# DYNAMIS

# Acta Hispanica ad Medicinae Scientiarumque Historiam Illustrandam VOLUMEN 41 (2) 2021

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#### **DOSSIER**

## MEDICAL PROFESSION, SOCIAL STATUS, AND CULTURE OF HONOR IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Edited by Darina Martykánová and Víctor M. Núñez-García

Honor, fraud, and health-care professionals in 19th Century Europe			
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ABSTRACT: In Vienna, the tradition of clinical teaching began with Anton de Haen's introduction of the newly established educational approach in the Buergerspital in 1754. In the second half of the 18th century, clinical teaching at medical faculties contributed to the shift of power relationships between doctors and patients. The medical gaze that the doctor and the patient directed towards each other regulated the patients' as well as the physicians' behavior in the setting of hospital medicine, but this does not mean that a wholesale transformation of the medical field took place. Patients were not mere passive objects of

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externally controlled processes but influential agents of medical process. Middle- and upper-class patients sought assistance from their family general practitioners even at the beginning of the 20th century, and the relationships between these family doctors and their patients were more equal. Up to the end of the 19th century, physician-patient contact often comprised traditional methods of consultation by letter, and physicians saw and treated their patients predominantly in the patient's homes. A doctor's medical authority was not solely based on his knowledge, skills, and reputation among colleagues at the medical faculty. As in the early modern tradition of doctor-patient encounters, patients continued to play the role of ultimate arbiter of the performativity of physicians.

## The good doctor: visual culture and defense of the medical profession in 19th Century France

1.—Introduction. 2.—Toward educational specialization: from medieval wise man to medical practitioner. 3.—How to identify the good doctor: qualified and honorable. 4.—From the individual figure to collective identity. 5.—A male profession. 6.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: The 19th century was a time of transformation for health-care professions. In particular, physicians and surgeons started to propagate a discourse directed at the negotiation of their status in society and at recognition of their professionalization at social level. In this struggle to shore up their social prestige, visual discourse became a medium for legitimizing this position to the citizenry and served as a tool for denouncing bad practices. At the same time, the visual field was a battleground where the medical professionals saw their actions and aspirations come under question. This article focuses on the visual culture that surrounded the medical profession at this time of transformation in France. The analysis of different iconographic sources reveals the value associated with the medical profession and their differentiation from others in the field of health care.

## Charlatans *versus* honorable physicians: professional discourse on virtue and good practice in Spain (1820-1860)

1.—Introduction. Corruption and fraud in the history of the professions. 2.—The honor of physicians 3.—Appealing to the counter-model: the discourse against charlatanry. 4.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: Corruption, fraud, or immoral practices have become a trending topic in historiography. This article analyzes the medical discourse against charlatanry and fraudulent professional practice in mid-19th century Spain. Traceable at least to the Enlightenment and framed within a broader discursive strategy, the critique of charlatanry created a plausible counter-model to construct the ideal of a virtuous professional whose good work was guaranteed by standardized training and by an understanding of medicine as a science useful to the cou-

ntry and to mankind. The coexistence of a «legitimate» medicine with alternative practices has characterized the history of medicine. The 19th century, however, saw the truly transnational boom of a discourse denouncing so–called charlatans, i.e., people who engaged in the art of healing without official credentials or carried out practices that were considered immoral, fraudulent, or non-scientific. This discourse was articulated and disseminated through professional communication channels such as the medical press. It happened during a period when a radical transformation of the medical profession was taking place in Spain and elsewhere in Europe, and physicians strove to reaffirm the status of their profession as an honorable occupation and to compete for patients/clients in the shifting conditions of the modern market. We also underline the role of the state in recognizing, demarcating, and sanctioning the physicians' expert authority. At the same time, physicians were calling for the state to become involved in the fight against professional fraud and charlatanry.

### The therapeutic state monopoly of hydrotherapy and the limits of authority in the Corps of medical directors of baths, 1866-1869

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1.—Introduction. 2.—Professionalization and authority of the medical directors of baths in the first half of the 19th century. 3.—Mineral water regulations in the first third of the 19th century. 4.—Therapeutic state monopoly: authority, monopoly and role of the State. 5.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: From the establishment of the Corps of medical directors of baths at the beginning of the 19th century, this professional group experienced numerous internal and external conflicts. Despite the institutional power that regulations gave them in the management of hydrotherapy, external actors, including general physicians and spa owners, questioned their scientific and moral authority and their clinical monopoly. This article analyzes the conflicts that arose between medical directors and physicians. The latter demanded access to the former's monopoly and to the same clinical rights. By focusing on the debate that took place between these professional groups from 1866 through 1869, this article analyses the different legal and discursive mechanisms employed to generate and criticize the authority of each group. In doing so, it shows that they had to carry out a careful process of negotiation in order to avoid accusations of fraud and corruption. At a time when the limits of the scientific and liberal professions were being set, the case of medical directors of baths allows the analysis of processes of negotiation and legitimization of status within an occupation that was not yet established as a profession.

## The doctor and his patients: the intergenerational dispute concerning the ideal physician, the Czech Lands 1840s-1890s

1.—Professionalization of the medical market. 2.—The enemies of physicians: self-healing, home remedies, charlatans, and bloodletting surgeons. 3.—How to be a good doctor? 4.—The ideal physician: a clash of two generations. 5.—Blood-

letting: professional honor in jeopardy. 6.—Framing the drug prescription: avarice or pandering to patients.

ABSTRACT: In the second half of the 19th century, the professionalization of the medical field took place in the Czech Lands, then part of Austria-Hungary. The physicians' aim was to eliminate their rivals such as charlatans, folk healers, and other alternative healers, but they also strove to regulate competition among colleagues. In this period, which can be described as a period of therapeutic nihilism, a new generation of physicians emerged in the Czech Lands who tried to promote and apply new medical knowledge to everyday practice in the medical market. In practice, however, it was very hard for this innovative group of young medics to defend their scientific approach and their professional honor from the demands of patients, on whose monetary reward they and their families depended. The article argues that there was a dispute between the older and younger generation of physicians over the ideal of the physician and his honor. This hypothesis is based on a discursive analysis of medical manuals for laymen penned mostly by physicians, so-called «house physicians», and of articles in professional journals published by local physicians in the Czech language. The conflict is illustrated by examples of bloodletting and drug prescriptions.

### Introduction of the modern physician and the debate on medical professionalism in the 19th-Century Ottoman Empire

1.—Introduction. 2.—Conceptual framework: Professionalization. 3.—Professionalization of medicine in the Late Ottoman context. 3.1.—Patterns of professionalization. 3.2.—What changed? The medical milieu in the Classical Ottoman Empire. 4.—Three layers of professional closure: Education, legislation, and licensure. 5.—Duty calls: Public opinion and medical ethics. 5.1.—Formation of public opinion through Medical Societies. 5.2.—Medical ethics: The idea of responsibility. 6.—Voices from the archives, typologies of medical fraud, and the permeability of constructed boundaries. 7.—Conclusion.

ABSTRACT: This article focuses on how boundaries were created between modern physicians and traditional healers when the modern medical profession was established in the 19th century Ottoman Empire, based on documents from the Ottoman Archives of the Prime Minister's Office. In the Tanzimat period (1839-1876), the Ottoman elites focused on modifying the education system with the aim of modernizing the institutions of the Empire, and medical education was one of their priorities. The Imperial School of Medicine was inaugurated in 1839, and a series of regulations simultaneously established that only graduates from the modern schools had the right to practice medicine. These regulations detailed the content of the education, the stages to be completed in order to graduate, and the regulation of professional praxis post-graduation. These regulations drew a boundary between the professional and the layman. Their aim was to achieve the domination of certified professionals over the health field, expelling non-professionals once enough staff became available. The article examines the rivalry between modern and traditional physicians and the diverse strategies employed to distinguish between modern and lay practitioners and to deny legitimacy for some medical practices. The panorama was further complicated by the ethnicity factor in the context of unrest in the Empire at that time. Other questions addressed in this text include: What discourses and legal regulations played a role in forming the boundaries between customary and modern educational processes? How did the Ottoman elites seek to control the population through medicine and health policies?

#### **ARTICLES**

On fossils and stones. Books, press, debates, and material culture
around mining. New Spain, 18th century

María Eugenia Constantino Ortiz.....

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1.—Introduction. 2.—From the Earth to books. 3.—From books to the press. 4.—Practices and theories in the *Gazeta de México*. 5.—Public mining exercises and debates in the press.

ABSTRACT: The objective of this article is to show how the practice of mining became visible in a series of texts (books and publications) that established its transit from the empirical to the academic world. Their pages evidence the transformation in the ways of seeing and understanding mineralogy and the construction of a material culture proper to the study of mines. I shall attempt to trace the course of these transformation and construction, centered in the context of New Spain at the end of the 18th century, when mining became institutionalized and academicized.

### The specialized dictionary as a tool for scientific communication: The example of electricity (1880-1910)

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1.—Introduction. 2.—The first dictionaries of electricity. 2.1.—The *Dictionnaire* d'électricité et de magnetisme (1883) of Jacquez. 2.2.—The dictionaries of Dumont (1889) and Lefèvre (1891). 2.3.—The dictionaries of Houston (1889) and O'Conor Sloane (1892). 2.4.—Multilingual dictionaries of electricity. 3.—The contribution of Spanish specialized lexicography. 4.—The path towards standardization: the dictionary of Deinhardt and Schlomann (1908). 5.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: This article offers an overview of dictionaries on electricity published in Europe between 1880 and 1910, a period when this discipline and its technical applications underwent significant development. In particular, it examines the texts that were in circulation in Spain, both in the original language and above all in translation, given that the authors were mainly French, English and German engineers, including Jacquez (1883), Dumont (1889), Houston (1889), Lefèvre (1891), O'Conor Sloane (1892), Hospitalier (1900), and Deinhardt & Schlomann (1908), among others. The study also examines other technical dictionaries by Spanish authors, such as those by Clairac (1877-1908) and Camps & Armet

(1888), whose writings introduced technical electrical terms. Examination of this set of dictionaries reveals the role of the different specialized texts in the process of scientific communication and dissemination at that time and highlights the existence of complementary discourses that reflected various communicative situations (within the scientific community, in the technical and industrial world, between experts and lay reader, etc.), all of which discuss how to resolve the tension between language and science.

The customs laboratory of Valencia: taxation, chemical analyses
and port patrimony (1927-1937)

1.—Introduction. 2.—The customs laboratory: a port space for economic and chemical control. 3.—Material culture of the customs laboratory: instruments, books, and activities. 4.—Conclusions.

ABSTRACT: This article studies the customs laboratory of Valencia, a space at the borders between chemistry and economy. Run by the Ministry of Finances and situated in the customs area at the port of Valencia, it formed part of a network of regional customs laboratories created in the 1920s. The laboratory was not limited to the identification and analysis of merchandise to improve tax takings but rather became a useful space in its local setting. The article explores how it was created and installed in the port and examines its connections with other port inspectors. Its main activities and first experts are also analyzed. Finally, it provides a detailed study of the patrimony and material culture of the laboratory to increase knowledge on the types of analysis performed and on connections created with other customs spaces and with traders and producers in the port and city.

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