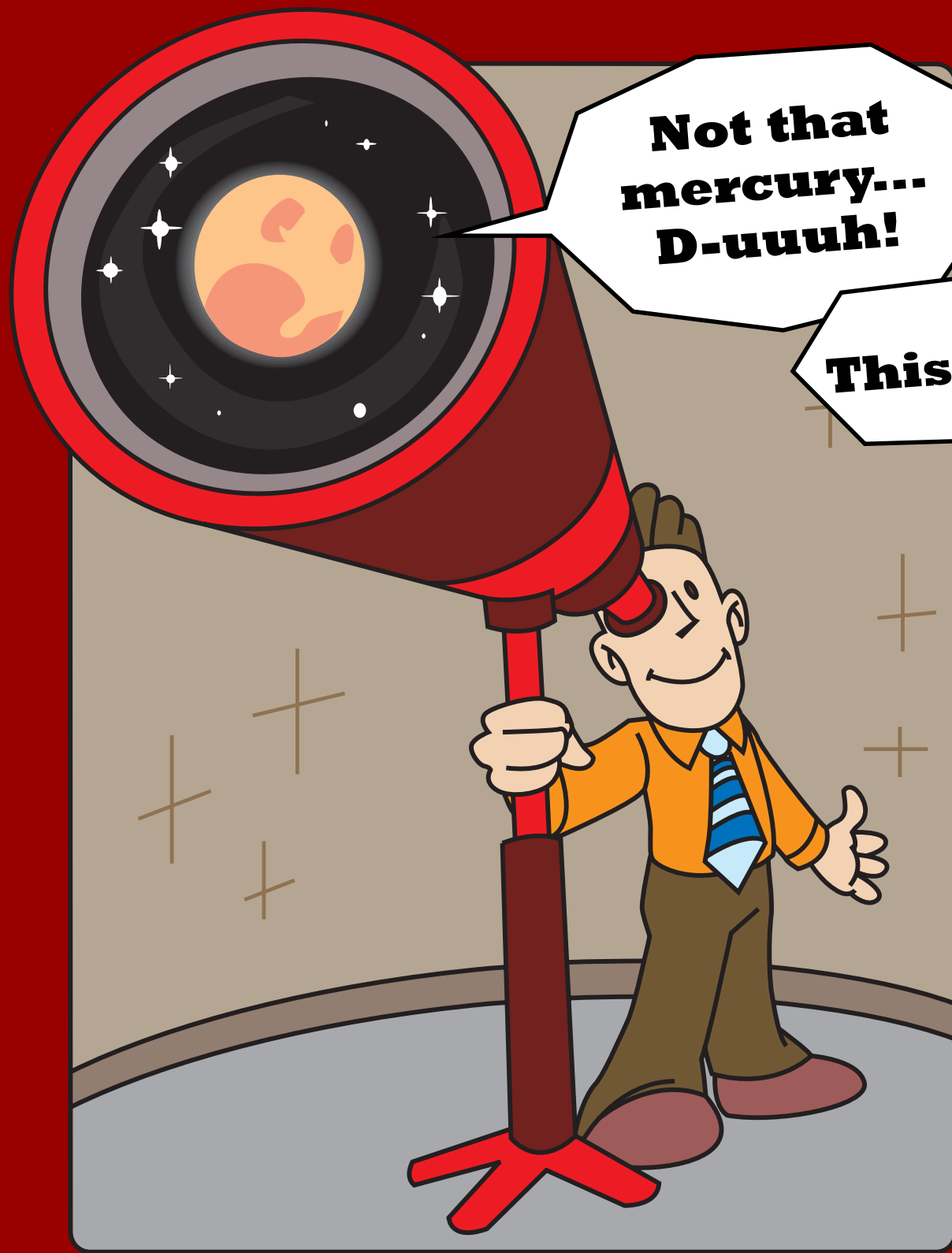


# Mercury maims



## Playing with mercury just isn't cool!

Mercury is a very dangerous chemical, and affects the brain and nervous system in any number of ways.



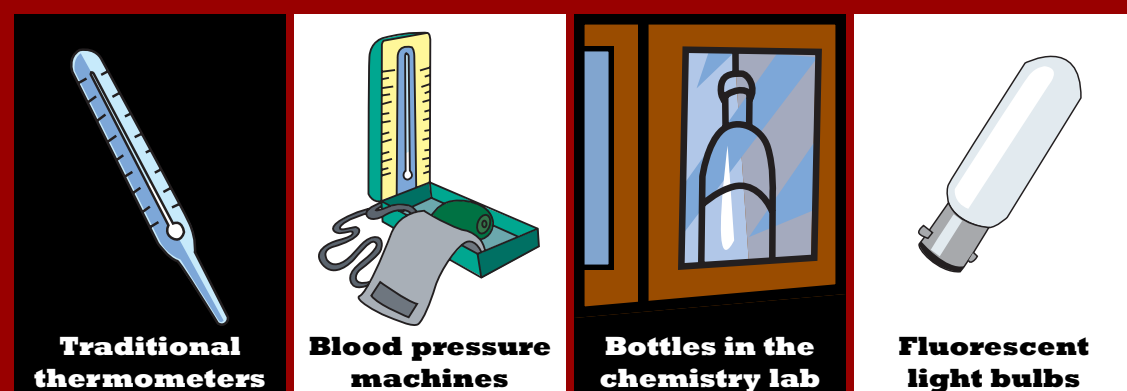
We call someone 'mad as a hatter' because people who made hats in Victorian England often developed nervous disorders as a result of exposure to mercury, which they used to soften felt for hat linings.

1 gm (a thermometer contains 0.6 gm) of mercury can pollute a 20-acre lake so that the fish is unfit for eating. This picture shows a mother in Minamata, Japan, bathing her son, who is severely mentally challenged as a result of mercury poisoning.



You just need to put a touch of mercury on your palm, and it can cross the skin barrier and enter the blood, and through the blood affect the brain.

### Common objects containing mercury



All of these (except for fluorescent light bulbs, which need to be properly recycled) have cost-effective alternatives.

#### Here's what you can do:

- ▲ Replace mercury-containing products with safer, non-mercury alternatives.
- ▲ Don't throw fluorescent bulbs and old electronic switches in household trash.
- ▲ Petition authorities to start recycling these.

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