

Contents

List of graphs, maps, and tables	<i>page</i> ix
Preface	xiii
Introduction	I
1 Recurrent epidemic diseases: plague and the other plagues	10
<i>Periodic epidemicity</i>	10
<i>A plague was many plagues</i>	14
<i>Plague misdiagnosed</i>	18
2 Florentine deaths in the first plague century	27
<i>Florence's Books of the Dead</i>	28
<i>Causes of death in the Books of the Dead</i>	35
<i>Normal years and plague years</i>	54
<i>A general picture of Florentine health and disease</i>	57
3 Plague in Florence	59
<i>Demographic background</i>	60
<i>Mortality rates of major and minor plagues</i>	61
<i>Seasonal characteristics of minor plagues</i>	62
<i>Geographical distribution of plague</i>	67
<i>Individual diagnoses of plague</i>	78
<i>Contagion and the minor plagues</i>	85
<i>Were the minor plagues true plague?</i>	87
4 The social effects of plague in Florence	90
<i>Demographic significance of minor plagues</i>	90
<i>Legislative significance of minor plagues</i>	96
<i>Social significance of emerging plague legislation</i>	103
5 Plague controls become social controls	108
<i>Plague controls in 1348</i>	108
<i>Plague controls after 1348</i>	110

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	<i>The evolution of true plague controls</i>	116
	<i>Plague legislation for the poor</i>	121
	Conclusion	127
	Appendixes	
	I Limitations of the Books of the Dead and the means for estimating numbers of children	133
	II Deaths by quarter in Florence (parts 1–6)	136
	Notes	143
	Bibliographical essay	166
	Index	177