

## Notes

1. Ronald S. Gibbs and Richard L. Sweet, "Maternal and Fetal Infections," in Robert K. Creasy and Robert Resnik, *Maternal and Fetal Medicine Principles and Practice*, pp. 603-678 (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1984), at p. 622.
2. Margaret DeLacy, "Puerperal Fever in Eighteenth-Century Britain," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 63 (1989): 521-556, at p. 524.
3. DeLacy, p. 524.
4. Gibbs and Sweet, p. 623.
5. Gibbs and Sweet, p. 623.
6. D. Heather Watts et al., "Early Postpartum Endometritis: The Role of Bacteria, Genital Mycoplasmas, and *Chlamydia trachomatis*," *Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 73 (1989): 52-60, at p. 58.
7. Bob A. Freeman, *Burrows Textbook of Microbiology*, 21st ed. (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1979), p. 226.
8. Rebecca C. Lancefield, "A Serological Differentiation of Human and Other Groups of Hemolytic Streptococci," *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 57 (1933): 571-595.
9. Rebecca C. Lancefield and Ronald Hare, "The Serological Differentiation of Pathogenic and Non-pathogenic Strains of Hemolytic Streptococci from Parturient Women," *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 61 (1935): 347.
10. Irvine Loudon, "Puerperal Fever, the Streptococcus, and the Sulfonamides, 1911-1945," *British Medical Journal* 295 (1987): 485-490, at p. 487.
11. R. M. Fry, "Fatal Infection by Hemolytic Streptococci Group B," *Lancet* 1 (1938): 199.
12. Edward Shorter, *A History of Women's Bodies* (London: Allen Lane, 1983), chapter 6.
13. Gibbs and Sweet, p. 632.
14. E. L. Grauel et al., "Neonatal Septicaemia—Incidence, Etiology, and Outcome," *Acta Paediatrica Scandinavica* 360, Supplement (1989): 113-119, at pp. 117 f.
15. I. Sjöberg et al., "Incidence of Early Onset Group B Streptococcal Septicemia in Sweden 1973-1985," *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases* 9 (1990): 276-278, at p. 277.
16. Isaac Ginsburg, "Streptococcus," in Abraham I. Braude, Charles E. Davis, and Joshua Fierer, *Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology*, 2nd ed., pp. 242-253 (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1986), at p. 250.
17. Stanley A. Seligman, "The Lesser Pestilence: Non-epidemic Puerperal Fever," *Medical History* 35 (1991): 89-102.

18. Gibbs and Sweet, p. 627.
19. Quoted in Loudon, p. 485.
20. Loudon, p. 485.
21. DeLacy, pp. 527 f.
22. DeLacy, pp. 528 f.
23. Loudon, p. 485.
24. Leonard Colebrook and Meave Kenny, "Treatment of Human Puerperal Infections and of Experimental Infections in Mice, with Prontosil," *Lancet* 1 (1936): 1279-1286; Leonard Colebrook and Meave Kenny, "Treatment with Prontosil of Puerperal Infections Due to Hemolytic Streptococci," *Lancet* 2 (1936): 1319-1322.
25. Seligman, p. 92.

## Postscript

Knowledge does not come without cost. Three centuries elapsed between the first epidemic of childbed fever and the discovery of penicillin. For three hundred years, physicians examined young women in childbirth, watched them die, dissected their corpses, and deposited their remains in unmarked graves. The doctors gained knowledge, but at the sacrifice of more lives than were lost in all the wars of those centuries.

In towns and villages around the world are memorials that preserve, in honored glory, the names of men who died at war—men who, in hatred, killed one another, for causes that now seem empty and vain. But there are no memorials to the victims of childbed fever. We remember them no more, and their names are lost forever. Yet their sacrifice purchased knowledge that blesses all our lives with increased health and security.

Never have blessings been sanctified by the payment of so terrible a price. Never have the beneficiaries of such blessings been so oblivious of the cost and of those who paid it.

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# Index

## A

Abortion 1, 27, 47, 99  
Amann, Joseph 91  
Amputation 6  
Antibiotics 99, 111–114  
Antibodies 103–105  
Antigens 103–105  
Antimony 8, 30  
Antiphlogistic regimen  
5–8  
Arsenic 8

## B

Balassa, János 68, 75, 79  
Bavaria 43  
Bayle, Gaspard-Laurent 11  
Birly, Ede Flórián 69  
Blistering 36–37  
Bloodletting 6–8, 17, 22, 30,  
35–37, 72  
Boehr, Max 90  
Boer, Johann Lukas 21–22,  
32, 52  
Bohemia 19  
Bókai, János 74–75, 77  
Boston 92–93

Braun, Carl 61, 69, 78, 84–88  
Braun, Gustav 78, 87  
Breit, Franz 49, 52, 66  
Budapest 42–44, 67–70, 74,  
76, 79  
Burgenland 41–42

## C

Calomel 8, 35, 36  
Carious knee 54  
Causes of disease 4–5, 33–35,  
46–47, 50–51, 65–66, 72,  
86, 87, 98, 101–109  
Cesarean section 9–10, 100,  
106  
Chain, Ernst Boris 113  
Chiari, Baptist Johann 44  
Chloride of lime 53  
Chlorine washings 53–56, 60,  
64, 66, 68–71, 79, 84, 87,  
111  
Clinical training 14–15,  
22–23, 27, 45  
Colbrook, Leonard 111–112  
Columbus, Christopher 72  
Confidentiality 26–27  
Conscription, military 28–29

## D

Danube river 41, 42, 43, 83  
 Dermatology 14–15, 18  
 Diescher, János 79  
 Disease, nature of 4–6, 15–16,  
 54, 65–66, 71–73, 87,  
 91–92, 98  
 Docent of obstetrics 63, 67, 68  
 Domagk, Gerhard 111  
 Dublin 49

## E

Endometritis 37, 98  
 England 7, 109, 113  
 Epidemic disease 4, 16–17,  
 31–32, 45–46, 106  
 Erysipelas 9, 105, 111  
*Escherichia coli* 108–109  
 Expectant medicine 17, 21

## F

Ferber, Rudolf H. 91  
 Fermentation 84, 85, 91  
 Fever 5–7  
 Fischer, I. 89  
 Fleischer, József 69  
 Fleming, Alexander 112–113  
 Florey, Howard Walter 113  
 Fomites 110  
 Fools' Tower 3, 18  
 Forceps 21  
 Foreign students 49, 59  
 Foundlings home 27–28  
 France 7, 11–12, 14, 16, 18, 57  
 Francis II 16  
 Franks 41, 43

Franziskovy 89  
 Fry, R. M. 106

## G

Gangrene 6, 9, 77  
 Germany 55, 75, 90, 91, 111  
 Germs. *See* Microorganisms  
 Göttweig 1  
 Gräfenberg 75, 76

## H

Hapsburgs 1, 3, 16, 19, 28–29,  
 42, 57–61, 67–68, 69  
 Hare, Ronald 104  
 Haydn, Joseph 1  
 Hebra, Ferdinand 18–19,  
 54–55, 57, 66, 76  
 Hemolytic reaction 103  
 Heroic therapy 8, 17  
 Hildenbrand, Valentin von  
 16–17, 21–22  
 Holy Roman Empire 41  
 Hôtel-Dieu 4, 31  
 Hungary 1, 19, 41–44, 57–59,  
 67–68, 90  
 Hydrophobia 4, 72

## I

Illegitimacy 1–2  
 Inflammation 5–7, 8, 9, 98

## J

Jenner, Edward 55  
 Jex-Blake, Sophia 92–93  
 Joseph II 1, 2, 16, 28

## K

Kahlenberg 2  
 Kenny, Meave 111  
 Klein, Johannes 22, 32, 37,  
 44, 45, 49, 52, 53, 58–61,  
 63, 66, 69, 84  
 Kollerschka, Jakob 18–19,  
 50–51  
 Kossuth, Lajos 57  
 Kremsmünster 1, 83

## L

Laennec, René-Théophile-  
 Hyacinthe 11  
 Lancefield, Rebecca C.  
 104–105, 109  
 Lange, Wilhelm 90  
 Lea, Arnold 109  
 Leeches 7–8, 30, 35–36  
 Leopoldsberg 2  
 Lesky, Erna 89  
 Levy, Karl Edouard Marius 55  
 Lister, Joseph 89  
 Loudon, Irvine 109, 111  
 Lumpe, Eduard 46, 66–67, 72

## M

Magyar tribes 41, 43  
 Marie Antoinette 16  
 Markusovsky, Lajos 74, 78  
 Masks 27  
 Maternity hospital in Paris 32  
 Mayrhofer, Carl, 83–93  
 Mayrhofer, Karl Wilhelm 83  
 Medullary carcinoma 53–54  
 Melk 1

Meningitis 37, 50, 107  
 Mercury 8, 35, 36  
 Metrophlebitis 37, 98  
 Metternich, Clemens von 16, 57  
 Miasms 32, 34–35, 46  
 Michaelis, Gustav Adolph 55  
 Microorganisms 84–87, 91–92,  
 98, 101–111  
 Midwives 23, 24, 32, 49, 51, 53  
 Midwives' oath 74  
 Mohacs, battle of 41  
 Morgue 13, 14–15, 23, 36  
 Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus 1  
 Müller, Terézia 43–44  
 Mumps 4  
 Munich 91

## N

Napoleon Bonaparte 16  
 Nationalism 19, 42, 57–59,  
 67–68  
 Nobel prize 111, 113  
 Nosocomial 107  
 Nurses 3, 23

## O

Ophthalmology 14–15  
 Ottoman Turks 1, 41–42  
 Overcrowding 46–47

## P

Pasteur, Louis 84, 85, 89, 91  
 Pathological anatomy 10–13,  
 17–18, 22, 31, 37, 45,  
 50–51  
 Penicillin 112–113, 117

Percussion 18  
 Peritonitis 37, 50, 98  
 Pest. *See* Budapest  
 Phthisis 4-5, 10-12  
 Pneumonia 105  
 Prontosil 111-112  
 Prostitution 1, 4, 26, 74

Q

Queen Charlotte's Hospital  
 99

R

Rabbits 63, 86  
 Rabies. *See* Hydrophobia  
 Religious practices 48-49  
 Resorption 65  
 Rickets 10  
 Risk factors 100-101  
 Rokitansky, Karl 17-19, 45,  
 59-61, 78  
 Romania 41-42  
 Routh, C. H. F. 55-56  
 Royal Hungary 41-42

S

St. Florian 1  
 St. Petersburg 89  
 St. Rochus Hospital 68  
 Scanzoni, Friedrich 64  
 Schottmuller, Hugo 103  
 Schuh, Franz 59  
 Semmelweis, József 43-44  
 Sepsis 98  
 Seyfert, Bernhard 64  
 Shock 8, 98-99, 109

Simpson, James Young 55, 56  
 Skoda, Josef 18-19, 44,  
 59-61, 63-65, 66, 67  
 Späth, Joseph 88, 90  
 Spiegelberg, Otto 91  
 Sporadic disease 4, 5, 71,  
 106-107, 108  
 Stamm, August Theodor 86  
 Staphylococci 112  
 Street deliveries 27-28, 33,  
 51  
 Streptococci 101-112, 113  
 Sulfonamides 111, 112, 113  
 Supportive treatment 6, 8  
 Surgery 8-10  
 Surgical fever 9  
 Syphilis 4, 7, 25-26, 75

## T

Tabán 43-44, 79  
 Tbilisi 89  
 Tetanus 6, 9  
 Therapy 5-8, 17, 21, 35-37,  
 72-73, 111-114  
 Tilanus, Christian Bernard  
 55  
 Transylvania 41-42  
 Treatment of disease. *See*  
 Therapy  
 Tuberculosis 6, 11, 88-89. *See*  
*also* Phthisis

## U

University of Heidelberg 90  
 University of Pest 69, 75, 78  
 University of Prague 63-64  
 University of Tübingen 49

University of Vienna 44,  
 57-61, 83  
 Urinary tract infections 99,  
 106, 108

## V

Váci utca 70  
 Veit, A. C. G. 88, 90  
 Venice 50, 53  
 Ventilation 86-88

Vibrions 85-87  
 Vitamin D 10

## W

Wagner, János 75  
 Wax models 15  
 Weidenhoffer, Mária 70,  
 74, 75, 76-77, 78  
 Wieger, M. F. 56  
 Wildschgo, Josepha 83