INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

Selected and edited by Josip Ažman. We express our gratitude to the publishers for allowing us to reprint the following abstracts.

Diana E.

PROFFESSIONS AND INTESTINAL INFECTIONS IN 15TH-CENTURY FLORENCE.

CAN BULL MED HIST. 2002;19(2):455-75.

Documentation Centre for Care and Health, Florentine History.

The aims behind this study are to verify a possible relationship between intestinal infectious diseases and certain professional activities carried out in 15th-century Florence by some categories of lesser labourers. Sources of the present study were the Libri dei Morti by the Florentine Ufficio della Grascia concerning the years 1424-25 and 1430 characterized by a plague epidemic. In this period, thanks to the particular social and economic circumstances of the times, the Libri dei Morti were enriched with additional notes about the illness that caused the deaths. The tables show an analysis of the data concerning the types of illness, the residence of the deceased and his/her social state. The present study suggests that certain professions were more exposed to infectious pathologies.

Škrobonja A, Kontošić I.

BERNRDINO RAMAZZINI'S DE MORBIS ARTIFICUM DIATRIBA OR THREE HUDRED YEARS FROM THE BEGINNING OF MODERN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE.

ARH HIG RADA TOKSIKOL. 2002 MAR;53(1):31-6

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This review opens with the most important examples from the history of medicine until the end of the 17th century, which anticipat-

ed the affirmation of occupational medicine as separate medical discipline. The article remembers the famous Italian physician Bernardino Ramazzini (1633-1714) and his book De morbis artificum diatriba (Diseases of Workers) published in Modena in 1700 in which he described the effects of work on health for some fifty professions. By doing that, Ramazzini had laid scientific foundation to modern industrial hygiene, that is, today's occupational medicine. The authors conclude that even 300 years after the first publication of Diatriba, Ramazzini is still relevant, and that it deserves much greater attention than it is given on occasions such as this year's anniversary.

Iorio L, Avagliano F.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONASTIC MEDICINE:: FROM HIPPOCRATIC SCHOOL TO SALERNTIAN MEDICAL SCHOOL. DE URINISIS ET PULSIS SECUNDUM PRAECEPTA DIONISI. AM J NEPHROL. 2002 JUL;22(2-3): 160-3.

Department of Nephrology, G. De Bosis Hospital, 137 Casilina Nord Avenue, I-03043 Cassino, Italy.

Due to the intense relationship between Byzantium and the Abbey of Montecassino, which lasted for about three centuries, some of the Hippocratic Medical Texts were gathered by the Roman Catholic Church during the last years of the Roman Empire. Some texts were transferred directly from the Byzantine Empire to the abbey. Some of the earliest texts which were written in Greek and Latin have been lost; afterwards they were only written in Latin and in Beneventano-Cassinese type. They constituted the basis of medical assistance that was given in the "ospitia" near the monastery to sick monks and pilgrims needing treatment on their way from Rome to Monte Sant'Angelo of Gargano. The Diuresis et pulsis secundum praecepta Dionisi is kept in Cod. Cas. No. 69 (10th century), pp 551-562, in the Montecassino archive. The author of this text tried to perform a urine examination considering the clinical signs, such as high temperature and pulse examination. The text is thought to have been written by Dionysius, a Hippocratic physician and contemporary of Herophilus, who lived around the 4th century BC. This text was read again in the Salernitan Medical School and compared with other texts from Arabic countries also influenced by Hippocrates.

Martin C.

FRANCISCO VALLES AND THE REINASSANCE REINTERPRETATION OF ARISTOTLE'S METEOROLOGICA IV AS A MEDICAL TEXT. EARLY SCI MED. 2002;7(1):1-30.

Harvard University.

In this paper I describe the context and goals of Francisco Valles In IV librum Meteorologicorum commentaria (1558). Valles' work stands as a landmark because it interprets a work of Aristotle's natural philosophy specifically for medical doctors and medical theory. Valles' commentary is representative of new understandings of Galenic-Hippocratic medicine that emerged as a result of expanding textual knowledge. These approaches are evident in a number of sixteenth-century commentaries on Meteorologica IV; in particular the works of Pietro Pomponazzi, Lodovico Boccadiferro, Jacob Schegk, and Francesco Vimercati. Valles' conviction that Meteorologica IV is relevant to medical knowledge depends on his understanding of Aristotle's theory of homeomerous substances and their relation to composite substances. The application of Meteorologica IV to medical topics became commonplace in the following years, and this Aristotelian book became widely known as a bridge between natural philosophy and medicine.

Forrest D.

MESMER. INT J CLIN EXP HYPN. 2002 OCT;50(4):295-308.

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This introductory article provides a brief outline of Mesmer's life and the main influences on his work. His theory, that a gravitational influence from sun and moon affected not only the tides but periodicity in physiological functioning, led him to investigate the use of magnets, which also operated at a distance and which might channel this universal fluid and lead to modification in a patient's condition. It was but a short step to discover that magnets were unnecessary be-

cause the fluid appeared to be transmissible from one person to another and to lead to a variety of therapeutic effects. His conviction in the correctness of his theory, coupled with a charismatic personality, led him to encounter enthusiasm and opposition over the course of the 10 years that elapsed between his first treatment of a patient by magnetic therapy and his denouement at the hands of the Franklin Commission.

Assadian O, Stanek G.

THEOBALD SMITH – THE DISCOVERER OF TICKS AS VECTORS OF DISEASE.

WIEN KLIN WOCHENSCHR. 2002 JUL 31;114(13-14):479-81.

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The cause of Texas fever in cattle, which is characterised by lysis of erythrocytes leading to anaemia, icterus, haemoglobinuria, and death, remained unsolved for many decades and assorted theories were proposed as an explanation for a disease being transmitted by apparently healthy animals. From 1889 to 1893, Theobald Smith and Frederick L. Kilbourne could demonstrate in elegantly conducted experiments how the disease was spread from cattle to cattle by ticks serving as the vector of transmission. Furthermore, they were able to identify the pathogen of Texas fever, an intra-erythrocytic protozoan which Smith named Pyrosoma bigeminum. Today it is recognised that either of two species of the now renamed genus Babesia, Babesia bigemina and Babesia bovis, may be involved in Texas fever and that babesiosis is generally transmitted by ticks. In animals, genera like Boophilus spp., Dermacentor spp. and Rhipicephalus spp. are possible vectors. The first case of tick-transmitted babesiosis in a human was reported by Skrabalo and Deanovic in 1957 and occurred near Ljubliana in the small town of Strmec, Croatia. In humans, the vectors of most reported cases are ticks of the genus Ixodes, which are among the most predominant ticks in Austria. However, cases of human babesiosis in Austria remain to be studied. Smith and Kilbourne's work was the first demonstration that ticks transmit disease of any kind. Furthermore, by proving that ticks carry Babesia microti—

which causes babesiosis in animals and humans—this is the first account of a zoonotic disease and the foundation of all later work on the animal host and the arthropod vector.

Boor-van der Putten I.

THE CANINE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THE MIDDLE AGES ACCORDING TO THE LIVRE DE CHASSE BY GASTON PHOEBUS. HIST MED VET. 2003;28(1):1-11.

Gaston Phoebus (1331-1391) of Foix-Bearn was a mighty vassal of the king of France as well as of the king of England. His book, the Livre de Chasse was the first technical treaty of this scope. It was fundamental for the regulation of hunting in Europe, as it was copied and plagiarized later on by a number of authors. Chapter 16 is about diseases of the dog and their treatment. In this article Phoebus views about pathology, etiology and therapy are discussed. The absence of superstition, magic and preconceived notions is remarkable. His writings are based on personal observations which are detailed. His therapy is generally rational and probably often effective, never harmful. His love of hounds is evident. It is regrettable that this highly rational approach didn't have a longer lasting effect on the development of canine medicine.

Whitelegg M.

GOETHEAN SCIENCE: AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH. J ALTERN COMPLEMENT MED. 2003 APR;9(2):311-20.

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This paper considers the science of the poet Goethe as furnishing a complementary epistemology for complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), standing alongside and very different from conventional scientific methodology. Through reference to key texts it explores the phenomenological "science of qualities" that aims to allow the scientist, through robust training, to appreciate and intuit the wholeness inherent in nature, so that Goethe could claim the human being to be the most sensitive instrument. Goethe's color theory-a

challenge to Newtonian thinking-and his study of plants are explored to illustrate a profoundly different way of looking at nature that celebrates the subjective and relational as a route to perceiving the whole. Ideas toward application of Goethe's approach within CAM are considered and the relevance of this approach as an alternative methodological enquiry toward consideration of wholeness and healing are offered.

Norton S.

EXPERIMENTAL TJERAPEUTICS IN THE REINASSANCE.
J PHARMACOL EXP THER. 2003 FEB;304(2):489-92.

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Detailed accounts of therapeutics at the time of the European Renaissance written by the participants have not survived in large numbers. One manuscript, dated 1562, was written by friars in a religious order in Italy dedicated to the care of the sick. Their remedies, methods of preparation, and uses were detailed by the friars and offer a glimpse into the beginnings of experimentation with drugs and rejection of tradition and authority in determining the effectiveness of a remedy. These developing concepts were combined in the manuscript with traditional treatments dating back through the Middle Ages to the medical methods of Greece and Rome.

Grieco A.

THE CENTENARY OF FOUNDING OF THE "CLINICA DEL LAVORO LUIGI DEVOTO" IN MILAN (1902-2002). THE OLDES HEALTH ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD FOR THE STUDY TREATMENT, AND PREVENTION OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.
MED LAV. 2003 JAN-FEB;94(1):26-30.

Commissione Ricerca Scientifica della Clinica del Lavoro, Luigi Devoto.

The foundation of the Clinica del Lavoro by Luigi Devoto cannot be dated back to the specific date of an event or, worse, to the offi-

cial inauguration as has happened so far. It can rather be considered as a process started on November 20, 1902 (date of the first resolution by the Milan Municipality Council), continuing with the national law n. 365 of July 9, 1905, then with the laying of the first stone on December 11, 1907 bearing the motto of the Milanese School "In aliis vivimus, movemur et sumus" and finally the official inauguration on March 20, 1910. The Founder Luigi Devoto was born in 1864 at Borzonasca (Genoa) and took a degree of medicine and surgery at the Genoa University in 1888. After a period in Prague and then in Genoa, he was appointed temporary teacher of medical pathology in Pavia. He published several scientific contributions in different fields of occupational health (lead intoxication, ankylostomiasis, strain cardiopathy, etc.) and in other branches (tuberculosis, pellagra, etc.) that he considered as indirectly work-related diseases. He died in Milan in 1936. Three issues characterize the ingenious intuition of Luigi Devoto and his thirty-year direction of the Clinica del Lavoro: 1. Full respect for the principles of discipline and scientific method suggested by Bernardino Ramazzini; 2. The extremely broad conception of the diseases that had to be considered as "workers' diseases"; 3. The constant social attention towards the application of scientific knowledge also through workers' information and updating of regulations to improve working conditions. Many of the conflicts and events associated with the foundation of the Clinica del Lavoro can be summarized in the name chosen by the Founder. Actually to those asking why "Clinic of Work" and not "Clinic of Workers", Devoto used to reply that it was work that was ill and therefore it was necessary to treat the work to prevent workers' illnesses.

Walter I.

Effects of "Unification" on Austrian nursing. Pflege. 2003 Feb;16(1):6-16.

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During the time of the National Socialism nurses in Austria were also responsible for crimes against humanity. Particularly personnel from nursing homes participated in euthanasia; personnel that most-

ly had only been trained in courses offered by the institution itself. The following article shows that the new regimentation for education in nursing, the nursing profession and its organisation aimed at creating the necessary conditions and structures to support the influence the NS-body of thought, to guarantee the exertion of influence of their ideology and—last but not least—to enable the political parties and the government to control nursing and the nursing staff. This article is part of a long years' project of the Institute of Nursing and Health Care Research at the University Linz, Dept. Nursing Research to investigate the role of nursing in Austria in the 19th and 20th century.

Fatovic-Ferencic S, Lipozencic

J. DUSAN JAKAC: THE LIFE IN DERMATOVENEROLOGY. ACTA DERMATOVENEROL CROAT. 2003;11(1):6-9.

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This is a story of Dusan Jakac, one of the most prominent Croatian dermatovenerologists. Born in 1906, he is also our oldest dermatovenerologist and certainly among the oldest in Europe. His life and experience constitute a treasure of information on dermatovenerology in the region, which motivated us to ask him for an interview. In his life, Jakac experienced the time when Europe saw its unrest and witnessed the shift of dreadful epidemics such as Spanish flue, syphilis, and recently AIDS. He has observed different diagnostic approaches, their benefits and failures, and practiced various therapeutic approaches, never forgetting to take care of their side effects. Jakac's career illustrates the medical and cultural times in a striking way. We met him at his apartment in Zagreb, where he lives now and where he answered promptly and enthusiastically all our queries. Thanking him warmly, we can truly state that talking to Dusan Jakac was a unique experience for both the historian of medicine and the dermatovenerologist.