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THE REALITY OF MEDICAL PRACTICE: PLURALISM IN HEALTH CARE IN THE HISPANIC MONARCHY (16th-18th Centuries)
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The personality and works of the <i>converso</i> physician Francisco López de Villalobos (c.1473-c.1549) have been widely studied, ever since the late 19th century, when Antonio María Fabié published his classic work on this figure, which is still the point of departure for any new approach. However, most subsequent works have only focused upon some aspects of Villalobos' protean figure. The article is intended to explore Villalobos' Latin and Castilian letters in order to better understand the significance and motivations of this professional courier at the different noble courts (mainly that of Alba) and royal Castilian courts (of Ferdinand the Catholic and Charles V) in which he served during the first half of the 16th century. In each of these settings, his professional path took on particular features according to his variable expectations and to the degree of satisfaction he achieved.	

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The nucleus of this work is the wide spectrum of means available to the inhabitants of the city of Alicante in the 18th century to fight against disease. Alongside healthcare professionals properly trained as physicians, surgeons, barbers or midwives, there were both other healers of heterogeneous types and religious resources. The study considers, in a comprehensive and articulated way, the whole repertoire of therapeutic and healthcare alternatives provided to the inhabitants of Alicante. The interpretation of the results is	

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Abstract

The Royal Council of Extremadura was established by Carlos IV on 30 May 1790. Within a few months, its officials undertook a visit of the whole territory. They drew up a questionnaire with 57 items that allowed them to collect specific information of interest to the court. Through the information gathered from the responses of the different communities, we have studied the distribution of the doctors and surgeons practising there. This analysis allowed us to confirm the many different health and health care conditions in the region, and the determining demographic, social and economic factors that were, in the final instance, decisive for the presence of these professionals.

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Abstract

In order to ensure continuous health care for the population, Town Councils of the rural areas of Aragon offered contracts to health professionals. The contract was known as a «conducta médica» or «conducción». In this study, we review the legislation of the time, the types of contracts and the procedures followed, in addition to the fees and duties of the health professionals (*conducidos*) hired. Finally, the problems arising from this system are considered and some relevant sources are given.

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In recent decades, we have seen how members of the illiterate, popular classes gained access to specific contents of elite culture by means of oral expression collected through texts. This development may be related to the target readership of medical texts published in Spain during the 16th and 17th centuries. The study also analyses how information about preventive measures in health care was passed on through medical books from professionals to lay-people. This represents one of the key methods used by medical practice in the modern world.

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to show that the writings of 16th century Spanish surgeons-doctors contain considerable information about everyday surgical practice. These usually neglected data may bring us to a better understanding of the development of this aspect of medical practice. Surgical writings analysed here are by Daza Chacon, Juan Fragoso, Juan Calvo, and Pedro Arias de Benavides.

Medical consultation. A medical practice in the 18th century

PILAR LEÓN

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Abstract

This paper outlines a typology of medical consultation in the 18th century, with emphasis on those carried out with the physicians present. This practice did not differ from that of previous centuries. Medical consultation, as a specifically structured procedure, served as an instrument to define the hierarchy of those present. This reflected the professional instability of the medical practice in 18th century Spain. The sources for this study include chronicles by physicians of the period that describe the consultation sessions among doctors, gathered in what they called «Juntas», as well as written consultations.

Consultations and «juntas» of physicians as an arena for doctrinal discussions in the *Novator* movement (1687-1717)

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1.—Introduction. 2.—The consultations. 3.—Physicians' meetings (*juntas*).

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The consultations (*consultas*) and meetings (*juntas*) of physicians represented an area of prime importance for both medical practice and doctrinal discussions. The analysis of manuscript sources —the private correspondence of a doctor— rarely used in this period, reveals the reality of medical practice more accurately than do doctrinal or normative texts. The difference between «consultas» and «juntas» depended on the person who took the initiative. «Consultas» arose from the practical difficulty of the physician confronted with a case which he decided to submit to the judgement of other colleagues, whose experience and prestige were greater. On the other hand the «juntas» were the initiative of the patient. In this latter case there were many different factors: institutional conflicts, professional expectations and rivalries. Nevertheless, the opinions of the patients and their circle of acquaintances were also represented. Finally, this was the arena for doctrinal discussions about the human body and disease.

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In this work, the author presents, following a chronologic sequence, some

aspects of Llull's image that became controversial during the 16th century, especially the discussion about the idea of Llull as alchemist, which developed around the 16th century. To this end, the author analyses the origin and development of the polemic since the 14th century, including the «official» positions. At the same time, the two positions (Llull the alchemist and Llull the philosopher) are related to similar occurrences outside the Iberian Peninsular, especially in France and Italy.

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ANA MARÍA CARRILLO

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Abstract

This article analyses the struggles of 19th century Mexican physicians to gain professional autonomy versus the state. Medical practitioners sought to resist the imposition of a series of state measures, including directives to attend all patients and provide free care to the poor, forced adherence to political ideologies, state control of medical education, penal action in cases of professional liability, violation of medical confidentiality, and challenges to professional freedom. The article shows the reach of political power over medical practice in the 19th century, and explains the range and limits of the power of the medical profession.

Boltzmann's principle and Einstein's first quantum theories

LUIS NAVARRO VEGUILLAS & ENRIC PÉREZ CANALS

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Abstract

The crucial role played by statistical mechanics in Einstein's work on quantum theory has been repeatedly stressed. Nevertheless, in this paper we argue that Einstein's attitude to Boltzmann's principle was more complex than is usually understood. In fact, there are significant differences and nuances that in our opinion have yet to be sufficiently considered, in the various interpretations and uses Einstein made of this principle in his work on quantum theory, more specifically between 1905 and the First Solvay Conference, in 1911.

DOCUMENTS

On the neurophysiological research of the Catalan histological school:
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ALFREDO RODRÍGUEZ QUIROGA

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1.—Introduction. 2.—From neurohistology to neurophysiology: the work of
Rafael Lorente de Nò. 3.—The correspondence between Santiago Ramón
y Cajal and Rafael Lorente de Nò (1930-1934). Documents.

Abstract

Rafael Lorente de Nò was the last disciple of Santiago Ramón y Cajal. He initiated, together with Fernando de Castro, the physiological orientation of Cajal's histological school. His development as a researcher reveals the difficulties that Cajal's disciples had to face in order to progress from neurohistological to neurophysiological research. The correspondence between Ramón y Cajal and Lorente de Nò during this period (1930-1934), published here, clearly shows these problems. We also attempt to diminish the important gap in Spanish historical-medical research represented by the letters of Ramón y Cajal.

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On an unknown edition of the *Reprobación de supersticiones* by the master
Pedro Ciruelo

VERÓNICA MATEO RIPOLL

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4.3.— Sorting out with the printing materials. 5.—By way of conclusion.

Abstract

The aim of the article is the analysis and description of one of the editions of the well-known *Reprobación de supersticiones* by the master Pedro Ciruelo. To be exact, it is the first edition, as we will demonstrate through the text, which was undiscovered until now. We proceed to the description of a copy kept at the library of the Diocesan Seminary of San Miguel de Orihuela. In addition to the more formal aspects, the evolution and development of the author, printer and engraver are extremely important for dating this printed work.

Medical practice in the Castilian rural setting. The *Memorial* (Account)
by Vicente Crespo (1785)

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Abstract

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IN MEMORIAM**LUIS GARCÍA BALLESTER (1936-2000) (Continued)**

Luis García Ballester: Personal recollections

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Luis García Ballester, Professor in Granada: a personal memory

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THREE GENERATIONS OF HISTORIANS OF MEDICINE ON PEDRO LAÍN ENTRALGO (1908-2001), THE MAN AND HIS WORK

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