The reality of medical practice: pluralism in health care in the Hispanic monarchy (16th-18th centuries). Introduction

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Francisco López de Villalobos (c.1473-c.1549), court doctor

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Summary
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Abstract
The personality and works of the converso physician Francisco López de Villalobos (c.1473-c.1549) have been widely studied, ever since the late 19th century, when Antonio María Fabié published his classic work on this figure, which is still the point of departure for any new approach. However, most subsequent works have only focused upon some aspects of Villalobos' protean figure. The article is intended to explore Villalobos' Latin and Castilian letters in order to better understand the significance and motivations of this professional courier at the different noble courts (mainly that of Alba) and royal Castilian courts (of Ferdinand the Catholic and Charles V) in which he served during the first half of the 16th century. In each of these settings, his professional path took on particular features according to his variable expectations and to the degree of satisfaction he achieved.
The infirmaries of ladies and servants in the Spanish royal court of the seventeenth century
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Abstract
The object of the present institutional study is the help and health care received by ladies and servants of the palace in the Spanish royal court of the 17th century. The study draws on documents recorded under the heading «The Infirmary of Ladies and Servants» in file 447 of the administrative section at the General Records of the Madrid Royal Palace.

Non-conventional medical practice in the city of Valencia in the 16th and 17th centuries
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Summary
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Abstract
The aim of this study is to provide an example of medical pluralism and of the different resources against disease available to the inhabitants of the city of Valencia in the 16th century and the first half of the 17th century. The work considers conventional health care and in particular details of extra-academic medical practices, i.e. both empirical and religious alternatives that were neither regulated nor based on Galenism. The study analyses examples of folk healing, the sale of miracle cures and recourse to the saints or spells, among others.

«With human and divine means»: the fight against disease and death in 18th century Alicante
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Abstract
The nucleus of this work is the wide spectrum of means available to the inhabitants of the city of Alicante in the 18th century to fight against disease. Alongside healthcare professionals properly trained as physicians, surgeons, barbers or midwives, there were both other healers of heterogeneous types and religious resources. The study considers, in a comprehensive and articulated way, the whole repertoire of therapeutic and healthcare alternatives provided to the inhabitants of Alicante. The interpretation of the results is
carried out taking into account the historiographical framework developed in recent years that considers the medical marketplace as an economic and cultural concept.

Doctors and surgeons in Extremadura at the end of the 18th century

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**Abstract**

The Royal Council of Extremadura was established by Carlos IV on 30 May 1790. Within a few months, its officials undertook a visit of the whole territory. They drew up a questionnaire with 57 items that allowed them to collect specific information of interest to the court. Through the information gathered from the responses of the different communities, we have studied the distribution of the doctors and surgeons practising there. This analysis allowed us to confirm the many different health and health care conditions in the region, and the determining demographic, social and economic factors that were, in the final instance, decisive for the presence of these professionals.

Rural healthcare in the 17th and 18th centuries: types of conducción (contract) for health professionals in Aragon

**ASUNCIÓN FERNÁNDEZ DOCTOR & LUIS A. ARCARAZO GARCÍA** .......... 189

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1.— Introduction. 2.— Legislation. 3.— Types of conducción (contract) for health workers. 4.— Contracting procedures. 5.— Salaries. 6.— Functions of physicians under contract (conducidos). 7.— Problems posed by the contracts (conductas), and sources of our knowledge of rural medical practice.

**Abstract**

In order to ensure continuous health care for the population, Town Councils of the rural areas of Aragon offered contracts to health professionals. The contract was known as a «conducta médica» or «conducción». In this study, we review the legislation of the time, the types of contracts and the procedures followed, in addition to the fees and duties of the health professionals (conducidos) hired. Finally, the problems arising from this system are considered and some relevant sources are given.

Popular medicine versus university medicine during the reign of João V of Portugal (1706-1750)

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Abstract
This paper endeavours to contribute to an understanding of the coexistence and complementarity between popular and university medicine in the Portugal of the first half of the 18th century. It begins by outlining the academic training of physicians and the publishing of medical books, concentrating on the study of advertisements published in the Gazeta de Lisboa from 1715 to 1750. These draw attention to the more frequent diseases in the population and the large number of remedies offered to treat them, and represents an example of the pluralism of medical practices exercised by qualified and unqualified practitioners, Portuguese or otherwise.

Rules of hygiene and moral guidance in medical practice, 16-17th centuries
Spain
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Summary
1.—Introduction. 2.—Reception of medical knowledge in different social groups. 3.—Conclusion.

Abstract
In recent decades, we have seen how members of the illiterate, popular classes gained access to specific contents of elite culture by means of oral expression collected through texts. This development may be related to the target readership of medical texts published in Spain during the 16th and 17th centuries. The study also analyses how information about preventive measures in health care was passed on through medical books from professionals to lay-people. This represents one of the key methods used by medical practice in the modern world.

Medical practice in Spanish surgical texts in the 16th century
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Abstract
The purpose of this paper is to show that the writings of 16th century Spanish surgeons-doctors contain considerable information about everyday surgical practice. These usually neglected data may bring us to a better understanding of the development of this aspect of medical practice. Surgical writings analysed here are by Daza Chacon, Juan Fragoso, Juan Calvo, and Pedro Arias de Benavides.

Medical consultation. A medical practice in the 18th century
PILAR LEÓN ............................................................................................. 279

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Consultations with presence of physician. 4.1.—The convocation. 4.2.—Those convoked. 4.3—Development of the consultation. 4.4—Order of participation. 4.5.—Conclusion of the consultation. 5.—Justification of the consultations.

Abstract
This paper outlines a typology of medical consultation in the 18th century, with emphasis on those carried out with the physicians present. This practice did not differ from that of previous centuries. Medical consultation, as a specifically structured procedure, served as an instrument to define the hierarchy of those present. This reflected the professional instability of the medical practice in 18th century Spain. The sources for this study include chronicles by physicians of the period that describe the consultation sessions among doctors, gathered in what they called «Juntas», as well as written consultations.

Consultations and «juntas» of physicians as an arena for doctrinal discussions in the Novator movement (1687-1717)
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Summary
1.—Introduction. 2.—The consultations. 3.—Physicians' meetings (juntas).

Abstract
The consultations (consultas) and meetings (juntas) of physicians represented an area of prime importance for both medical practice and doctrinal discussions. The analysis of manuscript sources—the private correspondence of a doctor—rarely used in this period, reveals the reality of medical practice more accurately than do doctrinal or normative texts. The difference between «consultas» and «juntas» depended on the person who took the initiative. «Consultas» arose from the practical difficulty of the physician confronted with a case which he decided to submit to the judgement of other colleagues, whose experience and prestige were greater. On the other hand the «juntas» were the initiative of the patient. In this latter case there were many different factors: institutional conflicts, professional expectations and rivalries. Nevertheless, the opinions of the patients and their circle of acquaintances were also represented. Finally, this was the arena for doctrinal discussions about the human body and disease.

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Some features of the relationship between Lullism and pseudo-Lullism in the early modern times
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Summary
1.—Llull the alchemist: state of the issue. 2.—From the 14th to the 15th century. 3.—From the 15th to the 16th century. 4.—The 16th century.

Abstract
In this work, the author presents, following a chronologic sequence, some
aspects of Llull’s image that became controversial during the 16th century, especially the discussion about the idea of Llull as alchemist, which developed around the 16th century. To this end, the author analyses the origin and development of the polemic since the 14th century, including the «official» positions. At the same time, the two positions (Llull the alchemist and Llull the philosopher) are related to similar occurrences outside the Iberian Peninsula, especially in France and Italy.

Physicians in 19th century Mexico: between State control and professional autonomy
Ana María Carrillo

Summary
1.—Introduction. 2.—Economic issues in medical practice. 2.1.—The «medical priesthood»: charity versus market. 2.2.—Fees and tariffs. 3.—State control of medical education and practice. 3.1.—Evaluation of medical knowledge. 3.2.—Physicians are only accountable to their peers 3.3.—The medical secret and political ideologies. 3.4.—The field of work. 4.—Conclusions.

Abstract
This article analyses the struggles of 19th century Mexican physicians to gain professional autonomy versus the state. Medical practitioners sought to resist the imposition of a series of state measures, including directives to attend all patients and provide free care to the poor, forced adherence to political ideologies, state control of medical education, penal action in cases of professional liability, violation of medical confidentiality, and challenges to professional freedom. The article shows the reach of political power over medical practice in the 19th century, and explains the range and limits of the power of the medical profession.

Boltzmann’s principle and Einstein’s first quantum theories
Luís Navarro Veguillas & Enric Pérez Canals

Summary
1.—Introduction: from the energy elements of Boltzmann (1877) to the quanta of Planck (1900). 2.—Gas, radiation and Boltzmann’s principle (1905-1906). 3.—Fluctuations and Boltzmann’s principle (1907-1910). 4.—The First Solvay Conference (1911): in search of probability. 5.—Epilogue: Boltzmann’s principle and the adiabatic hypothesis.

Abstract
The crucial role played by statistical mechanics in Einstein’s work on quantum theory has been repeatedly stressed. Nevertheless, in this paper we argue that Einstein’s attitude to Boltzmann’s principle was more complex than is usually understood. In fact, there are significant differences and nuances that in our opinion have yet to be sufficiently considered, in the various interpretations and uses Einstein made of this principle in his work on quantum theory, more specifically between 1905 and the First Solvay Conference, in 1911.
On the neurophysiological research of the Catalan histological school: the correspondence between Santiago Ramón y Cajal and Rafael Lorente de Nó (1930-1934)

**ALFREDO RODRÍGUEZ QUIROGA**

**Summary**
1.—Introduction. 2.—From neurohistology to neurophysiology: the work of Rafael Lorente de Nó. 3.—The correspondence between Santiago Ramón y Cajal and Rafael Lorente de Nó (1930-1934). Documents.

**Abstract**
Rafael Lorente de Nó was the last disciple of Santiago Ramón y Cajal. He initiated, together with Fernando de Castro, the physiological orientation of Cajal’s histological school. His development as a researcher reveals the difficulties that Cajal’s disciples had to face in order to progress from neurohistological to neurophysiological research. The correspondence between Ramón y Cajal and Lorente de Nó during this period (1930-1934), published here, clearly shows these problems. We also attempt to diminish the important gap in Spanish historical-medical research represented by the letters of Ramón y Cajal.

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On an unknown edition of the *Reprobación de supersticiones* by the master Pedro Ciruelo

**VERÓNICA MATEO RIPOLL**

**Summary**
1.—Bibliographic news. 2.—An edition tentatively placed in several cities. 3.—Topobibliographic description. 4.—Subjects and factors of the work: the author, the printer and the engraver. 4.1.—The xylographies of Juan de Vingles. 4.2.—The professional career by Pedro Ciruelo. Brief notes. 4.3.—Sorting out with the printing materials. 5.—By way of conclusion.

**Abstract**
The aim of the article is the analysis and description of one of the editions of the well-known *Reprobación de supersticiones* by the master Pedro Ciruelo. To be exact, it is the first edition, as we will demonstrate through the text, which was undiscovered until now. We proceed to the description of a copy kept at the library of the Diocesan Seminary of San Miguel de Orihuela. In addition to the more formal aspects, the evolution and development of the author, printer and engraver are extremely important for dating this printed work.

Medical practice in the Castilian rural setting. *The Memorial (Account)* by Vicente Crespo (1785)

**MIKEL ASTRAIN**

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Summary
1.—Introduction. 2.—The rural setting and medical practice in early modern Spain. 3.—Rationalisation in the regulation of medical work in small towns and villages. 4.—Conclusions.

Abstract
The aim of this note is to analyse the life and work of rural physicians in late 18th century Spain, using a rich and unpublished manuscript written in 1785 by Vicente Crespo, a rural physician who practised in Brihuega, a town in the province of Guadalajara (Kingdom of Castile). The working conditions of this professional group were largely dependent on the control of the Real Tribunal del Protomedicato and their relations with other groups of health providers (surgeons, barbers, apothecaries and quacks). The study approaches these relations in the context of Spain as a rural society, still based on a manorial structure and with considerable power concentrated at the local level. During this period, each district attempted to hire physicians to cover their healthcare needs, by using the terms partido or medicatura to refer to the practices created.

IN MEMORIAM

LUIS GARCÍA BALLESTER (1936-2000) (Continued)

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