

## INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

*De Backer C.*

**MIGRATION OF PHARMACISTS IN BELGIUM FROM THE 13TH THROUGH  
18TH CENTURIES.**

Bull Cercle Benelux Hist Pharm. 2002 Oct;(103):23-42.

Faculteit Farmaceutische Wetenschappen, K. U. Leuven. St.-Martens-Latem,  
Belgie.

The municipal records are important sources for the migration and mobility of the apothecaries from the 13th to the 18th century. They prove that immigration from Italy and France, formerly regarded as the first factor for the presence in our country of pharmacists, was minimal. Only two Italian and two French pharmacists from 1377 unto 1500 could be traced. The second thesis concerning the evolution of the profession, the so called mercer theory, is on the other hand very important. Mobility is here a really substantial component because of the apprentice years. The 18th century represents a growing settlement in small locations. The emigration of the 16th century were occasioned by religious and political factors.

*Allen GE.*

**MENDEL AND MODERN GENETICS: THE LEGACY FOR TODAY.**

Endeavour. 2003 Jun;27(2):63-8.

Department of Biology, Washington University, St Louis, MO 63130, USA.

The legacy of Mendel's pioneering studies of hybridization in the pea continues to influence the way we understand modern genetics. But what sort of picture did Mendel himself have of his work and its ultimate uses, and how does that picture compare with the collection of ideas and methodologies that was put forward in his name and later became known as

'Mendelism'? With genetics standing at the center of our present biomedical and biotechnological research, an examination of the history of our concepts in the field can help us better understand what we should and should not expect from current genetic claims. For that enterprise there is no better starting place than Mendel himself.

**Bačić J, Vilović K, Baronica KB.**

**THE GYNAECOLOGICAL-OBSTETRICAL PRACTICE OF THE RENAISSANCE PHYSICIAN AMATUS LUSITANUS (DUBROVNIK, 1555-1557).**

Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol. 2002 Sep 10;104(2):180-5.

General Hospital Dubrovnik, Roko Missetica bb, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia.

*Objective:* A gynaecological-obstetrical causation review in Dubrovnik from 1555 to 1557. Extract from the book "Curatium Medicinalium Centuria V et VI" Amatus Lusitanus. *Method:* A thorough life and work archive study of Amatus Lusitanus has been made and, for this review, extracted his gynaecological-obstetrical causation observations and annotations. *Results:* Amatus Lusitanus was an undisputed, reputable and respected medical figure during the mid 16th century. He decisively focused on intern medicine, incorporating the gynaecological-obstetrical field. His work and skill, most assuredly, contributed to the better comprehension, acknowledgement and reputation of the gynaecological-obstetrical practice, thus leaving repute and respect in medical history latitude. *Conclusion:* All these cases occurred in Dubrovnik during 1555-1557 and Amatus is assuredly an excellent observer and exactist, extracting the "relevant from the non-relevant" even in Dubrovnik's gynaecological-obstetrical daily happenings. He thoughtfully concludes his inability to remedy a malignant, advanced illness of the uterus, presumes an utero-vesico-intestinal fistula and openly speaks of medical ineptness of this causation. Proud of his invention in treating "contracted nipples"; correct in his advice and recommendations of "long and difficult births". Impartial in his perception of puerperal sepsis and its unfavourable pathology outcome. His description of "hormone insufficiency" is concise and precise; the preferred procedure in an "abortus in tractu" is purposeful and meaningful. He closely works with other physicians living and working in Dubrovnik; conscientiously directing surgeons in procedures of stillborn child births. He explains and treats psychosexual disturbances "without fault" and in concurrence with, not only, the contemporary knowledge of such sexual disturbances, but also in concurrence with contemporary psychiatric procedures that, even today, are applied in such pathology treatment.

**CAPASSO L. BACTERIA IN TWO-MILLENNIA-OLD CHEESE, AND RELATED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN ROMAN POPULATIONS.**

J Infect. 2002 Aug;45(2):122-7.

University G .D'Annunzio, Faculty of Medicine, Museum of Biomedical History, Via dei Vestini, 1, I-66013 Chieti, Italy.

A tremendous volcanic eruption destroyed all the life around Mount Vesuvius during the night between 24 and 25 August, 79 AD. Two famous towns, Pompeii and Herculaneum, were completely buried under volcanic products. At Herculaneum, about 25m of volcanic mud killed about 250 people who had fled to the beaches in an attempt to escape (Bisil, S. C., Rivista di Studi Pompeiani, 1, 123-124, 1987). An anthropological examination of the skeletons of these "fugitives" reveals the bone lesions typical of brucellosis in 17.4% of adults (Capasso, L., International Journal of Osteoarchaeology, 9, 277-288, 1999). This very high incidence of brucellosis was theoretically linked to the consumption of ovine milk and its derivatives, which is also indicated by both literary and figurative sources. A single carbonized cheese was found in Herculaneum; its analysis clearly reveals the excellent state of preservation of the milk curds. For the first time, we demonstrate the presence of a variety of bacteria, possibly *Lactobacillus*, that also includes cocco-like forms that seem to be morphologically and dimensionally consistent with *Brucella*. The long interval spent by the organic remains under the volcanic mud and high temperatures they suffered preclude the possibility of identifying the bacteria through molecular methods.

**Melato M, Rizzardi C, Silvestri F.**

**THE PATHOLOGY MUSEUM OF TRIESTE. FROM MEDICAL ARCHAEOLOGY TO REVITALIZATION.**

Pathologica. 2002 Jun;94(3):130-5.

Unita Clinica Operativa di Anatomia Patologica, Istologia e Citodiagnostica, Università di Trieste c/o Ospedale Maggiore, via Stuparich 1, I-34125 Trieste, Italia.

Abandoned in the attic of Trieste's Ospedale Maggiore--which since 1872 housed the hospital's Department of Pathological Anatomy, then known as the Prosettura--is a "museum" of pathology that comprises a heterogeneous collection of anatomic specimens: traumatic, inflammatory and neoplastic lesions, as well as specimens of tattooed skin and hymens. All this material, most of which dates back to the end of the nineteenth and to the start of the twentieth century, will soon be recovered and displayed in a museum. Because this operation has given rise to an interesting discussion on the very significance--both present and past--of this kind of museum, we believe it

necessary to extend the debate to those in charge of similar collections and to all our colleagues in the medical profession. It is our opinion that this operation may be justified and meaningful, provided that each specimen is presented with adequate reference to its historical and scientific context.

***Milović I.***

**A FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF AN EXHUMATION IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY IN MONTENEGRO.**

Srp Arh Celok Lek. 2002 Jan-Feb;130(1-2):54-5.

Mother and Child Health Institute, University School of Medicine, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

Seven years after the homicide, the court ordered exhumation and expertise of the cranium. The well-known physician and surgeon Yovo Ilichkovitsh, who took part in many campaigns during the 19th Century and treated successfully complicated wounds and fractures, was appointed to examine the skull. He concluded that the bullet had entered the cranium from the back. The finding was based on the fact that bullet-hole was smaller than that at the exit. The event took place in Montenegro before 1850, being the first reported forensic expertise in this region.

***Rosstad A.***

**LEONARDO DA VINCI--A DYSLECTIC GENIUS?**

Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen. 2002 Dec 10;122(30):2887-90.

Oslo Norske Laegeforening.

Leonardo da Vinci's texts consist almost exclusively of scientific notes. Working on a book on Leonardo's art, I studied all Leonardo's published texts carefully for any new information. In some prefaces I came to suspect that Leonardo might have suffered from dyslexia. This article considers the question of whether it is possible to find indications of dyslexia in Leonardo's texts and in the accounts of his life.

***Keegan E.***

**FLECHSIG AND FREUD: LATE 19TH-CENTURY NEUROLOGY AND THE EMERGENCE OF PSYCHOANALYSIS.**

Hist Psychol. 2003 Feb;6(1):52-69.

Facultad de Psicología, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The author analyzes the potential influences of Paul Flechsig's work on early Freudian theory, particularly on Sigmund Freud's 1966b/1895 Project for a Scientific Psychology. *Gehirn und Seele*, a discourse authored by

Flechsig in 1894, is the focus of this analysis. The author believes that the links between the intellectual production of both German-speaking neurologists have been underrated to this day and attempts to establish that the early Freudian approach to many key issues in the history of psychoanalysis--dreams, unconscious processing, and drives, to name a few--was not unique but shared with some distinguished colleagues in neuropathology and psychiatry. Thus, he attempts to shed additional light on the transition from state-of-art neurology in the last decade of the 19th century to the creation of psychoanalysis as a discipline on its own.

***Pieringer W, Meran JG, Stix P, Fazekas Ch.***

**PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE--HISTORICAL MODELS AND CURRENT THEORIES.**

Wien Med Wochenschr. 2002;152(19-20):488-94.

Universitätsklinik für Medizinische Psychologie und Psychotherapie, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 39, A-8036 Graz, Austria.

The term psychosomatic medicine has two meanings: first it represents a specific scientific approach in medicine that encompasses methodologies from natural sciences as well as social and human sciences. Second it denotes a clinical speciality that aims at applying this complex scientific background to diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. In this review partly contrasting concepts in medicine are outlined in order to discuss current psychosomatic theories and models. This reflection based on philosophy of science shows that the heterogeneity of the concepts in medicine expresses differences in the predominance of phenomenologic, dialectic, empiric-analytic and hermeneutic methodology. In psychosomatic medicine a critical evaluation and integration of the applied methodologies is regarded as scientific prerequisite and ethical demand. These hypotheses are also shared by medical anthropology (v. Weizsacker), theoretical pathology (Doerr and Schipperges), and by the concepts of Uexkull (Situationskreis) and Hahn (Methodenkreis); they also serve as the fundamental basis for this article.

***Durrigl MA, Durrigl T, Fatovic-Ferencic S.***

**POVERTY, ILLNESS, PRAYER--THOUGHTS ON CONTEMPLATING THE VOTIVE PAINTING OF ST. NOTBURGA.**

Wien Med Wochenschr. 2002;152(5-6):159-60.

Altslavischen Institut, Kroatischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Zagreb, Kroatien.

A votive painting in the chapel of St. Donatus in Pavlovec (northern Croatia) from the 18th century depicts St Notburga of Eben with two pau-

pers, a shepherd and an invalid. Although generally venerated as patron-saint of peasants and maids, Notburga seems to have captured the imagination of the anonymous painter as the helper of the poor and underprivileged. The vicious circle of poverty and disease is evoked by this painting, as well as the popular belief in divine assistance by supplication to patron saints.

### **Giormani V.**

#### **THE LIDO AS VENICE'S REFUSE TIP: DALMATIAN SHEEP AND THE 1819 ELEPHANT.**

Hist Med Vet. 2004;29 (1):3-12

Professor em. of Heterocyclic Chemistry, University of Padua – Via Francesco Morosini 14, Lido – I-30126 Venice.

The Lido of Venice is an island twelve kilometers long and between a hundred and one thousand meters wide. The citizens of Venice and many tourists can't imagine today, what Lido was some centuries ago initially totally sandy, it was fertilized by means of a continuous supply of Venice's garbage (the "scoasse"). In addition to the "scoasse", damaged foodstuffs and the waste of the vegetable market were also sent to the Lido. Other fertilizers originated from the dung of the cattle and sheep arriving by ship from Dalmatia, which were landed on the Lido, where they could pasture before slaughter to regain weight lost during their voyage. The sheep dung, especially, was important for the proto-industrial production of saltpetre, a material of the greatest strategic importance, like uranium at the present time. Saltpetre is the most important component of gun powder, which was the only explosive known up to the second half of 19th century. There were plans to establish an "artificial nitriary" in the Lido, making use of the garbage and of the animal waste. In all probability, the most bulky item ever buried in the Lido is the corpse of an enraged elephant, which escaped from its cage on the Riva degli Schiavoni where it was performing during the 1819 carnival, and was killed by a cannon shot in a church where it took refuge. The original title of the paper, published in Italian is: V. Giormani, *Il Lido di Venezia "scoassera" della città. I montoni dalmati e l'elefante del 1819*, in *Atti del III Convegno nazionale di storia della medicina veterinaria*, Lastra a Signa (Firenze), 23-24 settembre 2000, a cura di Alba Veggetti, Brescia, 2001, pp. 333-339. Other information has been added in order to facilitate non-italians readers and articles appearing after the publication of the Proceedings of the Third National Congress for the History of Veterinary Medicine, Lastra a Signa, (Florence), Italy, have also been used. I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Mary Moors for the translation from Italian and for editorial assistance in the production of this article.

**Piassek G, Piassek M.**

**HEALTH CARE IN VARAŽDIN IN THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Arh Hig Rada Toksikol 2004; 55(1):25-34.

Institute for Medical research and Occupational Health, P.O. Box 291, HR – 10000 Zagreb

This overview brings together historical data on health services and health culture from original documents and scarce information published by historians. The seventeenth century Varaždin was a bigger town than Zagreb, and it later even took the title of the Croatian capital from Zagreb (between 1767 and 1776). The review opens with a description of old municipal hospices, specific social and public health institutions which can be traced back to 1454 and which existed throughout the 17th century. At that time, barber-surgeons, who practiced a form of medicine which involved the use of hands and medical instruments (hence the Greek name, *heir* meaning hand and *ergon* meaning work), were still active in the town. They did not have the education and skills of a physician (and some physicians were additionally trained as surgeons and/or obstetricians). There were fewer barber-surgeons in the town than in the two previous centuries, and their number was substantially falling in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The scale eventually tipped in favour of educated physicians. In 1641, the Croatian Parliament appointed the second official country physician with permanent stay in Varaždin. Other important events are related to the development of pharmacies in the town. The review lists the names of the first pharmacists and the dates of the foundation of pharmacies. The 17<sup>th</sup> century is characterized by the threat and frequent outbreaks of plague, a disastrous pandemic disease which spread all over Europe and which did not spare Varaždin. It would strike the town at intervals of about every ten years. The authors describe steps taken by the local government to stop the spreading of the disease as well as the incompetence and lack of adequate health measures for both prevention and cure of plague at the time. There are well preserved monuments in memory of those events in the town – a votive chapel and a votive column.

Josip Ažman

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