

Notiziario/News

1996, 19 Gennaio

Si è svolta nell'Aula Pacis di Cassino una giornata di Studio dedicata ai *Cinquant'anni dall'epidemia di malaria nella Valle del Liri: prospettive storiche ed attualità malariologiche*. La Giornata di Studio ha preceduto l'inaugurazione di una Mostra sullo stesso tema, articolata in quattro sezioni dedicate rispettivamente agli aspetti biomedici della malaria, alla storia delle sue origini, all'epidemia della Bassa Valle del Liri ed all'attualità dei problemi connessi alla diffusione della malattia. Il progetto scientifico della Mostra è stato curato da Lorenza Merzagora, Gilberto Corbellini e Mario Coluzzi.

1996, 15-17 Febbraio

Si è svolto a Roma, presso il Centro di Bioetica dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore il Congresso Internazionale *Le radici della Bioetica*. Per informazioni rivolgersi al Centro di Bioetica, UCSC, Largo Francesco Vito 1, 00168, Roma, I. Tel. 0039 6 30154960 Fax 0039 6 3051149.

1996, 28-29 Marzo

Firenze, Istituto Papirologico G. Vitelli: *Specimina per il Corpus dei Papiri Greci di Medicina*. La conferenza è stata organizzata sotto la direzione del Prof. Manfredo Manfredi. Tra i contributi: Martens P., *Les textes papyrologiques de la littérature médicale grecque dans la prochaine édition du Catalogue de Pack*; Manfredi M., *Modello di edizione di un testo letterario adespoto (PSI XV 1510: questionario sui parisumia)*; Fausti D., *Ricerche sul lessico botanico dei papiri*; Hanson A.E., *Hippocrates, Epidemics II 6.7-22*; Andorlini I., *Trattato o catechismo? La tecnica della flebotomia in PSI inv. CNF 85/86*; Gonnelli F., *Erodoto Medico (?) in P. Ant. III 125 e Aezio IX 2*.

1996, 18-20 Aprile

Trieste, Aula Magna della Facoltà di Magistero, Via Tigor 22: III Seminario Internazionale sulla letteratura scientifica e tecnica greca e latina. Segreteria Scientifica: Prof. Sergio Sconocchia, Prof. Lu-

cio Toneatto, Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Via Lazzaretto Vecchio, 8. Tel. 040 6767298- 6767450. Fax 040 311400. Segreteria Organizzativa: Ripartizione Promozione, Sig. re marina Rovis, Lorella Coceani. Tel. 040 6763551-6763009. Fax 040 571071.

1996, 4-5 May

Philadelphia, Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine: Conference on *Hippocrates and Modern Medicine*. Informations: Monique Bourque, Assistant Director for Programs, Wood Institute, College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 19103, USA. Tel. 215 563 3737. Fax 215 561 6477.

1996, 9-12 May

Buffalo, New York: Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Physicians and Rulers: *Medicine, Money and Political Power in the Ancient World*. Following papers are scheduled for the session: King H., *Rule and self-rule in the Hippocratic Writings*; Von Staden H., *The King, the physician, and eros: A tale of power and knowledge*; Mattern S.P., *The patronage of therapeutics in the Roman Empire*; Hanson A.E., *Marc Antony to Soranus: What is wrong with my Cleopatra?*; Scarborough J., *Criton and Galen: Two Roman Imperial court physicians*. Informations: AAHM Local Arrangements Committee, in care of professor James J. Bono, Department of History, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260-4130.

1996, Maggio-Giugno

La Sezione di Storia della Medicina del Dipartimento di Medicina Sperimentale e Patologia dell'Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza organizza una serie di Seminari: Venerdì 17 Maggio, ore 9.30, *Problemi e metodi nello studio della medicina antica* (G. Fornaciari, S. Gigli, I. Mazzini). Venerdì 31 Maggio, ore 9.30: *La medicina nel medioevo* (O. Todisco, G. Cavallo, Visita guidata alle ricostruzioni medievali del Museo di Storia della Medicina). Venerdì 7 Giugno, ore 9.30: *La medicina moderna tra sperimentalismo e riforme sociali* (G.M. Pontieri, A. Sebastiani, M. Coluzzi). Non è prevista quota di partecipazione e ai richiedenti verrà rilasciato un attestato di frequenza. Sede dei semi-

nari: Dipartimento di Medicina Sperimentale e Patologia, Sezione di Storia della Medicina, Viale dell'Università 34/a- 00185 Roma. Tel e Fax 06 4451721 (Sig.ra Stefania Lenci).

1996, 29 Maggio - 2 Giugno

Terzo Colloquio Europeo di Etnofarmacologia - Prima Conferenza Internazionale di Antropologia e Storia della Salute e della Malattia

Per informazioni rivolgersi a: Comitato organizzatore Etnofarmacologia Antropologia - Istituto di Antropologia Fisica, Università di Genova, Via Baldi 4 (4° piano) - 16126 Genova. Tel. 010 2099745 - Fax 010 2095987.

1996, 10 Giugno

Bologna, Accademia delle Scienze: lettura del Prof. M. Siegler The contributions of clinical ethics to patient care. In occasione della lettura, sarà conferito al Prof. Siegler il Premio Chirone.

1996, 23 June

Medizinhistorische Institut Johannes Gutenberg - Universität Mainz: Workshop in Ancient Medicine. The final program will be sent on request at the end of April. Informations: Medizinhistorische Institut, Universitätsklinikum, D- 55101 Mainz. Fax: 0049 6131 176682.

1996, 2-8 September

Kos Island, Greece: 35th International Congress on the History of Medicine

Scientific topics: 1. Early types of medicine in ancient civilizations 2. Origins and influences of hippocratic medicine 3. The Alexandrian School (Hellenistic period) 4. The history of hospitals 5. The woman in health sciences 6. Varia. Informations: International travel and Congress organisers Ltd. 33, Nikis St. 105 57 Athens. Tel. (301) 3310037/8 - 3312864/5 Fax: (301) 3227608

1996, 9-11 September

Jerusalem, Israel: From Athens to Jerusalem: Medicine in Hellenized Jewish Lore and in Early Christian Literature

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, Samuel S. Kottak, Harry Friedenwald Professor of the History of Medicine at the Hebrew University, announces the Conference *From Athens to Jerusalem: Medicine in Hellenized Jewish Lore and in Early Christian Literature* a satellite Congress of the International Society of the History of Medicine, that will be held in Jerusalem, 9-11 September 1996, at the Hebrew University, Mount Scopus campus, Beit Maiersdorf. The conference will follow in the series of previous Symposia, most of them devoted to Biblical and Talmudic Medicine and will be in organic and topical relationship with the meeting in Athens. Its focus will be Medicine in Hellenized Jewish Lore and early Christian Literature. General topics appropriate for the Conference are:

*Greek Terminology in Talmudic and Early Christian Literature, Medical Aspects; Josephus and Philo as Champions of Hellenistic Influences on Jewish Second Temple Period Literature, Medical Aspects; Early Christian Literature, Greek and Hebrew Influences on Healing Narratives; Ancient Greco-Roman Influences on talmudic Medical and Paramedical More; Medical Ethics, An Inter-faith Approach in Ancient Literature; Varia.*

Those wishing to receive subsequent circulars, as well as those planning to attend the Conference and/or submit a paper, should contact the secretariat: Conference Unit, Division for Development and Public relations; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus; Jerusalem 91905, Israel.

1996, 11-14 September

3rd Triennial Conference of the European Association for the History of Psychiatry (EAHP), Wurzburg, Germany. The over-arching theme of the conference will be *Knowledge and Power: Perspectives in the History of Psychiatry*. Papers on any topic relevant to the history of psychiatry will be accepted too. Abstracts of about 250 words, including the exact title of the paper should be sent to Dr. Paul Hoff, Psychiatric Hospital University of Munich, Nussbaumstr. 7, D 80336 Munich. Tel. 4989 5160 2770 Fax 4989 5160 4730. For further information regarding Hotel accomodation in Munich please contact the tourist Office at Fremdenverkehrsamt Muenchen, 80313 Muenchen, tel 8à 2330300, Fax 89 2391329.

1996, 15-21 September

International Summer School in History of Science: the International summer school in History of Science has been meeting bi-annually in Bologna, Uppsala, Berkeley and Paris. The fifth School will convene from 15 to 21 September 1996 in Bologna; it will be devoted to: *The ends of natural philosophy: the scientific revolution in the long view*. Lecturers will include Jed Z. Buchwald, Iorraine Daston, John L. Heilbron, Tore Frängsmyr, Roger Hahn, Giuliano Pancaldi, Dominique Pestre. The deadline for application is May, 30th 1996. Informations: R. Hahn, Office for the History of Science and Technology, 470 Stephens Hall, University of California, Berkeley CA 94720 USA. Fax 1 510 643 5321; G. Pancaldi, CIS, University of Bologna, Via Zamboni 31, 40126 Bologna, I. Fax 39 51 261156.

1996, 25-29 September

Pisa, IX Colloque International Hippocratique: Aspetti della terapia nel Corpus Hippocraticum

The ninth Hippocratic Colloquium will be devoted to the Aspects of Therapy in the Hippocratic Corpus and will take place at the University of Pisa. Papers should address the following topics: 1. *The therapeutic realities in Hippocratic treatises. Pharmacology, dietetics, therapeutic and orthopedic surgery;* 2. *The logic of the therapies: e.g. empiricism and rationalization in the therapies (traditionalism vs. articulation, successive steps in a course of cure, etiological foundation of therapeutic intervention; similia/similibus vs. alia/aliis; the role of crisis in the therapies;* 3. *Ethics and therapy: ability to cure and inability to cure; aggressive therapy vs. doctors' concern with patients suffering; spectacular displays with therapeutic instruments vs. the efficiency and dignity of the art; primum non nocere etc.;* 4. *The fate of Hippocratic therapies, either in antiquity (recipes and treatments: the problem of the diffusion; the technical pharmacological tradition and the popular one, etc), or in more recent times (the rediscovery of Hippocratic texts in the Renaissance; the Hippocratic tradition and its impact on the New World; threads of continuity with non-academic medicine, etc.)*

Informations: Daniela Manetti, IXe Colloque International Hippocratique; Dipartimento di Filologia Classica, Università degli

Studi, Via Galvani 1, I 56126 Pisa, Italy. Tel. 0039 50 911614. Fax 0039 50 20054.

1996, 14-16 October

Kos Island, Greece: First Meeting of the International association for the History of Nephrology. Tentative topics: Greek medicine; Renaissance medicine; Byzantine Medicine; History of Hypertension; History of Dialysis; History of Transplantation; Free Presentations.

1996, 28-30 Novembre

Vaticano, Aula Paolo VI: XI Conferenza Internazionale *Ad immagine e somiglianza di Dio: sempre? Il disagio della mente umana*. Informazioni e adesioni: Via della Conciliazione, 3 - 00193 Roma. Tel. 06 69883138 - 69884720 Fax 69883139.

1996, 28-30 December

New York: Society for Ancient Medicine and American Philological Association, *Medicine, Miracles and Magic*. Prof. Heinrich von Staden (Dept. of Classics, Yale University, P.O. Box 208266, New Haven, Ct 06520-8266) will preside over the session.

1997, 3-6 April

American Association for the History of Medicine.

The 1997 Meeting will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Chair of the Program Committee is Todd L. Savitt. Any person interested in presenting a paper is invited to submit an abstract (one original and seven copies) to: Todd L. Savitt, Ph. D., Dept. of Medical Humanities, East Carolina University School of Medicine, Grenville, North Carolina 27858-4354. Any subject in the history of medicine is suitable for presentation, but the paper must represent original work not already published or in press.

1997, 25-30 July

XXth International Congress of the History of Science - University of Liège (Belgium). Theme: Science, Technology and Industry. Congress Office: Centre d'Histoire des Sciences et de Techni-

ques, Université de Liège. Bâtiment D1, Avenue des Tilleuls 15, B-4000 Liège (Belgium).  
Tel.: 3241.669479 - Fax: 3241.669547.

A Medical History and Ethics Department has been established at the Marmara University, Medical School in Istanbul, Turkey in March 1993. For any kind of informations and contributions, please contact Prof. Dr. Sefik Görkey, Marmara University, Medical School, Medical History and Ethics Dept., Tibbiye Cad. N. 49 - 81326 Haydarpasa, Istanbul, Turkey. Tel. 216-347 49 89; 345 3450/232. Fax 216 - 3480524; 414 4731.

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine: *Online Bibliography*

*Current work in the history of medicine*, the international quarterly indexing journal in the history and allied sciences, is now available not only in printed format (for subscription details contact PSP Subscriptions, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK) but also online within the wellcome Institute Library's database (WILDCat). For internet users the address is *wihm.ucl.ac.uk.*, and for JANet users: *uk.ac.ucl.wihm*. Once linked to WILDCat all searches are free. here you can browse the current and in-progress issues of *Current work* by using the Bibliographic Current Awareness Services option. References from previous issues of *Current work* back to April 1991 are amalgamated with the main printed books and serial database, which contains records for the library's holdings.

For further editorial information about *Current work*, or with comments and suggestions, contact cathy Doggrell or Kate Bishop at: Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, Current Work in the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK.

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*THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD  
BETWEEN POPPER AND KUHN.*

The death of Thomas Kuhn (Cambridge, Ma., USA, June 17, 1996) ends a long period of exciting discussions on the foundations of epistemology and the logic of scientific discovery, a term by which Karl R. Popper begins his uncompromising rejection of inductive reasoning (*Logik der Forschung*, Springer Verlag, 1934). Just a year after the death of Popper, an epoch have come to an end. We are indebted to Popper for his principle of falsifiability and to Kuhn for his critical analysis of the structure of scientific discovery.

As A.J. Ayer has asserted at the XIVth International Congress of Philosophy, two theses have held the field in modern times. According to one of them, what is required for scientific theories is that the hypothesis be verifiable; according to the other, that it is falsifiable. In a long series of papers on the philosophy of science, Popper states that any decision about a theory is temporary and falsifiable; again, an experiment can only temporarily support the theory. This is the end of the long reign of inductivism, which is judged as an *artificially intensified selection pressure*, from Plato to Hume - a position which appears when naturalistic sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry) have been applied to medicine: Justus Liebig attacked Bacon and the inductive method (*Induktion and Deduktion*, 1865).

In 1962 T.S. Kuhn published *The structure of the scientific revolution*, in which he upheld the thesis of the scientific thought evolution, highly characterized by impetuous ruptures establishing and supporting periods of *extraordinary science*. These periods follow and go before others, by Kuhn called periods of *normal science*. The last are characterized by the presence of a paradigm which allows scientific proceedings and tries to solve problems. This happens until the paradigm is not able anymore to answer questions. This is the beginning of a *scientific revolution*, leading to the birth of a new paradigm functional for the new borning period of *normal science*. Popper's and Kuhn's views have been discussed in a debate in 1965; both devote their studies to the dynamic process which allows scientific knowled-

ge, marking the main role played by history in finding confirms to their methodological proceedings; both believe that science does not proceed through steps in progress, but through a *revolution* in which an elder theory is replaced by a new one - totally inconsistent with the first one; and both underline the main role that logic, experiment and observation play in determining the fall of the elder theory.

In conclusion, Popper's and Kuhn's theories are connected by the common opposition to the thesis of classical positivism. In underlining the role of the methodological studies which allow scientific progress, Kuhn thinks that Popper's epistemology excessively marks the periods of *extraordinary science* - an error which is responsible for the *deformation* of his thesis. according to Kuhn, more importance is due to the periods of *normal science* and to their methods. It is not possible to simply move them to the logic of the *revolutionary science*.

The discussion of both theories is still fundamental for the epistemological debate in the XXth century.

Elio De Angelis

*Notiziario della Biblioteca di Storia della Medicina  
Dipartimento di medicina Sperimentale e Patologia  
Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"*

La catalogazione del fondo antico della Biblioteca (testi a stampa fino al 1830) è stata quasi completata. In particolare, è stata conclusa la catalogazione dei testi del fondo Gorga, il più consistente tra quelli antichi conservati nella Biblioteca, proveniente dalla ricchissima collezione del cantantelirico Evan Gorga (1865/1957), che aveva anche raccolto strumenti musicali (oggi conservati nel Museo degli Strumenti musicali di Roma), oggetti pertinenti alle scienze mediche, soprattutto vasi di farmacia (oggi conservati nel Museo di Storia della Medicina dell'Università La Sapienza, che ne ha recentemente pubblicato un catalogo a stampa a cura di C. Serarcangeli, S. Cicchetti e S.

Canducci). Il fondo Gorga comprende circa ottocento testi, tra i quali circa duecentocinquanta cinquecentine. In questa collezione sono rappresentati sia testi di studio e di informazione scientifica (tra i quali alcune edizioni aldine e giuntine di classici) che più agili volumi di piccolo formato, spesso in volgare, destinati all'istruzione e alla curiosità di chi non voleva o non poteva permettersi le edizioni lussuose o scientifiche: testi di *segreti*, di pratica medicinale (e cosmetica e gastronomica), brevi testi di alchimia e chimica elementare, testi magici. Vi sono anche parecchi, rari testi, soprattutto italiani, relativi alla farmacia e alla preparazione di medicinali. Alla collezione appartengono anche alcuni manoscritti, che saranno catalogati a parte, utilizzando il software MANUS, elaborato dall'Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico. Molti manoscritti sono appunti da lezioni di livello universitario, tenute da medici italiani dei secoli XVII e XVIII (tra i quali Francesco Serao).

Si spera di rendere al più presto il catalogo completo del Fondo Antico disponibile per la consultazione in linea.

Maria Conforti