

A Georgian Miscellany: Medicine 1713 – 1768

15th February - 21st April 2018

Admission free

Open to all

OPENING TIMES

Monday – Thursday: 9.00 – 21.00

Friday: 9.00 – 17.30

Saturday: 10.00 – 16.30

The Library, Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE

Tube: Oxford Circus or Bond Street



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A Georgian Miscellany:

Medicine 1713-1768

2018 sees the 250th anniversary of the death of the clergyman and author Laurence Sterne. Following the success of Shandy's Physicians, an exhibition held at the RSM Library in 2013 to mark the tercentenary of Sterne's birth,

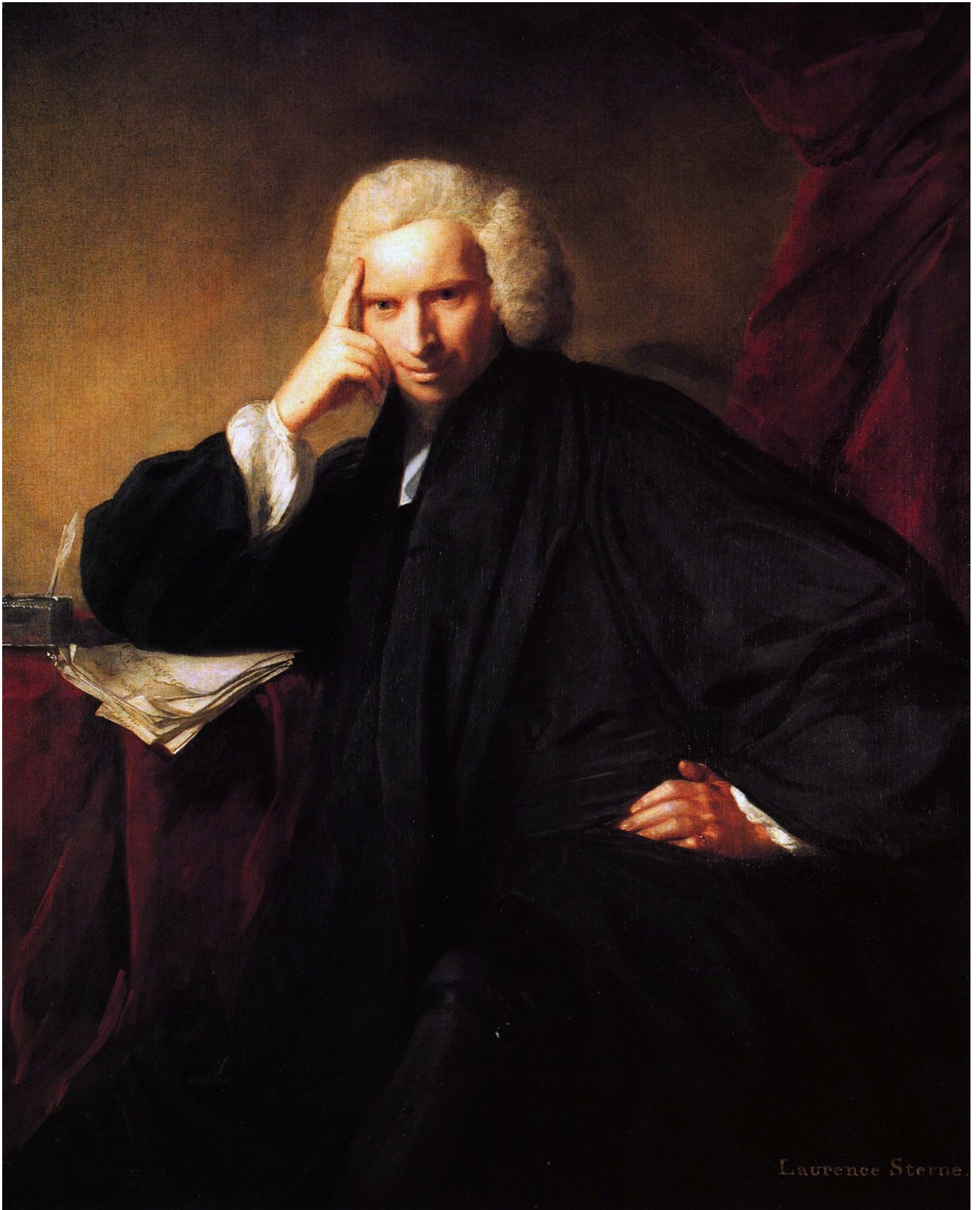
A Georgian Miscellany: Medicine 1713 – 1768 celebrates the medical world of Sterne's time with an exhibition of texts from the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Alas, poor YORICK!

About this time Mr. Sterne, the celebrated author, was taken ill at the silk-bag shop in Old Bond Street. He was sometimes called 'Tristram Shandy', and sometimes 'Yorick' — a very great favourite of the gentlemen's. One day my master had company to dinner who were speaking about him; the Duke of Roxburgh, the Earl of March, the Earl of Ossory, the Duke of Grafton, Mr. Garrick, Mr. Hume, and a Mr. James. 'John,' said my master, 'go and inquire how Mr. Sterne is today.' I went, returned, and said. 'I went to Mr. Sterne's lodging; the mistress opened the door; I inquired how he did. She told me to go up to the nurse. I went into the room, and he was just a-dying. I waited ten minutes; but in five he said. "Now it is come." He put up his hand as if to stop a blow, and died in a minute.' The gentlemen were all very sorry, and lamented him very much.

From John Macdonald, Travels in Various Parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa (1790) (reprinted as Memoirs of an Eighteenth-Century Footman, ed. John Beresford (1927))

Laurence Sterne died on Friday 18th March 1768.



Portrait of Laurence Sterne by Sir Joshua Reynolds
Held in the National Portrait Gallery - London
Source: Wikimedia Commons

“Perhaps this was the most singular instance of imposture and also of credulity in modern times.”

1726 was a year in which two improbable fictions were made public. The Dublin-born writer Jonathan Swift published Gulliver’s Travels, and a 25-year old maidservant called Mary Toft from Godalming in Surrey claimed that she had given birth to 16 rabbits. Rabbits appear to have been quite an obsession with Mary who said that while pregnant she formed an intense craving for roast rabbit, had admired rabbits in the village market, and had chased rabbits from her own garden.

The subsequent birth of rabbits to her was explained by the theory of “maternal impression” whereby significant experiences of women in pregnancy could affect the foetus even, in this case, to the extent of transforming a human foetus into that of a rabbit.

Mary’s labour was attended by the Godalming man-midwife John Howard who was so impressed by what he allegedly witnessed that he wrote to several of the leading physicians of the day, including Nathanael St. Andre, surgeon-anatomist to King George I, and the eminent obstetrician Sir Richard Manningham, asking for their opinion on the matter.

The story came to the attention of the press and caused a national sensation.

On 7th December 1726 Mary finally confessed to the fraud after a porter had admitted to having smuggled a number of dead rabbits into the birthing chamber.

The RSM library holds a bound collection of some twenty of the tracts and pamphlets which were published at the time and which kept the story in circulation and fuelled the various arguments for and against the truth of Mary's story.

The front endpaper of the volume contains a handwritten note from its former owner, Dr Samuel Merriman (1731 – 1818), concerning its purchase at a cost of £2.5s.0d. A cutting from a bookseller's catalogue pasted below Merriman's autograph describes the Toft case as "the most singular instance of imposture and also of credulity in modern times."

One pamphlet cashes in on the literary sensation of the year in claiming Lemuel Gulliver, "Surgeon and Anatomist to the Kings of Lilliput and Blefescu, and Fellow of the Academy of Sciences in Balnibarbi" as its author.



Mary Toft duping several distinguished surgeons

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Robert James

Robert James was baptized in 1703 at Shenstone in Staffordshire. He graduated BA in 1726 from St John's College, Oxford and became an extra-licentiate of the College of Physicians in 1728 and MD by royal mandate in the University of Cambridge. Before moving to London, he practised at Sheffield, Lichfield and Birmingham.

In 1743 he published *A Medicinal Dictionary*, with a History of Drugs which includes contributions by Dr Samuel Johnson. In 1745 James published his *Treatise on the Gout and Rheumatism* and became a full licentiate of the College of Physicians.

He was to devote the remainder of his life to the fever powder he had invented.

Helped in this project by the publisher, bookseller, and wholesale and retail druggist John Newbery, James marketed his fever powder among the rich and fashionable and anyone else with half-a-crown to spare for a double-dose. Containing phosphate of lime and oxide of antimony to aid sweating, they were taken to combat fevers and as a general tonic.

George III regularly took the powders, and, in the literary world, James' fever powders were lauded by Thomas Gray, William Cowper, Horace Walpole, and Christopher Smart, but their habitual use was implicated in the deaths of Oliver Goldsmith and Laurence Sterne.

James' patent on the fevers, taken out in 1747, was challenged unsuccessfully in 1753 on the grounds that they were copied from the German William Schwanberg. But in 1760 and in 1774, Malcolm Flemyng and John Miller published warnings regarding the safety of James' cure-all remedy. They were, however, still part of Queen Victoria's medicine chest by the 1860s.

Robert James died in London on 23 March 1776.



Robert James
Physician

Source:
Wikimedia
Commons

William Cheselden (1688 – 1752)

The anatomy of the human body.

London, 1713.

Marcus Beck Library

For many years this was the standard textbook of anatomy in the English medical schools, and ran to thirteen editions.

Daniel Turner (1667 – 1741)

De morbis cutaneis.: A treatise of diseases incident to the skin. With a short appendix concerning the efficacy of local remedies, and the manner of some of their operations.

London : Printed for R. Bonwicke, 1714.

Librarian's Room 86: Box 67 L-Sequence

Turner started out as a barber-surgeon, and obtained membership of the College of Physicians without a medical degree.

He is regarded as the founder of British dermatology, and his book is the first text in English on the subject of skin diseases.

Church of England prayer book.

1715

L.9.c.12

“And grant that these sick persons, on whom the King lays his Hands, may recover, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Scrofula refers to any type of skin disease, in particular, a form of tuberculosis, affecting the lymph nodes of the neck. In adults it is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and in children by nontuberculous mycobacteria.

It was believed that the touch of the sovereign of England or France, could cure diseases due to the divine right of sovereigns. Scrofula was therefore also known as the King's Evil. From 1633, the Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church contained a ceremony for this, and it was traditional for the monarch to present to the touched person a gold coin the value of which varied from about 6 shillings (30 pence) to about 10 shillings (50 pence). In the year of her death, Queen Anne performed the last touching for the "King's evil" on 14 April 1714. Following his accession to the throne on 1 August 1714 King George I put an end to the practice.

John Langdon-Davies (1897 – 1971)

Westminster Hospital: two centuries of voluntary service, 1719-1948.

London, John Murray, 1952

362.11(421)(09) LAN

Westminster Hospital, formerly Westminster Dispensary, opened in 1719/20.

Richard Mead (1673- 1754)

A short discourse concerning pestilential contagion,
and the methods to be used to prevent it ...

The 4th ed.

London : Sam. Buckley [etc.], 1720.

Tr.B.297(5)

Written in response to a request from the secretary of state for advice concerning the plague, following the 1719 outbreak at Marseilles, this tract was later expanded into a book and anticipates the evolution of the English system of public health and disease prevention. Mead was a renowned bibliophile and collector of art who owned around 150 paintings and a library of 10,000 books and manuscripts.

*He is satirised as “Dr. Kunastrokius, that great man” by Sterne in his novel *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*. Criticised for this portrayal, Sterne defended himself in these terms: “I do him first of all honour – speak of Kunastrokius as a great man – (be he who he will) and then most distantly hint at a droll foible in his character – and that not first reported by me – but known before by every chamber-maid and every footman within the bills of mortality.”*

Benjamin Marten (fl. 18th century)

Theory of consumptions, more especially phthisis.

2nd edition

London, 1722

Marcus Beck Library

From childhood, Sterne had suffered from chronic fibro-caseous pulmonary tuberculosis.

This condition was exacerbated by his vigorous enjoyment of London life and intense periods of writing, and was relieved by periods of rest.

In proposing a parasitic micro-organism as the cause of tuberculosis, Marten's Theory of consumptions, first published in 1720, anticipated by 162 years the discovery of the tubercle bacillus.

Sir John Floyer (1649 – 1734)

Medicina geroconomica: or, the Galenic art of preserving old men's healths, explain'd: in twenty chapters.

London, printed for J. Isted..., 1724

Heritage Centre (FLO)

The first English book on geriatrics.

Hector Charles Cameron

Mr. Guy's Hospital, 1726-1948.

London : Longmans, Green, [1954]

362.11(421)(09) CAM

Guy's Hospital opened in 1725.



C. W. COPE, R. A. FINCH

LAVOTTFF

THOMAS GUY,
FOUNDER OF GUY'S HOSPITAL.

Conferring with Dr. Mead, the Physician & Mr. Storr, the Architect upon the Plan for the Building.

Thomas Guy meeting with others to discuss his hospital

C.W. Cope 1871

Source: Wikimedia Commons

John Freind (1675 – 1728)

The history of physick : from the time of Galen, to the beginning of the sixteenth century.

The second edition, corrected.

London : Printed for J. Walthoe, jun., 1725-27.

233.k.24 & 25; 281.e.26 & 27

Freind was the first English historian of medicine.

For his alleged part in the Atterbury Plot, a conspiracy aimed at the restoration of the House of Stuart to the throne of Great Britain, he was held pending trial in the Tower of London. The charges against him were later dismissed.

Collection of tracts relative to Mary Toft, the pretended rabbit-breeder.

MSS.265

Engraving by Hogarth, entitled "Cunicularii, or the wise men of Godliman in consultation." 1726.

Thomas Dover (1662 – 1742)

The ancient physician's legacy to his country...

5th edition

London : Printed for A. Betteswoth [sic] and C. Hitch ... and J. Brotherton ..., 1733.

Marcus Beck Library

Dover's powder, described in this book, consisted of equal quantities of opium, ipecacuanha, liquorice, saltpetre, and tartar vitreolus and was prescribed for the relief of pain and coughs.

George Charles Peachey

The history of St. George's Hospital.

London, 1910-1914.

362.1(421)(09) PEA

St George's Hospital founded in 1733.

John Atkins (1685 – 1757)

The navy-surgeon: or, a practical system of surgery.

2nd edition.

London : Printed for W. Warner, 1737.

The author was an English naval surgeon. This book includes the first description in English of African trypanosomiasis.

233.b.18

George Martine (1702 – 1741)

Essays, medical and philosophical.

London, 1740

Marcus Beck Library

Includes the first important account of thermometry. Martine worked to standardise thermometric measurements and advocated mercury as a medium more reliable than spirits of wine or oil.

Written by a person of honour.

Italian love, or, Eunuchism displayed,
describing all the different kinds of eunuchs
2nd ed.

London, Printed for E. Curll, at Pope's-Head, in Rose
Street, Covent Garden, 1740.

276.f.4

*“Occasioned (sic) by a Young Lady's falling in Love with
ONE, who sung in the Opera at the Hay Market, and to
whom she had like to have been Married.”*

John Brownlow

The history and design of the Foundling Hospital
with a memoir of the founder.

London, Warr, 1858

Heritage Centre (BRO)

Foundling Hospital founded in 1741.

Joseph Hurlock

A practical treatise upon dentition; or,
the breeding of teeth in children.

London, 1742

280.i.33; Marcus Beck Library

The first English book on paediatric dentistry.

Fielding Ould (1710-1789)

Treatise on midwifery.

Dublin, 1742.

276.b.12

The first important English textbook of obstetrics.

It contains many new and important observations such as his original studies on the mechanism of normal labour.

Ould, who ran a large midwifery practice at Golden Lane in Dublin, opposed caesarean section, and recommended administering opiates in cases of prolonged labour. He wrote that “the best adapted instrument is the large forceps, which is in general use all over Europe.”

Stephen Hales (1677 – 1761)

A description of ventilators.

London : printed for W. Innys; R. Manby; and T.

Woodward, 1743.

Librarian's Room 99 (Box 70)

Hales was the inventor of artificial ventilation.

Saunders

The Middlesex Hospital, 1745-1948.

London : Parrish, [c1949]

362.11(421)(09) SAU

Middlesex Hospital founded in 1745.

Cecil Wall

The history of the Surgeons' company, 1745-1800

London : Hutchinson's scientific & technical
publications, [1937]

617(421)(09) WAL

Surgeons' Company founded in 1745.

David Innes Williams

The London Lock: a charitable hospital
for venereal disease 1746-1952.

London, Royal Society of Medicine, 1995

WX 28 FE5 WIL

London Lock Hospital founded in 1746

William Cadogan (1711-1797)

An essay upon nursing, and the management of children.

London, Printed for J. Roberts, 1748.

Tract A.30(6)

Cadogan challenged ignorance concerning child welfare, and laid down rules on the clothing, nursing, and feeding of infants.

He advised breast-feeding of new-borns as soon as possible so as to receive colostrum, and the careful observation of children so as to act on the first signs of illness, and their subsequent monitoring.

The Foundling Hospital, opened in 1741, came to use Cadogan's essay as a guide for the management of children in their care.

Robert James (1703 – 1776)

Dissertation on fevers and
inflammatory distempers.

2nd edition

London, 1749

Tr.C.154(2)

2018 sees the 250th anniversary of the death of the clergyman and author Laurence Sterne. Following the success of Shandy's Physicians, an exhibition held at the RSM Library in 2013 to mark the tercentenary of Sterne's birth,

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James Lind (1716 – 1794)

Essay on preserving the health of seamen.

London, 1757

Marcus Beck Library

John Huxham (1692 – 1768)

An essay on fevers.

London : S. Austen, 1750.

286.a.10; 276.g.33

In 1764 a professor at Leipzig asked: “Who has as much as hailed our art from the threshold, who has yet never heard the great name of Huxham?”

This book describes simple, intermittent, and nervous fevers, smallpox, pleurisy, inflammation of the lungs, and bronchitis, and includes the first use in print by an English physician of the word “influenza.”

William Smellie (1697 – 1763)

A treatise on the theory and practice of midwifery.

London : Printed for D. Wilson ..., 1752.

52.d.2; 276.a.7; Marcus Beck Library

Smellie gives accurate descriptions of parturition, and stresses the importance of exact measurement of the pelvis.

He was a pioneer in setting out rules for the safe use of the forceps, and introduced several types such as the steel-locked, curved, and double forceps.

Sir John Pringle (1707 – 1782)

Observations on the diseases of the army,
in camp and garrison.

The second edition corrected, with additions.

London : Printed for A. Millar, D. Wilson and T.
Durham ... and T. Payne ..., 1753.

52.f.3; Marcus Beck Library

*From 1744 to 1752 Pringle served as
Physician-General to the British Army.*

*He is considered the founder of modern military
medicine, and his book lays down the principles
of military hygiene.*

James Lind (1716 – 1794)

A treatise of the scurvy, containing an
inquiry into the nature, causes, and cure,
of that disease.

Edinburgh, 1753

227.k.12; Marcus Beck Library

*Lind was the founder of English naval medicine.
In this treatise he showed that citrus juices could
be carried on board ship in preserved form for long
periods, and, correctly administered, would serve
to prevent scurvy.*

William Battie (1704 – 1776)

A treatise on madness.

London, Printed for J. Whiston, and B. White, 1758

Tract D.35(2); Marcus Beck Library [folio]

The first English textbook on psychiatry.

Battie, who was first physician to St Luke's Hospital for Lunatics when it opened in 1751, maintained that madness originated in "deluded imagination" caused by "delusive sensation," and advocated treatment of the mentally ill in well-designed and properly managed hospitals.

He was optimistic that madness was a curable disease, and argued against the practice of purges and blood-letting.

Francis Home (1719 – 1813)

Medical facts and experiments.

London : Printed for A. Millar; [etc., etc.], 1759

236.g.32; Marcus Beck Library

In this work, Home describes the experimental human transmission of measles.

John Hill (1714 – 1775)

The virtues of honey : in preventing many of the worst disorders; and in the certain cure of several others: particularly the gravel, asthmas, coughs, hoarseness, and a tough morning phlegm, with a particular direction ... for the cure of consumptions ...

London : J. Davis [etc.], 1759.

Tr.B.253(6)

Percival Pott (1714 – 1788)

Practical remarks on the hydrocele or watry rupture...

London : Printed for C. Hitch and L. Hawes ..., 1762.

Marcus Beck Library

A classic description of hydrocele.

Richard Brocklesby (1722 – 1797)

Oeconomical and medical observations:

From the year 1758 to the year 1763, inclusive.

London : T. Becket and P. A. de Hondt, 1764.

Tract B.137(1); Large Octavo Tract 3013

This work is subtitled “Tending to the improvement of military hospitals, and to the cure of camp diseases, incident to soldiers,” and has been described as the best book of the eighteenth century on military sanitation.

Percival Pott (1714 – 1788)

Remarks on fistula in ano.

London, 1765.

Tr.B.247(3); Tr.B.250(9)

Commonly regarded as a classic of colo-rectal surgery.

Robert Whytt (1714 – 1766)

Observations on the nature, causes, & cure of those disorders which have been commonly called nervous hypochondriac, or hysteric : to which are prefixed some remarks on the sympathy of the nerves.

Edinburgh : Printed for T. Becket, & P. Du Hondt, London; & J. Balfour, Edinburgh, 1765.

277.f.3

Thomas Dimsdale (1712 – 1800)

The present method of inoculating for the small-pox. To which are added, some experiments, instituted with a view to discover the effects of a similar treatment in the natural small-pox ...

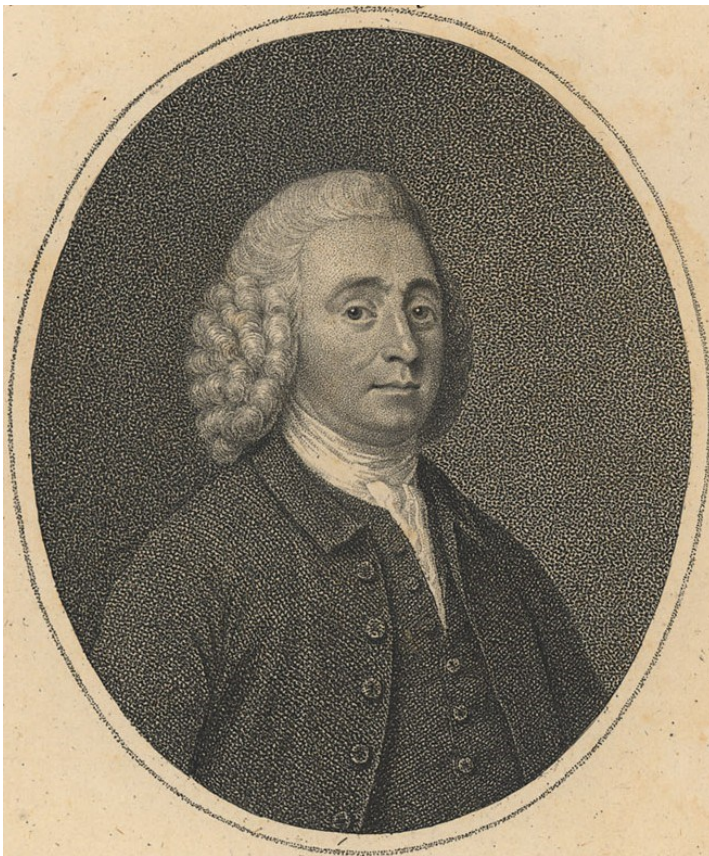
2nd edition

London : W. Owen, 1767.

Tr.B.21(5)

Dimsdale's tract describes a safer, less invasive method of inoculation, and went into six editions in five years.

In 1768 Dimsdale travelled to St Petersburg to inoculate the Empress Catherine the Great and her son. The empress had in place an escape route for Dimsdale should any failure of the process incite the anger of her subjects.



In 1784 Dimsdale returned to Russia to inoculate the Grand Duke Alexander and his brother Constantine. For this he was presented with a muff made from the fur of the black fox, an item which only members of the Russian royal family were allowed to wear.

Thomas Dimsdale (1712-1800)

Source:
Wikimedia Commons

William Fordyce (1724 – 1792)

A review of the venereal disease and its remedies.

London : Printed by T. Spilsbury, for T. Cadell ... , and J. Payne ..., 1767.

Tr.B.33(1)

Sterne's last work, A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy, was published in 1768, the year of his death.

Philip Thicknesse (1719 – 1792)

Man-midwifery analysed: and the tendency of that practice detected and exposed.

The third edition / with additions. By the author of Useful hints ...

London : Printed for W. Browne ... and R. Davis, 1768.

Percival Pott (1714 – 1788)

Observations on the nature and consequences of those injuries to which the head is liable from external violence.

London : L. Hawes, W. Clarke, and R. Collins, 1768.

273.g.4; Marcus Beck Library

Joseph Jacob Plenck (1738 – 1807)

William Saunders (1743 – 1817)

A new and easy method of giving mercury, to those affected with the venereal disease : to which is annexed a new theory of the action of this metal on the salivary glands / translated from the Latin of Joseph James Plenck ...

The 2nd ed. to which is prefixed, a table ... with an appendix of remarks on Mr. Plenck ... / by William Saunders ...

London : Printed for E. and C. Dilly ..., 1768.

Tr.C.153(3)

Translation by William Saunders, the first president of the Medical & Chirurgical Society of London, of Plenck's Methodus nova et facilis argentum vivum aegris venerea labe infectis exhibendi.

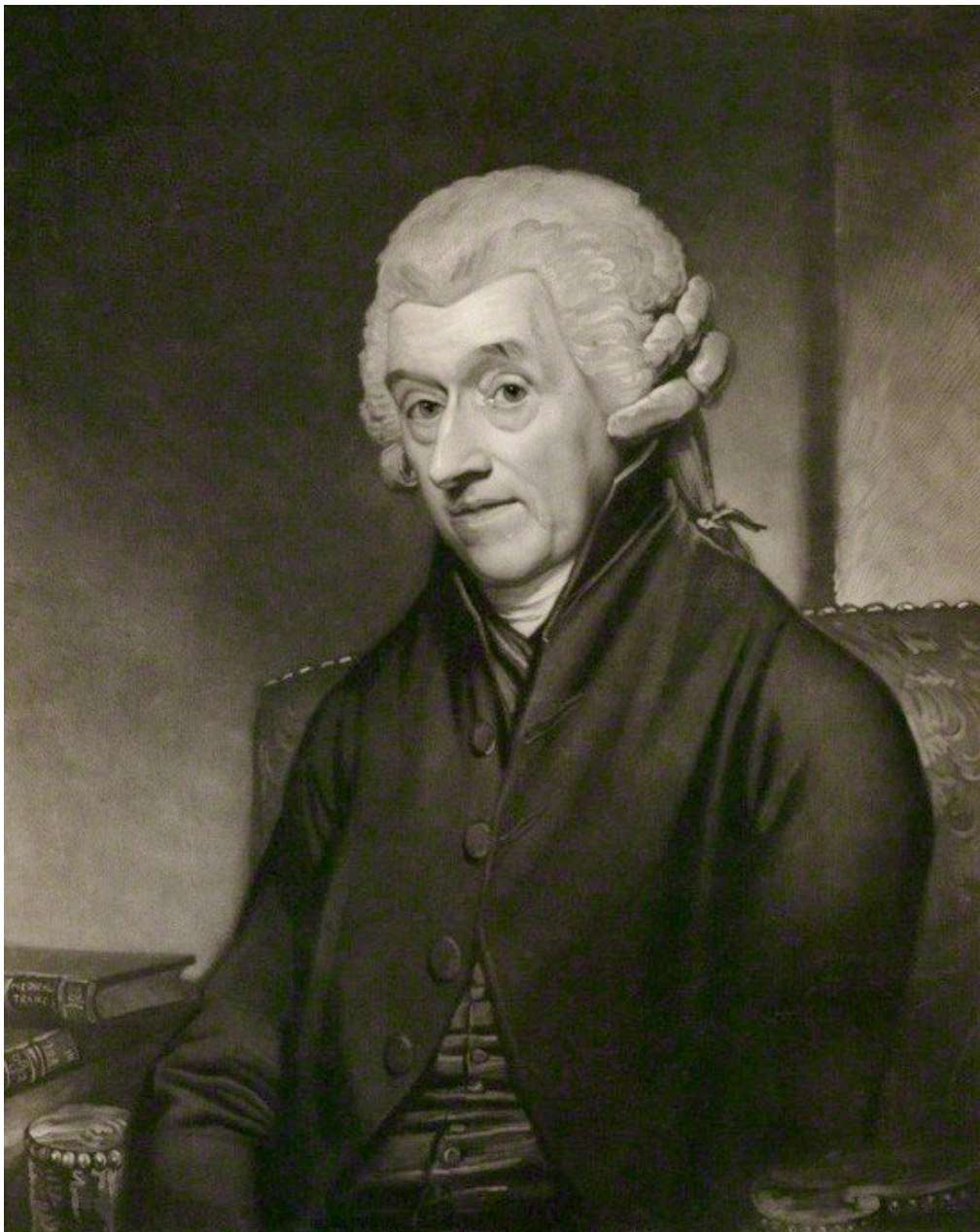
William Heberden (1710 – 1801)

Some account of a disorder of the breast.

Medical Transactions published by the College of Physicians in London. 1772; 2: 59-67.

307h

Although not published until 1772, Heberden's paper was read at the College on July 21, 1768. It is the first description of angina pectoris.



William
Heberden
(1710 - 1801)

Source:
Wikimedia
Commons

John Ferriar (1761 – 1815)

Comments on Sterne.

Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical
Society of Manchester. 1793; Vol.4
380c

James' Fever Powders: affidavits of Walter Baker to
vacate the patent of Dr. Robert James for
Schwanberg's Powder &c.
London, 1754
Tr.C.45(2)

W.E. Page

St. George's Hospital: some account
of the hospital and school.
1866
251.h.33

Sir Samuel Wilks (1824 – 1911)

George Thomas Bettany

A biographical history of Guy's Hospital.
London, Ward, Lock, Bowden & Co., 1892
362.a.1

George Charles Peachey

The history of St. George's Hospital.

London, 1910-1914.

362.1(421)(09)

E.W. Morris

A history of the London Hospital.

2nd edition.

London : Arnold, 1910.

362.11(421)(09)

Walter George Spencer

Westminster Hospital : an outline of its history.

London, Glaisher, 1924.

362.11(421)(09)

Broad Way: Westminster Hospital Gazette

Guy's Hospital Gazette 1925; Vol.39.

*The Disguysed Minstrels help to raise funds
for the bicentenary appeal.*

Hughjon A. Ripman

Guy's Hospital 1725 - 1948.

London, Guy's Hospital Gazette Committee, 1951

*Kindly loaned for exhibition by Charing Cross Campus
Library, Imperial College London.*

Hilary Aidan St George Saunders

The Middlesex Hospital, 1745-1948.

London : Parrish, [c1949]

362.11(421)(09)

The first Middlesex Hospital opened in 1745 as the Middlesex Infirmary in Windmill Street, London W1.

Kindly loaned for exhibition by Charing Cross Campus Library, Imperial College London.

Hector Charles Cameron

Mr. Guy's Hospital, 1726-1948.

London : Longmans, Green, [1954]

Kindly loaned for exhibition by Charing Cross Campus Library, Imperial College London.

Archibald Edmund Clark-Kennedy

The London; a study in the voluntary hospital system.

[London] : Pitman, [1962-1963]

362.11(421)(09)

Archibald Edmund Clark-Kennedy

London pride : the story of a voluntary hospital.

London : Hutchinson Benham, 1979.

362.11(421)(09)



Bust of Laurence Sterne (1713–1768)
Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art - New York
By Joseph Nollekens (1737 - 1823)
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Guys Hospital from John Stow's
Survey of London (1755)
Source: Wikimedia Commons

Exhibition curated by Robert Greenwood, *Heritage Officer*
Booklet compiled by Ashley Phillips, *Library Assistant*