

Huselle

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

History of medicine preliminary examination

Spring, 1983

General instructions: Answer any three of the following six questions. Plan on spending about an hour or an hour and a quarter on each one. Your answers should address both historical and historiographical issues, they should cite appropriate primary and secondary literature, and they should emphasize developments from the eighteenth century. Read through the entire examination before you begin working on it.

- I. Give an historian's definition of the "modernity" of twentieth-century medicine. To what events are the characteristics of modernity owing? What historical or historiographical virtue lies in discussing "modernity"?
- ✓ II. The historiography of medicine often focusses on oppositions such as those between humorism and solidism, ontology and general pathology, specific and general remedies, Hippocratism and theorizing, active and expectant therapy. Explore the utility of these and other oppositions to understanding the history of medicine by discussing on episodes in which they seem to loom large. Do these conceptions enlighten or confuse us? Do they raise the issues that ought to concern the historian or do they amount to seductive detours from more vital issues?
- III. Provide a critical analysis of the historiography of American medicine. What have been the principal preoccupations of that historiography? With what results? What issues should dominate the historiography of American medicine? Why?
- IV. What role has the history of medical education played in the historiography of medicine? What justifies the preoccupation of historians with medical schools?
- ✓ V. Since the late 1960's, medicine in Western nations has been the focus of intense, multi-dimensional criticism. Identify some leading themes of that criticism and explore the manner in which modern medicine has responded to them.
- VI. What can the history of public health tell us about the history of medicine more broadly conceived?

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History of medicine preliminary examination

Fall, 1982

General instructions: Answer any three of the following six questions. Plan on spending about an hour or an hour and a quarter on each one. Your answers should address both historical and historiographical issues and should cite appropriate primary and secondary literature. You are welcome to criticize and reformulate the questions, but you must justify your doing so. Read through the entire examination before you begin working on it.

- I. In the history of medicine, the nineteenth century is regarded above all as the age of scientific medicine. By the early twentieth century, the scientific foundations of medicine were radically different from what they had been at the end of the eighteenth-century. The role of theory, the position and productivity of basic science, the prospects for therapy, and the scientific significance of the clinic had all been transformed. Explore the nature of this transformation. Begin by comparing and contrasting the scientific foundations of medicine in 1920 with those of 1770, 150 years earlier. Then connect these two extremes by selecting what you think to have been the principal developments in the intervening period. You needn't describe those developments in detail, but you should say enough about them to justify your selection in the light of prevailing historiography. Finally, suggest what gaps that historiography has yet to fill by stating what you think are the principal issues still confronting our understanding of the rise of scientific medicine.
- II. As one of the earliest professions, medicine has been the focus of attempts to understand the social and historical nature of professions and professionalization. What historiographic models of professionalization have been applied to medicine and how successful have they been? In your answer, pay particular attention to French and particularly Parisian medicine in the late 18th and early 19th century; to American medicine from the colonial era; and to any other cases you think informative. Support your answer with specific historical and historiographical evidence.

(Exam continues on next page)

