Offering an authoritative and timely account of the relationship between literature and medicine in the eighteenth century and Romantic period, a time when most diseases had no cure, this collection provides a valuable overview of how two dynamic fields influenced and shaped one another. Covering a period in which both medicine and literature underwent frequent and sometimes radical change, the volume examines the complex mutual construction of these two fields via various perspectives: disability, gender, race, rank, sexuality, the global and colonial, politics, ethics, and the visual. Diseases, fashionable and otherwise, such as Defoe’s representation of the plague, feature strongly, as authors argue across the volume for the role literary genres play in affecting people’s experience of physical and mental illness (and health). Along with its sister publication, Literature and Medicine in the Nineteenth Century, this volume offers a major critical overview of the study of literature and medicine.

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LITERATURE AND MEDICINE

The Eighteenth Century

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Contents

List of Figures .......................... page vii
List of Contributors ...................... viii
Acknowledgements ...................... xiii

Introduction: Literature and Medicine in the Long Eighteenth Century
Clark Lawlor .......................... 1

PART I LITERARY MODES

1 ‘Mere Flesh and Blood’: Poetry, Genre, and Medicine
   Clark Lawlor .......................... 23

2 Jane Barker, Medical Discourse, and the Origins of the Novel
   Heather Meek .......................... 51

3 Imaginary Invalids: The Symptom and the Stage from the Restoration to the Romantics
   Roberta Barker .......................... 70

PART II PSYCHE AND SOMA

4 Mental Illness: Locking and Unlocking the Stereotypes
   Allan Ingram .......................... 91

5 From Hypo to Bile: The Rise and Progress of Biliousness in the Long Eighteenth Century
   Hisao Ishizuka .......................... 113
Contents

6 Metaphors of Infectious Disease in Eighteenth-Century Literature: Complex Comparatives in Daniel Defoe’s *A Journal of the Plague Year* (1722) 144
Noelle Dückmann Gallagher

7 Only Connect: Romantic Nerves, Pleasure, Aesthetics, and Sexuality 161
Richard C. Sha

PART III PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND CULTURE

8 Physician-Authors, Predisciplinarity, and Predatory Writing: John Polidori 189
Michelle Faubert

9 ‘The Compleat, Common Form’: Disability and the Literature of the British Enlightenment 219
D. Christopher Gabbard

10 Anatomy and Interiority: Medicine, Politics, and Identity in the Long Eighteenth Century 242
Corinna Wagner

Index 269
Figures

10.1 Sir Anthony van Dyck, *Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby*, late 1630s. The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, inv. no. GE-545, photograph, © The State Hermitage Museum, Yuri Molodkovets. page 245


10.5 ‘Lavater’s Apparatus for Taking Silhouettes’, after a 1783 engraving, in Thomas O’Conor Sloane, *Facts Worth Knowing*, 1895. 251

10.6 Daniel Marot, after a design for displaying over 260 pieces of Chinese porcelain in Queen Mary’s apartments at Kensington Palace, London, after 1703, © Victoria and Albert Museum, London. 256

10.7 Jacques Linard, *The Five Senses*, 1638, © Musée des Beaux-Arts, Strasbourg. 258

10.8 Francis Hayman, *The Bedford Family* (or *The Walpole Family*), 1747–1748, © Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. 259

10.9 Arthur Devis, *John Orde, His Wife, Anne, His Eldest Son, William, and a Servant*, 1754–1756, © Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection. 260

10.10 William Dent, *A Right Hon. Dissected*, 1793, © Wellcome Collection, London. 262
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