

DYNAMIS

*Acta Hispanica ad Medicinae Scientiarumque
Historiam Illustrandam*

Vol. 24

2004

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Abstract

This article makes a contribution to recent medical historiography on the subject of the historical category of *sex*. By means of a detailed study of medical accounts published in Spain between 1860 and 1925 we analyse knowledge on the question of the identification of sex, male or female, with reference to the borderline category of «hermaphroditism». The technologies utilised by medico-legal sources to determine sex and the complex network of elements involved in establishing the biological dichotomy between men and women are prominent in our discussion.

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In this article, the introduction of the Wassermann Test and arsenic-based drugs in Belgian post-war venereal disease (VD) policy is discussed (for the period 1900-1930). Pre-war advances in clinical medicine, the development of the Wassermann Test and arsenical drugs, as well as war conditions, were important in putting syphilis on the public agenda in Belgium. However, the way in which new diagnostic and therapeutic techniques and devices were incorporated within post-war VD policy depended on the reconciliation of a range of political, professional and moral agendas of interested health-political parties. Finally, a successful post-war VD policy depicted in terms of «The Belgian Experience» is discussed.

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Abstract

From 1927 on, a series of technological innovations revolutionized the study of yellow fever, leading to a re-conceptualization of the disease. The Rockefeller Foundation (RF) was at the vanguard of these developments, which made specialized laboratories an imperative. This paper explores the activities of the RF yellow fever cooperative programme in Colombia and their consequences, and shows how the RF constructed yellow fever as a continental problem and a public health priority for the American republics, investing heavily in basic research —its primary interest—, thus deviating attention and resources from other pressing health needs. At the same time, Colombian health authorities gained legitimacy through the prestige and resources of the programme, and were in a better position to advocate the role of research in national public health.

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The mid-20th century opening of a public specialized Clinic for the treatment of patients affected by Leukaemia was a significant event in Alicante. It represented both the beginning of specialization in the field of blood diseases and an opportunity for the Provincial Hospital to enter the world of laboratory research. The social prestige of medical technologies, the introduction of a blood transfusion service and the figure of Dr. Mas Magro were the fundamental reasons behind the birth of this project in spite of its high cost. The aim of the paper is to analyze a case of the development of medical technologies at a local level.

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In Costa Rica, female sterilization for contraceptive purposes is a practice common to women from diverse socio-economic sectors. This is the case despite the existence until 1999 of legal restrictions on its use. This article explores the role played by the idea of *health* as the rationale by which sterilization for contraceptive purposes has become available, inuitally as the reason for allowing its availability (and demand) in a legal context that only permitted its use for therapeutic purposes, and later, as the motive that legitimates its contraceptive use.

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After the merging of the two hospitals founded by the Catholic Kings, the Royal Council of Granada extended the centralisation of medical care by incorporating the municipal House of the Insane in the process. The new Royal Hospital, re-founded as a general hospital, offered alms (bread), gave medical and spiritual care to patients with pox and looked after the insane. This was done using officers from the old Alhambra hospital, who found an opportune salvation in the new buildings. Their administrators directed an institution that was highly committed to the dynamics of patronage and client subordination.

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Abstract

This study analyses the work and personality of Diego de Cortavila, a Spanish royal apothecary who owned a notable botanical garden at the Spanish court in the first half of seventeenth century. It is particularly focused on his scientific, personal and professional relationships with other

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The never-ending enterprise. Citizenry, health and healthcare workers in history (Spanish)

MARTA DE ALMEIDA. *República dos invisíveis. Emílio Ribas, microbiologia e saúde pública em São Paulo (1898-1917)*, Bragança Paulista, Editora Universitária São Francisco [Estudos CDAPH, série ciencia, saúde e educação], 2003, 370 pp. ISBN: 85-86965-49-9.

JOSEP BERNABEU MESTRE; TERESA BALLESTER ARTIGUES. *La ciutat del dolor. Metàfores, estigma i exclusió social en la lluita contra la lepra. Fontilles, 1901-1932*, Telada, Ajuntament de Teulada / Institut d'Estudis Comarcals de la Marina Alta, 2002, 101 pp. ISBN: 84-920725-7-1.

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