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4/07/2013, History Faculty, University of Oxford, The UK Association for the History of Nursing presents the Colloquium on History of Colonial and post-Colonial Nursing.

The history of nursing presents a unique perspective from which to interrogate colonialism and post-colonialism. Simultaneously, viewing nursing's development under colonial and post-colonial rule can reveal the different faces of what, on the surface may appear to be a profession that is consistent and coherent yet in reality has many different faces and is constantly in the process of reinventing itself. Considering such areas as transnational relationships, class, gender, race, and politics this colloquium aims to present current work in progress within this field to better understand the complex entanglements in the development of nursing as it was imagined and practised in local imperial, colonial and post-colonial contexts. The colloquium will be led by Dr Helen Sweet and will be opened with a keynote paper on the colloquium's theme by Professor Anne Marie Rafferty. All enquiries to: Christine.Hallett@manchester.ac.uk

8/07/2013-10/07/2013, University of Aberdeen, Association for Medical Humanities Annual Conference

The Centre for Medical Humanities at the University of Aberdeen looks forward to hosting the Association for Medical Humanities Annual Conference 2013. The University has been at the forefront of the development of medical humanities in Scotland but this will be the first time that the Association has come to Aberdeen for its annual conference. The event will be the tenth annual meeting of the Association and will be an opportunity to consider new directions for the field.

There has been continuous and vigorous debate about the theory

and practice of medical humanities but only recently have questions been raised about the content and aims of the field in a global context. Medical humanities has sometimes been, in effect, parochial. Taking as the theme 'Global Medical Humanities', this conference aims to open up hitherto marginalised aspects of the field.

13/09/2013-14/09/2013, Institute of Historical Research, Bloomsbury, London, Healthy Living in Pre-Modern Europe. The Theory and Practice of the Six Non-Naturals (c.1400-1700)

This conference seeks to bring together scholars working on topics related to the role played by the six Non-Naturals in health maintenance in the late-medieval and early modern period. It is well-known that health was thought to depend on the regulation of the six key factors affecting body functions: the air one breathes, sleep, food and drink, evacuations, movement and emotions. In pre-modern medicine careful management of these spheres of life was regarded as crucial if one wished to prevent disease. Yet the study of the Non Naturals has been neglected, as scholars have focused on the development of the concept in medical thought rather than on the advice regarding the individual non-naturals. The only exception concerns the recommendations related to food and diet while the other Non-Naturals have been the object only of general surveys. Even less attention has been paid to the relationship between preventive advice and practice. This conference intends to address these gaps. Moreover we hope to stimulate discussions which will enable us to compare different regions and countries and to explore changing approaches to the Non-Naturals (and to the underpinning humoral principles) over the period under consideration. More specifically the conference aims to:

- Compare the contents of medical advice about the Non-Naturals (how these activities should ideally be performed) and

the actual practices associated with keeping healthy. What relationship did practices bear to prescription? In order to address these questions scholars might use a range of 'extra-medical' sources, such as letters, diaries, literature and imagery.

- Explore change within the body of medical theory on the Non-Naturals. Were definitions of what was regarded as harmful or beneficial to health modified over the period? And is the idea of the body and its vulnerabilities that underpins these views subject to any transformations? It has widely been assumed that humoral theory was essentially static and unchanging during the early modern period. Is this view in need of revision?
- Explore the extent to which both recommendations about healthy living and the preventive measures adopted in everyday life changed over time. And were these transformations medically or socially driven? In other words were they a consequence of shifting ideas about the working of the body or of changing lifestyles?
- Stimulate comparisons between different regions and countries. For example, did the medical traditions in different countries place different emphases on the six Non-Naturals? Did they all conceptualise the humours in similar ways? Were there different lay approaches to keeping healthy in different national contexts? Did people focus on any particular Non-Naturals –giving more weight to diet, for example, or to taking exercise- in order to maintain their health?

26/09/2013-29/09/2013, Cleveland, Ohio, American Association for the History of Nursing: Thirtieth Annual History of Nursing Conference

The American Association for the History of Nursing and the Cleveland Clinic, are co-sponsoring the Association's thirtieth annual conference to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference provides a forum for researchers interested in sharing new research that ad-

dresses events, issues and topics pertinent to the history of the global nursing profession, its clinical practice, and the field of nursing history. Individual papers, posters, and panel presentations are featured at the conference. Additional information about AAHN and the conference can be obtained at www.aahn.org.

28/11/2013-29/11/2013(date to be confirmed), Venice, *Melancholia*

The religious experience of the “disease of the soul” and its definitions in the early modern period: censorship, dissent and self-representation.

Call for papers: in its various historic-artistic, medical, literary, philosophical and psychological manifestations, melancholy has been the subject of a vast literature. Moreover, “melancholy” – the word itself – is a polysemic term historically associated with a large variety of groups of distinct meanings. In particular, it underwent a sort of semantic expansion between the 16th and 17th century.

It became the name of what the physiologic-medical tradition, going back to antiquity, considered a humoral pathology of the black bile, of an experience of “moral” suffering and also of a mental or emotional disorder, a discomfort sometimes described by sufferers as “abandonment”, “dark night”, “dryness”, “sorrow” etc. and often lived out in *imitatio Christi*. In the light of all this, the notion of melancholy became an established means for carefully analyzing a large range of cases and their various symptoms and discerning the origin (whether divine, demonic or natural) of spiritual suffering; at the same time, it became a polemical category for transgression and individual or collective patterns of behaviour that were regarded as abnormal.

Within the spheres of medicine, theology and law, the idea emerged that melancholy may be the expression of dissent, of the subject’s incapacity or unwillingness to conform to social rules and customs, and went as far as to polemically present melancholy as a collective phenomenon of given social groups, to denote a “national” malaise

(English malady) or, by reference to seventeenth-century political and religious instability, to designate the “disease of the century”.

The proposed seminar aims at exploring the different meanings of the term “melancholy” in early modern religion, both Protestant and Catholic. One of its main purposes will be to enquire into, clarify, and emphasize both elements of continuity and what was specific to each of the diverse discourses on melancholy within the historical, socio-cultural, political, geographical and linguistic contexts that framed its production.

It will be, therefore, a question of analysing the ways these discourses came to be structured, who made use of them and how, how they intersected one another – for instance, what points of contact existed among the medical, philosophical, literary, artistic and religious discourses – how they changed through time and what forms of social practice and types of texts were involved. Given this point of view, an interdisciplinary and transcultural approach will be privileged, one which goes beyond the traditional confessional perspective to emphasize intersections and comparisons even among different areas of historical study from cultural to gender history, from the history of medicine to that of emotions. Proposals may be presented (although not exclusively) on the following themes either in the form of individual case studies or in a more theoretical and methodological mode.

Analysis of the language(s) of melancholy with particular attention to the medical and spiritual treatments proposed for its understanding, examination and/or cure. We would like to reflect on individual and group perceptions of spiritual suffering, on discursive definitions of its causes (natural and supernatural alike) and on the lines of reasoning that contributed to the stigmatization/censorship of the experience or, conversely, to its spiritual appraisal. Proposed topics: melancholy and devotion, melancholy as a spiritual trial, *tristitia spiritualis*, religious interpretations and elaborations of the theme of suicide, body/soul and “anatomies of the soul”, etc.

The derogatory use of the term “melancholy” by the various confessional orthodoxies to stigmatize the unbridgeable gap that separated not only individuals but also entire groups from the imposed imperatives of social and religious models as well as deplete the term’s potential subversive power. We intend to define and study the procedures that excluded dissidents from the community and thereby fixed the borders of rightness but which, by so doing, often, paradoxically, provoked the opposite effect of legitimizing groups or individual “sectarians” or “eccentrics”, who ended up identifying precisely the stigma as the distinctive feature of their own identity. Proposed topics: melancholy as the “disease of the century”, melancholy and atheism, the “monasteries’ sickness”, the critique of scrupulous and zealous religiosity, etc.

The connection between melancholy, demonic possession and “inordinate devotions” provided the leitmotiv for much contemporary, disputed spirituality and mysticism within the Catholic ground. On the other hand, debate in both Catholicism and various Protestant contexts on melancholy combined with the wider debate concerning religious fanaticism or “enthusiasm”, which terms were used to label chiliastic groups, radical sects, the early Quakers and the Camisards, all of whom became the object of detailed theological, social and medical analyses in an attempt to distinguish between true and false inspiration, the natural and supernatural dimensions and melancholy and possession. Proposed topics: melancholy as a sign of fanaticism, enthusiasm or millenarianism; melancholy and demonic possession; melancholy and “pretended sanctity”; etc.

Proposals for papers or written contributions (max. 3000 characters), supplemented by a short cv and bibliography, must be sent by 15 February 2013 to Adelisa Malena (adelisa.malena@unive.it) or Lisa Roscioni (lisa.roscion@unipr.it).

Further information: emodir@emodir.net

9/01/2014-11/01/2014, Department of History, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, 5th International Conference on The History of Medicine in Southeast Asia (HOMSEA 2014)

Call for papers: all proposals on the subject of the history of medicine and health in Southeast Asia will be considered, but preference will be given to those on the following themes in Southeast Asia:

- The history of medical education
- Indigenous medical traditions
- History of military medicine
- Medical biographies
- Organising the medical profession
- Women's health and family planning
- Medicine and social development
- Travel, contact, exchange, and circulation of medicine
- Colonial and national medicine
- Historical medical texts
- Medicine and religious practices
- Chinese and Indian medicine
- Early medical professionals

Submit a one-page proposed abstract for a 20-minute talk, and a one-page CV, by 1 March 2013 to: Laurence Monnais: laurence.mon-nais-rousselet@umontreal.ca

10/04/2014-12/04/2014, Philadelphia, Chemical Heritage Foundation, International conference: Chemical Reactions. Chemistry and Global History

Call for papers: one of the most important developments in the history of science and technology in recent years has been the recognition that, far from being an essentially western history, it can best be understood and analyzed in the broader context of global history. This is not a call to investigate 'influence' or to compare

the “achievements” of “the West and the Rest”, but to consider how globally spread interactions and networks of commercial and cultural exchange both depended on and fed scientific and technological investigation and development. Such an approach has proven extremely fruitful in the history of medicine, natural history (botany, etc.), astronomy, cartography and geography. Surprisingly, the history of chemistry has yet to be analytically integrated with global history in a sustained and organized way. This conference and subsequent edited volume are a first step in that direction. For the purposes of this conference, the term ‘chemistry’ should not be considered in a scientifically narrow, discipline-bound way. Rather, we are interested to include examinations of knowledge-claims and practices, wherever they were situated or travelled, that somehow involved the de- and re-composition of material compounds, irrespective of whether they were labeled as ‘chemistry’ by contemporaries. In order to provide a manageable way into this huge and fascinating field, the conference will be limited to the seventeenth - twentieth century and be organized around a small number of topic areas:

- Chemistry and Global Commodities: examples include porcelain, sugar, oil, rubber (natural and synthetic) and ‘recreational drugs’.
- Chemistry and Environment: modifying or sustaining the environment through chemistry, whether conscious or as an unintended by-product. Examples range from pest control to ‘cradle to cradle’ modes of production and include globally connected topics such as the Green Revolutions and Bhopal.
- Chemistry and Global Health: from the early-modern circulation of drugs and pharmaceutical knowledge to recent struggles over patent rights and distribution of medicines.
- Chemistry and Industry: from the early-modern world of porcelain manufacture, textile production and dyeing to recent issues relating to the mining and exploitation of minerals only available in war-torn areas of Africa, production of computers and cell phones.

- Chemistry and Governance: the role of governments, trading companies, (professional and amateur) scientific societies and corporations in managing and directing the production and circulation of chemically-based productions, methods and knowledge

- Chemistry and Everyday Life: the introduction of new processes and materials such as glass, cement, synthetic fibers, ersatz foods, plastics and nano-materials. Subject areas might include topics such as architecture, clothing and fashion, food and drink. Proposals should be sent to: cberkowitz@chemheritage.org . For further information, contact Carin Berkowitz (cberkowitz@chemheritage.org) or Lissa Roberts (L.L.roberts@utwente.nl).

10/07/2014-12/07/2014, Oxford, UK, Society for the Social History of Medicine 2014 Conference: Disease, Health, and the State

The Society for the Social History of Medicine hosts a major, biennial, international, and interdisciplinary conference. In 2014 it will explore the relationships between health, disease, and the state. Responses to disease and concerns about health contributed to the development of the state, yet disease and medicine have also challenged and disrupted state authority. The biennial conference is not exclusive in terms of its theme, and reflects the broad diversity of the discipline of the social history of medicine.

Call for Papers: Proposals that consider all topics relevant to the history of medicine broadly conceived are invited, but the 2014 committee encourages proposals for papers, sessions, and roundtables that examine, challenge, and refine the history of disease, health and the state. Suggested themes include local and global understandings of health, medicine, and governance; the consolidation, breakdown, or absence of state power in the midst of health and medical crises; and the experience of health and medical bureaucracies in the past. From discussions on the health of the body politic, the role of public health in imperial governance, the

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nature of military medicine, environmental regulations, to socialized medicine, we welcome approaches from a variety of disciplines and time periods. However, submissions are not restricted to any area of study, and the committee welcomes proposals on a range of subjects relevant to the history of medicine, from the history of health and disease to the history of medical care. Submissions should be sent to sshm2014@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk. Additional information about the conference can be obtained at www.sshm2014.org.