Medicine transformed: health, disease and society in Europe, 1800–1930

During the nineteenth century, medicine underwent a radical transformation. In 1800, the body was still understood in terms of humours and stagnating blood. By 1930 a new modern medicine had begun to emerge across Europe. As William Farr noted in his hugely influential book Medical Jurisprudence in 1838, two factors had contributed to the emergence of the modern medical profession: the discovery of microorganisms as the cause of many diseases and the increase in the number of medical schools and training places.

The following pages provide a snapshot of medical history, with readings on all the main issues relating to the way in which modern medicine emerged in Europe. The contents are derived from the book by Deborah Brunton, published by Manchester University Press.

The Healing Arts: Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1500–1800


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Elmer, Peter, Brunton,Debo. Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1500–1800: A Source Book. Project MUSE - Books Received Machine received.

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