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Abstract

The aim of this study is the reconstruction of the dietary habits of a prehistoric population through dental characteristics and comparison of archaeological data. For this purpose, we analyzed the prevalence of pathologies in the teeth and jaws of a minimum of 112 individuals, from the necropolis S'Illot des Porros (Santa Margarida, Majorca, Spain). The human remains which were studied are from burials belonging to an advanced phase of Majorca Talayotic culture (VI-II BC). The results from infants show a low frequency of pathologies and a balanced diet. In adult individuals, we found a low frequency of caries and enamel hypoplasia, high frequency of calculus and bone loss, possibly caused by periodontal disease, and slightly pronounced wear. These results suggest a protein rich diet of low sugar content, in which no nutritive or pathological stresses are evident.

- Arnau of Vilanova and Islamic Thought (*Spanish*)
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Abstract

The influence of Arab thought in the work of this Valencian writer is investigated. In this analysis, the general outlines of the relationship between ideology and science in the 13th and 14th centuries are expounded, offering the reader various

cultural references. The philosophy and scientific elements in Arnau's work, a tortured and insecure character, reveal along with scientific tradition, certain esoteric and hermetic beliefs that are part of the historical moment we studied. Arnau of Vilanova belongs to a class of ecstatic prophets which represented the most ancient image of the sage. Like the Sufi, this writer considered himself the guardian of revealed tradition against the forces that threatened Christianity in the 13th century, and that were the doctrine of pagan philosophy: mainly Latin averroism. In defence of his beliefs he employs syncretic methods and contradictory attitudes. All these characteristics lend great interest to his medical and religious essays.

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Abstract

We analyze the most interesting features of the evolution of commercial arithmetic in the Kingdom of Aragon during the 16th Century: 1.—The second arithmetic textbook printed in world was written by a Catalanian, nevertheless its influence on Spanish arithmeticians was minimized by the enormous success of Pacioli's *Summa*. 2.—All the three prevailing mathematical trends of the period were represented. 3.—Some of the most relevant Spanish arithmetics books were printed in the Kingdom of Aragon. 4.—The first Spanish handbook of algebra was printed in Valencia and the first treatise on bookkeeping was printed in Barcelona. 5.—Positional numeration was widely accepted. 6.—Exercises included in the books shed light on the commercial activity in this period.

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Abstract

During the middle of the 18th century the Almadén quicksilver mines, owned by the Spanish Crown, tried to achieve higher mercury production levels in order to supply American silver mines. The most important handicap for this purpose was the shortage of man-power mainly due to the unhealthy working conditions. Thus, the governors of the Mines developed a wide range of measures, including medical care for miners. A Royal Hospital for workers and their families was founded in 1752. The Hospital opened its doors in 1774, and underwent a period of expansion between the years 1780-1809. Ample economic resources were provided to allow the Royal Hospital to increase its capacity to provide health care, thus fulfilling to a greater extent its original aims.

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Abstract

In the first part of this article we show how the different values influenced the conception of onanism as a disease, a viewpoint which first appeared in the medical world with the publication in 1760 of the work of S.A. Tissot (1728-1797) entitled *L'Onanisme. Dissertation sur les maladies de la masturbation*. The appearance of this nosologic entity was helped by Christian morality which had permitted a normative environment to arise against masturbation. From this milieu, other sociopolitical and cultural values brought forth by the Enlightenment caused masturbation to be seen as a disease. In the second part we trace, through the difficulties that Tissot had in getting his work published in Spanish, the opposition from the medical authorities of Spain during the Enlightenment who refused to consider onanism as a disease.

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Profiles of the protagonists. 4.2.—The institutional framework of the controversy. 4.3.—Installation of the Departments of Histology and Physiology. 4.4.—Analysis of the form and content of the controversy.

Abstract

This article analyzes the relative professional and educational backwardness in the field of medicine in the city of Seville during the first 15 years of activity of the Escuela Libre de Medicina y Cirugía, founded under the sponsorship of Federico Rubio (1827-1902). Three different periods are considered: the criticism of Philip Hauser (1832-1925), whose rigorous training contrasted with habitual practices among the Sevillian medical profession; the novelty, as it was then realized, of the professional and publishing activities of Leopoldo Murga Machado (c. 1861-1923), who introduced «laboratory medicine» in Seville in 1883, and the deficient material content of the basic courses at the School, as illustrated by the dispute between Rafael Ariza Espejo (1826-1887), Professor of Histology, and José Moreno Fernández (1823-1899), Professor of Physiology.

Anthropological References in Contemporary Spanish Medical Historiography (Spanish)

EMILIO BALAGUER; ROSA BALLESTER; JOSEP BERNABEU; ENRIQUE PERDIGUERO

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Summary

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Abstract

Contact between the history of medicine and the social sciences, specifically sociocultural anthropology, broadens our appreciation of certain aspects of our medical past. In particular, it increases our understanding of how the general public experienced sickness, of the systems of beliefs, images and symbols involved, and of what decisions were made in response to illness. Healing activities undertaken by laymen also raise the question of how academic and folk medicine were related, an issue which in turn leads to questions surrounding their mutual influence, and the role of the medical literature aimed at laymen in this relationship. Within a wide selection of anthropological references, we concentrated on contemporary Spanish folk sources, with a commentary on their usefulness in history of medicine.

Josep Pascual i Prats (1854-1931) and *Index Medicus Hispanus* (1904-1906): A Spanish Contribution within the Early Stages of Information Science (Spanish)

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Abstract

The *Index Medicus Hispanus* (1904-1906) was probably the first Spanish compilation of current medical publications. It was published thanks to the efforts of Josep Pascual i Prats (1854-1931), who prepared the compendium in accordance with the most exacting international rules in existence at that time. Due to the weak response of members of the medical profession, publication of the *Index* was suspended in 1906. Thirteen years later, in collaboration with Gregorio Marañón and Augusto Pi i Suñer, Josep Pascual i Prats attempted to revive the collection but the same reason which led to failure in 1906 once again forced him to cancel publication.

Juan Negrín (1892-1956) and Experimental Research in the Physiology Laboratory of the *Junta para Ampliacion de Estudios (Spanish)*

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Summary

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Abstract

In the framework of the institutional growth of Spanish science during the first three decades of the present century, due to the activities of the *Junta para Ampliación de Estudios* (J.A.E.), biomedical experimental research held a favored position due to the foundation of new laboratories for normal and pathological histology, microscopical anatomy, serology and bacteriology. These institutes, in addition to the Cajal Institute, enjoyed considerable international repute. The Laboratory of General Physiology, founded in 1916 and directed by Juan Negrín López, promoted research in experimental physiology through a wide network of contacts with European and American institutions. Negrin was the leader of a scientific group that worked in collaboration with the best universities in the world. The present article analyzes the activities of the Laboratory of General Physiology, and the scientific training and work of Juan Negrín.

The Children's Tuberculosis Prevention Center in Almería, 1945-1965
(Spanish)

PORFIRIO MARÍN MARTÍNEZ

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Abstract

In this article we analyze the organization of the fight against tuberculosis after the Spanish Civil War, through the life of the Children's Tuberculosis Prevention Center in Almería, from 1945 to 1965. The high prevalence of tuberculosis after the war required large-scale administrative intervention, based on previous practices still in effect; however, the project was hampered by lack of funding. The campaign was highlighted by institutions such as the Center, which received patients from all over the country. Boys and girls at risk lived together for varying periods, and there were numerous camps, specially for children from Madrid and Cordova. The scarcity of funds meant that only a small fraction of the pediatric population susceptible to tuberculosis were to enjoy the possible benefits of the Center. Everyday life at the Center could be reconstructed from the testimonies of some of its former employees, and from abundant administrative documents.

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This preliminary study examines the complex process of acceptance and rejection smallpox vaccination in Spain, with emphasis on the inception of vaccination rooms in hospitals as stipulated by the royal decree of April 21, 1805. The cities of Seville and Barcelona were used as micromodels. According to documents in the city archives, very few people went to be vaccinated at these rooms. Vaccinations none the less continued to take place outside the hospital setting, due to the public's distaste toward hospital care during the Ancien Régime.

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