The Western Medical Tradition

800 BC to AD 1800

LAWRENCE I. CONRAD, MICHAEL NEVE,
VIVIAN NUTTON,
ROY PORTER, ANDREW WEAR

Members of the Academic Unit, The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London



Contents

	List of illustrations	
	Acknow ledgements	xiii
	Introduction	1
Chron	ological table for chapters 1-3	7
1	Medicine in the Greek world, 800-50 BC	11
	VIVIAN NUTTON	
	Introduction	11
	The social and epidemiological background	12
	Religion and argument in early Greek medicine	15
	Healers, Hippocrates, and the Hippocratic Corpus	19
	Hippocratic theories	23
	Hippocratic practice	26
	Plato, Aristotle, and their contemporaries Hellenistic medicine	31 33
	Medical sects and professionalisation	35
2	Roman medicine, 250 BC to AD 200	39
	VIVIAN NUTTON	
	First contacts with the Greeks	39
	Asclepiades and the rise of Methodism	41
	The variety of medical practice	44
	The availability of medical assistance	47
	Diseases and therapies	52
	Galen of Pergamum	58
3	Medicine in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages	71
	VIVIAN NUTTON	
	Introduction	71
	Christianity and medicine	73
	Charity and the early hospital From Galen to Galenism	77 79
	Medicine in western Europe, 500–1000	83
Chron	ological table for chapters 4 and 5	89
4	The Arab-Islamic medical tradition	93
	LAWRENCE I. CONRAD	
	The traditional substrate of Arab-Islamic medicine	94
	Early Islamic medical discussions	96

Contents

	The background to the revival of humoral medicine	99
	The era of the translators	104
	The growth of the literary tradition	110
	The dissemination of medical learning	122
	Medicine in Arab-Islamic society	125
	The medical practitioner	127
	The Islamic hospital	135
	Postscript	138
5	Medicine in Medieval Western Europe, 1000-1500	139
	VIVIAN NUTTON	
	Salerno and the impact of translation	139
	Religion and medicine in the Later Middle Ages	146
	University medicine	153
	Apothecaries and surgeons	159
	The professional pyramid	164
	Women's problems, women's healers	168
	The medieval body	175
	Some medieval diseases	183
	The missing century	198
Chror	nological table for chapter 6	207
6	Medicine in Early Modern Europe, 1500–1700	215
	ANDREW WEAR	
	Disease and society	215
	Learned medicine	250
	Anatomy	264
	Andreas Vesalius (1514–64)	273
	Anatomy after Vesalius	280
	The anatomists' justification of anatomy	285
	Surgery	292
	Botany and medicine	298
	Paracelsianism	310
	The circulation of the blood	325
	The new science	340
Chror	nological table for chapter 7	363
7	The Eighteenth Century	371
	ROY PORTER	
	The legacy of the Scientific Revolution in the age of Enlightenment	371
	Rhetoric, reality, and historiography	379
	Scientific medicine: anatomy and physiology	384
	Clinical medicine and disease theory	401
	Therapeutics	412
	Surgery	434
	Popular medicine	440
	The medical profession and medical education	446
	Quackery	459
	Medicine and the state	463
	Conclusion: disease, medicine, and society	472

Contents

8	Conclusion	477
	MICHAEL NEVE	
	Disease and the environment	484
	Doctors, patients and medical history	487
	The healing power of nature	491
	Bibliography for chapters 1-7	495
	General bibliography	511
	Index	518