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Contents

HISTORY OF DISEASE
NEW TOPICS AND APPROACHES
(Edited by Jon Arrizabalaga)

Introduction (<i>Spanish</i>) JON ARRIZABALAGA.....	17
Transforming plague: The laboratory and the identity of infectious disease (<i>Spanish</i>) ANDREW CUNNINGHAM.....	27

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Identifying diseases. 3.—The old plague. 4.—Transforming plague. 5.—The plague transformend.

Abstract

Infectious disease can be, and are, identified in many ways: by clinical presentation (signs, symptoms, postmortems), by epidemiological criteria (mode and nature of spread), by laboratory techniques which isolate the causal agent. I claim here that the practice of identifying infectious diseases by using the laboratory and laboratory procedures gives to those diseases identities which are different from the identities that they have by using other procedures. The laboratory gives infectious disease identities in which the *causal agent* is the essential and fundamental part. Historically, therefore, when the «causal agent» of each infectious disease was discovered by using laboratory techniques, the identity of that disease was transformed. I show how this happened in the case of plague, when it was given its laboratory identity in Hong Kong in 1894 by Kitasato and Yersin. I also argue that because of this transformation of the identity of infectious diseases by the laboratory, it is not possible for historians of medicine to equate pre-lab plague and modern plague, or to assume that the identity of post-lab plague can be applied to pre-lab plague.

The Black Death of 1348: The Origins of the Construction of a Social Calamity as a Disease-entity (*Spanish*)

JON ARRIZABALAGA.....

73

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—The true name and nature of a new calamity. 3.—Causes of the Black Death. 3.1.—The Black Death, God's punishment? 3.2.—Natural causes: celestial and terrestrial. 3.3.—Artificial causes. 4.—The immediate cause and spread of the plague. 5.—Signs of the plague. 6.—Effects. 7.—Conclusions

Abstract

This article explores how Latin Mediterranean university practitioners perceived the so-called Black Death of 1348, and to what extent the construction of this social calamity as a disease-entity then began. For this purpose six of the most relevant medical works on the plague, written at the time of this epidemic, were studied: Jacme d'Agramont, Gentile da Foligno, Giovanni da Penna, Alfonso de Córdoba, an anonymous «practitioner of Montpellier», and the College of Masters of the Medical Faculty of Paris.

The *mal de siment* in 16th century Valencia: Images of the *morbo gallico* in a Mediterranean European City. (*Spanish*)

MARÍA LUZ LÓPEZ TERRADA.....

119

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—The earliest reports of the presence of the *mal de siment* in the city of Valencia. 3.—Incorporation by society. 4.—*Mal de siment* as a public health problem.

Abstract

This article examines the view of Valencian society at the end of the 15th century, and during the 16th, of the *morbo gallico* or *mal de siment*. The first reports of the existence of the disease, and of its incorporation in society, are analyzed on the basis of the knowledge of different medical and nonmedical sectors, hospitalization and treatment of a steadily rising number of patients. Finally, the way in which *mal de siment* became a public health problem at the end of the 16th century, through the measures taken by city authorities to halt the spread of the disease, is analyzed.

A Medical Testimony of the Living and Working Conditions of the Almaden Miners During the Second Half of the 18th century: Prologue to José Parés y Franqués's *Morbific Catastrophe of the Quicksilver Mines of the Village of Almaden (1778)* (*Spanish*)

ALFREDO MENÉNDEZ NAVARRO

147

Summary

1.—Medical testimonies of occupational health in historiography. 2.—Biographical note on José Parés y Franqués (+1798). 3.—Parés y Franqués's trilogy on the Almaden Mines (1772-1785). 4.—Prologue to *Catástrofe morboso de las Minas Mercuriales de la Villa de Almadén del Azogue*. 5.—Appendix: Annotated trans-

cription of the prologue to *Catástrofe morboso de las Minas Mercuriales de la Villa de Almadén del Azogue*.

Abstract

Since ancient times, mercury mining and its associated health problems have received considerable attention from health workers. The marked harmfulness of the process of obtaining quicksilver, and economic importance this metal has attained since the second half of the 16th century, account for this attention. We present the testimony of one of the most highly qualified observers of the actual conditions in the Almaden Mines —which had the world's highest output of mercury— during the second half of the 18th century: Doctor José Parés y Franqués. His extended activity as a health care provider to Almaden miners gave him a close-up view of the occupational risks of mine work, and the diseases caused by mercury. This knowledge took shape in his unpublished work, *Catástrofe morboso*, the prologue of which is reproduced in this article.

On the *Mal de la Rosa* and the *Enfermedad de la Miseria*: The Social Etiology of Pellagra in 18th and 19th century Asturian Medical Reports. (*Spanish*)
DELFIN GARCÍA GUERRA; VÍCTOR ÁLVAREZ ANTUÑA 197

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Social etiology of pellagra. 2.1.—Pellagra and diet. 2.2.—The role of poverty. 2.3.—The hereditary factor. 3.—The fight against pellagra and social medicine. 3.1.—The institutional position. 3.2.—Pellagra and social medicine.

Abstract

Taking Gaspar Casal's description of *mal de la rosa* as a starting point, this article examines different contributions by Asturian doctors who, during the 19th century, concerned themselves with the origins of pellagra, particularly those aspects which classify it as a social disease. Attempts to eradicate pellagra gave rise to two types of responses: against those who believed in hereditary transmission and advocated eugenic measures, there arose a group that considered the disease a *mal de la miseria*, the elimination of which would require improved living conditions for the rural population.

Venereal Diseases in Spain during the last third of the 19th century. An Approach to the Moral Bases of Public Health. (*Spanish*)
RAMÓN CASTEJÓN BOLEA 239

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Moral nature of the disease. 3.—Impact of venereal diseases. 4.—Venereal diseases and prostitution: hygienic supervision. 5.—Organization of control. 5.1.—Hygienic inspections. 5.2.—Social welfare institutions.

Abstract

Venereal disease was a part of the concerns and practices of Public Health in Spain in the last third of the 19th century. Its social nature was associated with a

specific moral view of prevailing sexual mores, which increased its impact. Hygienists assumed that the epidemiologic pattern was focused on prostitution, and divided themselves into prohibitionists and regulationists. The regulations which came into effect included moral, police and sanitary surveillance. Social welfare institutions and their patronage by women also reflected the moral view.

Alcoholism as a Social Disease in Restoration Spain: Problems of Definition (*Spanish*)

RICARDO CAMPOS MARÍN; RAFAEL HUERTAS GARCÍA-ALEJO..... 263

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Alcoholism: vice or disease? 2.1.—Alcoholism as a vice. 2.2.—Alcoholism as a social disease. 2.3.—Relationship between alcoholism and tuberculosis. 3.—Prophylactic measures. 4.—Conclusion.

Abstract

This article examines the complexities involved in defining alcoholism during the Spanish Restoration. The peculiar manner of coming down with the illness, by the voluntary consumption of alcoholic beverages, contributed toward a conceptualization of alcoholism dominated by the notion of vice and voluntariness on the part of the drinker. Moralization as a type of fight against alcohol was the normal consequence of this discourse. Nevertheless, alcoholism was also defined, albeit implicitly, as a social disease. The nexus established by Spanish writers between alcoholism and the proletariat, together with certain social causes such as the type of dwelling or poor diet, reflected some awareness of the relationship between alcoholism and the organization of capitalist society at the late 19th and early 20th century.

Leprosy and Spanish Society in the first half of the 20th century: The Fontilles Sanatorium (1908-1932) and its Administrative Takeover by the Second Republic (*Spanish*)

JOSEP BERNABEU MESTRE; TERESA BALLESTER ARTIGUES..... 287

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Leprosy in Europe at the end of the 19th century and the early decades of the 20th century: A new outlook on an old problem. 3.—The San Francisco de Borja Leprosy Sanatorium, 1908-1932. 3.1.—Physical plant. 3.2.—Institutional structure. 3.3.—Aspects of care and organization at the Sanatorium. 3.4.—Economic and administrative aspects of the institution. 4.—Administrative takeover of the Fontilles Sanatorium by the New State. 4.1.—Breakdown in relationships with health authorities. 4.2.—Disbandment of the Company of Jesus. 4.3.—Measures of takeover. 4.4.—Reactions to the takeover. 4.5.—Leprosy at the time of the takeover. 5.—Recapitulation.

Abstract

This research analyzes the process of the administrative takeover of the Fontilles Leprosy Sanatorium in 1932, during the Second Republic. The first part describes the features of institutional organization and health care that characterized the Fontilles Sanatorium during its first stage of operation (1908-1932), and ex-

mines the reasons that led health officials of the New State to take over the institution. The scientific, social and political consequences of and reactions to this takeover are discussed.

Examination of the *White Plague*: New Trends in the Historiography of Tuberculosis. Essay review. (*Spanish*)
 JORGE MOLERO MESA..... 345

But What Was the Disease? The Present State of Health and Healing in African studies. (*Spanish*)
 GWYN PRINS..... 361

Abstract

This article offers an approach to the history of medicine and therapeutic practice in modern Africa. It argues that the traditional bio-medical histories of the colonial era are necessary but not sufficient to fulfil this task. Neither are the ethnographic studies of indigenous therapeutic practice. The most important recent developments in analysis are respectively, macro-epidemiological histories, for example on the Tsetse fly, and the study of pluralistic therapeutic contexts. They illustrate a central argument of the article which is that the study of therapy is one of the most efficient and reliable ways to investigate the cultural complexities of a post-colonial situation. Such studies also help to pierce the curtain of stereotype and prejudice which, since early European contact, has hung over the African continent viewed from the European perspective.

ARTICLES

Anthropological Identification and Paleopathological Study of a Skeleton, Probably Pertaining to the Roman Doctor from the I-II Century B.C. Tiberius Claudius Apollinaris (Tarragona, Spain) (*English*)
 DOMINGO CAMPILLO; FRANCESC TARRATS..... 387

Summary

Aim of the study. Historical information. Study of the remains in tomb no. 2, Robert d'Aguilo Street, Tarragona. Anthropological study. Anthropological summary. Pathologic study. Pathologic conclusions. Comparative study of the Cranium and the head of the bust. Similar studies. References.

Abstract

The anthropological study of a skeleton from a 1st-2nd century B.C. Roman tomb was carried out to verify whether the morphology of the cranium matched that of a bust found near the tomb. A number of archeological findings suggested that the remains were those of a doctor of the Roman era. Anthropometric, craniographic and pathological studies led us to conclude that the exhumed remains were compatible with the morphological characteristics of the bust, in support of the assumption, based on archeological criteria, that they were probably those of Tiberius Claudius Appolinaris, a Tarragonian doctor who lived during the Roman era.

On Leaving the Mine: Historiographic Resource Exhaustion in Antibiotics History (*English*)

DONALD J. MCGRAW

415

Summary

I.—First Suggestions of the Mining Out Phenomenon. II.—Latter Day Lessons: The Vancomycin History Redivivus. III.—On Leaving the Mine. IV.—Beyond Penicillin. V.—Inspecting the Mine.

Abstract

The secondary literature on the history of antibiotics has offered very little new concerning penicillin or any other major antibiotic for the past two decades. The argument is made that the primary resources may have been «mined out» of new information. This may actually reflect the nature of antibiotics history itself—one of sameness with regard to both discovery and development from one agent to the next—with consequent lack of the possibility for new historiographic insights.

DOCUMENTS

Three Unpublished Manuscripts by Ignacio Maria Ruiz de Luzuriaga (1763-1822) on Naval Hygiene (*Spanish*)

MIKEL ASTRAIN GALLART

437

Summary

1.—Introduction. 2.—Naval hygiene in the writings of Ignacio Maria Ruiz de Luzuriaga. 3.—Translation of the *Tratado acerca del escorbuto* (Treatise on scurvy). 3.1.—The Royal National Academy of Medicine manuscript (15-4 Bib. 4). 3.2.—The Naval Museum manuscript (Ms. 781). 4.—The writings on the conservation of the health of seafaring people. 4.1.—The Royal National Academy of Medicine manuscript (1-5 S. Gobierno 6). Appendix I.—Outline of the writings on the conservation of the health of seafaring people. Appendix II.—Three letters by I. M. Ruiz de Luzuriaga.

Abstract

Many articles on the eighteenth century Basque physician Ignacio Maria Ruiz de Luzuriaga have been published by Spanish medical historians. However, some gaps in his life and work still need filling in. As a contribution to this future enterprise, this note provides information on a relatively unknown field of Luzuriaga's work: naval hygiene, a priority concern of the major naval powers during the Illustration. We describe three unpublished manuscripts and three letters, in which Luzuriaga gave accounts of his work in this field. The facts that Luzuriaga's authorship is not evident at first glance, and that these papers were never published, explain why they have remained unknown for so long.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

XXXIII International Congress of the History of Medicine (Granada-

Seville, Spain, 7-11 septembre 1992).....	465
35.º Congress of the Italian Society of the History of Medicine (Ferrara, 10-13 october 1991).....	467
Simposium on the teaching of the History of Medicine in Europe (Siena, 22- 24 october 1991).....	468
4.º International Symposium <i>Ancient Medical Texts</i> . University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain), 17-19 septembre 1992	468
XIXth International Congress of History of Science. XIXème. Congrès Inter- national d'Histoire des Sciences. XIX Congreso Internacional de Histo- ria de la Ciencia. Zaragoza, 22-29 August/Aôut/Agosto 1993.....	469
The European Association for the History of Psychiatry. Call for membership	471

NEWS

Primer Congreso Europeo de Historia de la Psiquiatría y la Asistencia Psi- quiátrica, octubre 1990. RAQUEL ÁLVAREZ PELÁEZ.....	473
Seminario interdisciplinar sobre filosofía y ciencia en la obra de Pedro Laín Entralgo. Madrid, 10 y 11 de diciembre de 1990. LUIS MONTIEL	474
New Directions of the History of Medicine and Health. Report from a Confe- rence in Stockholm and the Foundation of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health in Strasbourg (september 1991). JAN SUNDIN	476
La Conférence de Stockholm sur l'Histoire de la Santé Publique et de la Prévention. CLAUDE DEBRU	477
Medicina Social y Movimiento Obrero ENRIQUE PERDIGUERO	482

BOOK REVIEWS

<i>PRIMERAS Jornadas de Historia de la Medicina Hispanoamericana (Cádiz, 1983)</i> . (1989). Excma. Diputación Provincial de Cádiz. MIKEL ASTRAIN GALLART.....	487
Josep Lluís Barona (1990). <i>Introducció a la Medicina</i> . Universitat de València. GUILLERMO OLAGÜE DE ROS.....	488
Juan Valverde de Hamusco. <i>Historia de la composición del cuerpo humano</i> ; Pedro Benedicto Mateo. <i>Examen apothecariorum</i> . (1991). Fundación de Ciencias de la Salud-Sociedad Estatal del Quinto Centenario.	

GUILLERMO OLAGÜE DE ROS.....	490
Ignacio González Tascón y Joaquín Fernández Pérez (eds.) (1990). <i>Memorias de las Reales Minas de Almadén (1783) de Agustín de Betancourt y Molina</i> . Comisión Interministerial de Ciencia y Tecnología.	
ALFREDO MENÉNDEZ NAVARRO	492
Arnaldo Cherubini (1990). <i>Medici Scrittori d'Europa e d'America</i> . Antonio Delfino Editore.	
GUILLERMO OLAGÜE DE ROS.....	494
Felipe Hauser (1990). <i>Memorias autobiográficas</i> . Introducción y notas por Juan L. Carrillo, Encarnación Bernal e Inés Bonilla. Universidad de Sevilla.	
ESTEBAN RODRÍGUEZ OCAÑA.....	497
Jorge Navarro (1990). <i>La imagen de Ultramar en la Medicina Valenciana del siglo XIX</i> . Generalitat Valenciana-Commissiò per al Ve. Centenari del Descobriment d'America.	
GUILLERMO OLAGÜE DE ROS.....	498
Antonio Rey González (1990). <i>Estudios médico-sociales sobre marginados en la España del siglo XIX</i> . Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo (Textos Clásicos españoles de Salud Pública).	
MARIANO PESET.....	500
Fernando Salmón; Jon Arrizabalaga; Luis García Ballester (1990). <i>El Hospital Marqués de Valdecilla</i> . Universidad de Cantabria.	
TERESA ORTIZ GÓMEZ.....	502
Antoni Roca i Rosell (Coordinador) (1991). <i>1891-1991. Cent anys de Salut Pública a Barcelona</i> . Institut Municipal de la Salut. Ajuntament de Barcelona.	
JOSEP BERNABEU I MESTRE	504
Sydney Ann Halpern (1988). <i>American Pediatrics. The Social Dynamics of Professionalism, 1880-1980</i> . University of California Press.	
ROSA MARIA MEDINA DOMÉNECH.....	508
Mirko D. Grmek (1990). <i>Histoire du SIDA. Début et origine d'une epidemie actuelle</i> . Éditions Payot.	
ILDEFONSO HERNÁNDEZ	511
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS	513