

Chemist's: video B

The chemist's is an institution in France.

Here in Lyons, Bénédicte Tassart can work miracles for you and answer all your questions.

Nathalie: "So what do people come to see you for?"

Bénédicte: "What for? For all types of pain. So either they come in to pick up a prescription, or they come to ask advice, or they come to discuss lots of different and varied problems which sometimes... sometimes have nothing to do with the chemist. But it doesn't matter, we are here for that as well."

Nathalie: "Do young people come in to see you? And what for?"

Bénédicte: "They come in a lot to talk to us because they don't feel able to discuss it with other people, with their parents or their teachers. And they'll come and ask for a little advice on er... pills... or protection related to what they are doing, condoms, using them, how to and why?"

Nathalie: "France is famous for one very special thing, the suppository!"

Bénédicte: "No joke! And yet the French hate that way [of taking things]. It's surprising! Whenever I recommend a suppository for a sore throat, they pull a terrible face at me! Although it is the best way to deal with a sore throat."

Nathalie: "Do you have a funny story to tell us?"

Bénédicte: "An elderly grandfather goes one day to the chemist's, a country chemist's, and asks for a stethoscope, so why a stethoscope? Well, he admitted that he'd lost the code of his safe and the only way he could get the code back was by buying a stethoscope. It was surprising because it was a pretty unusual request for a chemist!"