

Suggested Reading

Fiction and Literature

George Eliot

--*Middlemarch* (1872) Set around 1832. Medicine is becoming a true science, and physicians are becoming socially respected professionals. Dr. Lydgate faces the intellectual challenges of the former and the dilemmas and temptations presented by the latter.

--*Adam Bede* (1859) Set in 1799. One of the plot lines involves an out-of-wedlock pregnancy and a legal determination of infanticide.

Lawrence Sterne

--*The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy* (1767) Never give up! Never surrender! Keep on reading and (I promise you) a more or less connected narrative of Mrs. Shandy's pregnancy, lying in, and delivery will emerge. Dr. Slop is an unforgettable picture of the 18th century "man midwife" whose presence every sane woman dreaded.

Tobias Smollett

--*The Adventures of Roderick Random* (1748) After his apprenticeship, Smollett served as a naval surgeon. The book draws on his experiences at the Siege of Cartagena in 1741.

James Boswell

--*London Journal* (1762-3) Boswell describes his experience of contracting and being treated for a gonorrheal infection.

--"The Hypochondriack" (1777-83) A series of articles written for London Magazine in which Boswell reflects on his understanding of and experiences with melancholia.

History of Medicine

Sherwin Nuland

--*Doctors: The Biography of Medicine* (1988) A history of some of the major developments in medicine narrated through biographies of the individuals responsible for them. Of special interest with respect to the understanding of disease and medical care in Austen's time is the chapter "To Tend the Fleshly Tabernacle of the Immortal Spirit," on Joseph Lister and the development of antiseptic and aseptic surgical techniques.

--*Medicine: The Art of Healing* (1992) Paintings and illustrations representing the medical arts and portraying the medical practitioners of the 13th through the 20th century.

Roy Porter

--*Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine* (2002)

--*The Greatest Benefit to Mankind* (1997) The longer version.

--*The Cambridge History of Medicine* (various editions) The longest version.

All three books are clearly and engagingly written for the educated non-expert.

Lois N. Magner

--*A History of Medicine* (1992)