SYPHILIS WRECKS MARRIAGE

An advertisement by the U.S. Public Health Service from a Vol. 7 No. 4 of the Journal of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (1937) encouraging testing for syphilis prior to marriage.

Original image in: Journal of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama Vol.7 No.4 (Historical Medical Library of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia)

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CROCODILE SKELETON

Engraved by Gerard van der Gucht and Mr. Shinevoet.

Skeletal figure of a crocodile, lateral view, with its mouth open. In the background there are palm trees and a pyramid. Osteographia, William Cheselden’s work on human and animal bones, was first published in London in 1733. The book’s elegant and sometimes playful illustrations were created with the use of a camera obscura and engraved by Gerard van der Gucht and Mr. Shinevoet.


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URINOSCOPIC CONSULTATION


Fasciculus Medicinae was a collection medical treatises first printed in 1491, although it previously circulated in manuscript. The work is noted for its illustrations, which were among the first anatomical illustrations to be printed. The text was issued thereafter in several new editions that included new illustrations, with this extremely rare 1516 edition from Milan based on a 1509 forgery of the 1493 Venetian edition.

Original image in: Ketham, Joannes de. Fasciculus medicinae. Italian (Milano : Seinzenzeler, 1516), leaf a1v. ZAe 19b (Historical Medical Library of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia)

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Born at the end of the 18th century, Johann Friedrich Meckel, a renowned pathologist and anatomist, was inclined to view the causes of monstrosities as part of nature, as developments rather than phenomena. Meckel was one of the first to suggest the idea of pleiotropy, meaning that one gene (heredity) can be responsible for multiple defects; and the first to promote the study of embryology in order to understand better the causes of monstrosity. In Meckel’s work, one can see the beginnings of what will be called teratology, the study of abnormalities of physiological development.
[Ophthalmodouleia], das ist Augendienst was the first Renaissance manuscript on ophthalmic disorders and surgeries. Georg Bartisch (1535-1607), considered by many the "father of modern ophthalmology," accompanied the images with a discussion of eye pathologies, surgeries and the instruments used in ocular surgery at the time. [Ophthalmodouleia], das ist Augendienst was notably written in Bartisch's native German rather than Latin, the dominant language of science and academia at the time. It was the first textbook in the German language and is seen as the precursor to the modern textbook.

Original image in: Bartisch, Georg, 1535-ca. 1607. [Ophthalmodouleia], das ist Augendienst ZKb 16 (Historical Medical Library of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia)

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