FIRST MEDICAL PERIODICAL PRINTED IN MEXICO

1. ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF MEXICO
Periódico de la Academia de Medicina de Méjico. Mexico City: Imprenta de Galvan a cargo de Mariano Arevalo, 1836-1840. 46 issues in 4 volumes. 8vo. I: July, 1836-June, 1837; II: August, 1837-July, 1838; III: August, 1838-July, 1839; lacking issues No. 4 November, 1838 and No. 5 December, 1838; IV: August, 1839-July, 1840. Each issue bound in original printed wrappers (only 2 issues lack a rear wrapper). A clean and excellent set.

First edition of the first medical periodical printed in Mexico. Each volume is made up of twelve monthly issues, approximately 32 pages each. The medical community around Mexico City formed the first Academy of Medicine of Méjico in 1836 in order to professionalize their various disciplines. To extend their knowledge, the Academy created the Journal of the Academia de Medicina de Méjico, which ultimately published a total of six volumes. In 1842 the Academy was dissolved due to economic and political difficulties, but not due to professional disinterest, since shortly after, in 1844, the same association of physicians created the Filoiatric Society of Mexico, which would allow them to continue exchanging knowledge and experience. They acted independently until 1865 when the Medical Society of Mexico was formed, later the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico. In 1912 the government recognized the group as a formal medical organization.

The Periódico was one of the first specialized publications to appear before 1840 with the fundamental purpose of disseminating among Mexican physicians the new knowledge and methods of general medicine, recall the principles of science and point out the dangers of certain popular practices. The editor, Dr. Blaquire, promised in the prospectus of the publication that “sincerity and scruple [would preside] over the discussion and approval of its materials.” He published articles and clinical cases on various diseases as well as conditions which were being treated by members, including surgical operations, public health, materia medica, and specializations such as orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, cardiology and brain research. The journal was generally divided into two sections: Academic Works containing original writings, and Miscellaneous Notes, made up of miscellany and progress of the Academy. It also contains announcements about the sale of medical books.

Appleton’s Encyclopedia of American Biography, I, pp. 532-533. $ 6500.00
RARE & EARLY WORK
TEACHING ANATOMY THROUGH POETRY

2. BIMET, Claude

First edition of this collection of anatomical poems composed by a surgeon, the first of its kind. Consisting of 468 quatrains, the first 340 reconstruct the skeleton bone by bone, the next 51 describe muscles, and the last 77 follow the circulation of blood through the body and from mother to infant during pregnancy. Marginal shoulder notes allow the reader quick references and often offer the Greek translation of the body part being described. The author asserts in his Avis that his intention is to entertain rather than to educate, but the work is nonetheless quite accurate and meticulous, incorporating the most current medical knowledge.

Bimet (b. about 1620) was a Lyonnaise surgeon. This is his only published book.

OCLC locates 3 copies in America (UCLA, Harvard, and NLM).
Krivatsy 1273; Cartaz, Les Médecins Bressans 49-50. $ 6500.00
TESTING YOUR EYESIGHT

3. BLUETT, F.J.
Defective vision: its cause and cure. London: Rundle & Dore, 1891. 12mo. [viii], 63 pp., including half-title, price list of spectacles and testimonials. With woodcut headpieces and numerous text illustrations. Original publisher's decorated cloth, author and title in gilt on front board. Ownership inscription of Mrs. Hudleston of Hutton John (a large manor house near Penrith in Cumbria). An excellent copy of a strangely rare work.

First edition of this wonderful Victorian handbook intended for the public giving simple instruction on errors of refraction, the commoner diseases, preserving eyesight, and the testing of sight. The author describes the anatomy of the eye and explains the condition that requires spectacles. He further treats different vision-related problems and sets forth the means of testing in both adults and children. Of great importance to his own work (as an ophthalmic optician) he lays out the differences between spectacles and folders before providing a price list of each. The illustrations include types of glasses, an eye chart and a “useful test.”

The Gentlewoman, a weekly illustrated newspaper for women founded in 1890, and published in London, gave the following review: “Bearing in mind the importance of good sight and the terrible infliction blindness is, it is astounding that people of intelligence take as little care in the selection of glasses. Mr. F. J. Bluett, an Experienced Ophthalmic Optician, in his work on Defective Vision gives some useful hints on Short-sight, Long-sight, Astigmatism, &c., and indicates the best glasses to be worn in each case.”

Popular with the general public, this book was reprinted five years after this 1891 first edition and again in 1904.

OCLC locates only 1 copy in America of this first edition (NLM) and 2 in the UK; a second edition printed in 1896 is located at Indiana. $ 450.00
THE MATHEMATICS OF CIRCLES

4. BOSCOVICH, Ruggero Giuseppe
A.M.D.G. De circulis osculatoribus dissertatio. Rome: Ex Typographia Komarek, 1740. 4to. xii pp. With 1 folding plate. Original decorated paper binding; an excellent wide-margined copy.

First edition, extremely rare, of this treatise on the intersection of circles. Boscovich here also investigates the exact shape of the earth in order to obtain data relating to the long-standing problem of longitude. As opposed to the calculus developed by his contemporaries such as d'Alembert, Bernoulli and Euler, Bosovich preferred the geometric method of infinitely small magnitudes which he applied to problems of differential geometry, terrestrial and celestial mechanics, and practical astronomy.

Boscovich (1711-1787), a Jesuit, was professor of mathematical sciences at the Collegium Romanum; he was appointed to that post the same year he wrote this treatise. He was also director of the observatory at Milan. He anticipated many of the notions of the atomic and nuclear physics of today and had a profound influence on Faraday, Clerk Maxwell, and indeed nineteenth-century thought as a whole. He made significant contributions to astronomy, physics, optics and mathematics.

OCLC locates 2 copies (Berkeley, Brown); DSB, II, p. 330.
$4500.00
TRAUMATIC C-SECTION

5. CALVO, Paolo Bernardo


First edition of this harrowing account of a Caesarean section stillbirth, attended by the Turin surgeon Paolo Bernardo Calvo. Francesca Morano, 24 years old, had been experiencing pain, vomiting, and fever for a few days, so her midwife called on Calvo to intervene. He found a large mass on Morano’s uterus and suspected that the baby was already dead. He recommended surgical removal and extracted a baby in grotesque condition. Its skull was collapsed, and its umbilical cord had separated from the placenta and begun to decay. Calvo concluded that the fetus had developed outside the womb. Despite his efforts to fully remove the decaying fetal material and clean and dress the wound, Morano died 11 days later.

Rare, the only other recorded copy is at the British Library.

$1850.00
6. CATCOTT, A[lexander]
A treatise on the deluge. Containing I. Remarks on the Lord Bishop of Clogher's account of that event. II. A full explanation of the scripture history of it. III. A collection of all the principal heathen accounts. IV. Natural proofs of the deluge, deduced from a great variety of circumstances, on and in the terraqueous globe. And, under the foregoing general articles, the following particulars will be occasionally discussed a proved, viz. The time when, and the manner how America was first peopled. ... London: M. Withers and D. Prince, 1761. 8vo. [xvi], 296 pp. With 1 copper-plate engraving. Contemporary half calf and marbled boards. Book label of the Library of the Philomathean Society of Pennsylvania College above the half-title.

First edition of Catcott’s full explanation of the deluge and re-population of the world. He first published Remarks on the Lord Bishop of Clogher’s ‘Explanation of the Mosaic Account of the Creation and of the Formation of the World’ in 1756. He was compelled to author this text because the Bishop (Robert Clayton) expressed his disbelief in the universality of the deluge (he apparently believed that the flood only covered a portion of the earth). Catcott finally published this follow-up work, Treatise on the Deluge, in which he contends that the Mosaic account is a full and complete explanation of the miracle of the Noachian deluge. He tries to prove, with much show of learning, that the deluge may be explained by the internal waters, which broke out and dissolved the whole earth.

Of particular interest is Catcott’s theory of the peopling of America. He concludes, for a number of reasons, that human and animal populations arose very soon after the flood. Specifically, when “discovered” by Europeans, Native Americans “were ignorant of the art of writing with letters and could record things only in the ancient hieroglyphical way.” They were also “ignorant of working iron into useful tools” (even though the art of manufacturing iron was known before the Flood). The only tools and weapons found in America were made of stone (so therefore they were definitely “separate” from Europeans). Also Americans were ignorant of the structure the “arch” and even of building with mortar or cement; had they known their structures would not have been so complicated, being built solely with stone and without mortar or cement. Finally the ignorance of Americans as to coined money, ship-building, the plough, bellows, etc., serves to show that they departed from the Europeans in the very infancy of the post-diluvian world.

America was obviously peopled by land because they were ignorant of ships. Also wild beasts such as lions and snakes found in these lands, well, no one would take these on ships. “America has creatures peculiar to itself, unknown in Europe and thus cannot be supposed to have been carried from there.”

Therefore, America was peopled early and by land. That, and more post-diluvian geography, is fully explained both in the text as well as the appendix.

The Reverend Catcott (1725–1779) was an English geologist and theologian, the author of numerous works on science and theology. His views on the Bible as a scientific source were influenced by the ideas of John Hutchinson (1674–1737) who contended “that the Hebrew scriptures, when rightly translated, comprised a perfect system of natural philosophy.”

DNB, III, pp. 1187-1188. $ 1200.00
7. CIAUDO, [Joseph]

La Maternité Lion de Nice pour enfants nés avant terme ou débiles. Nice: Imprimeri V.-Eug. Gauthier et Co., 1895. 8vo. 52, [3] pp. With 1 photographic plate. Original printed wrappers bound into contemporary black morocco, spine with raised bands, gilt dentelles bordering inner boards which are lined with brown silk, all gilt edges. Presentation copy from Alexandre Lion to Félix Faure, president of France, the presentation in gilt on a thick leaf lined with silk, also with the business card of Lion laid in.

**First edition** of this short treatise describing the first maternity hospital for pre-term babies in France. The hospital was created and opened by Alexandre Lion, a neonatologist from Nice. A physician specializing in the care of infants, Lion invented his infant incubator in 1891. He expressed the need for premature infants to be placed in incubators immediately after birth. Lion established incubator charities in the late 1890’s in France to promote his infant incubator. In order to promote his new technology, Lion displayed incubators that carried premature infants in storefronts and at fairs and expositions throughout Europe. After the public began paying admission to view the infants and incubators, the expositions became incubator charities. Admission fees went directly to the care of the premature infants. The charities treated roughly 8,000 premature infants and greater than 7,500 of them survived.

In 1894, Lion opened Maternité Lion in Nice. As the municipality in Nice granted Lion money to support the Maternité, Lion’s incubators were used to care for premature infants from all social classes. It reported a seventy-two percent survival rate among 185 premature infants. Due to the success of Lion’s incubator charities, by the early 1950s, Lion’s model became the standard incubator used in American hospitals.

Félix François Faure (1841-1899) served as President of France from 1895 until his death. He is best known as improving France’s relationship with Russia during his presidency. Writer Émile Zola’s famous *J’Accuse…!* open letter was written to Faure in 1898 in the course of the Dreyfus affair. Faure’s state funeral at Notre-Dame Cathedral on February 23, 1899 was the scene of an attempted coup d’état led by French nationalist poet Paul Déroulède.

Ciaudo (1843-1917), a physician and politician, was mayor of Clans in southeastern France, director of the departmental vaccination service and doctor-inspector for child protection in Nice.

HANDBOOK OF MEDICAL ASTROLOGY

8. FAYOL, Jean Baptiste


First edition, a handbook of medical astrology that also attempts to debunk Descartes. Divided into four parts, the text addresses the influence of the stars, common diseases, prognosis, and remedies according to the influence of the stars. In the preface, the author likens astrology to the other “sacred mysteries” of religion, theology, and medicine.

He argues that astrological influence on health and disease is just another scientific absolute that will come to be understood as fact, just as his contemporaries had proven the circulation of the blood and the existence of atoms. Fayol asserts that ailments in different parts of the body are affected by different stars, and he goes so far as to say one who is well versed in this knowledge can diagnose illnesses by looking at the night sky, without even seeing the afflicted. Moreover, bleeding and purging (Fayol’s remedies of choice for most illnesses), should only be undertaken when the stars are favorable. In the third part, he provides an astrological road map for determining the exact date of one’s death. Throughout the book, the author denounces Cartesian belief that everything can be explained through mechanics and affective process.

OCLC locates 6 copies in America (Harvard, Berkeley, NLM, Chicago, Penn, and Oklahoma); BM, IX: 91 (479); Fajans, Alchemy & Source Books in Chemistry, 50. $1950.00
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ALTERING INFANT SKULLS

9. FOVILLE, Achille Louis François

First edition of this study on the psychological effects of intentional alterations of human skulls at birth. The author decries the practice of wrapping babies’ heads in tight bonnets to elongate the skull, a widespread practice in Western Europe in the 19th century. Foville and his colleagues studied adolescents and adults whose skulls had been altered in this way and found among them increased rates of epilepsy, mental retardation, loss of limb control, tendency to violence, and criminal behavior. A physician at the mental asylum Seine-Inferieure, Foville remarks that a much greater number of his patients were victims of skull-wrapping than a random selection of society. He points out that this barbaric practice contributed to France’s current public health crisis wherein many of the mentally ill were homeless and living in poverty, relying only on the charity of churches, or locked away in under-funded institutions and prisons.

Foville (1799-1878) was a French neurologist and psychiatrist. He was the first to publish a description of the terminal stria. $1950.00
THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF DEAF-MUTES

10. FROST, Wenzel; KOTATKO, Wenzel
*Der Mensch im Symbole.* Prague: Gottlieb Hasse Söhne, 1846. 8vo. [viii], 180 pp. 16 full-page lithographed plates, 5 of which are heightened in gilt. Contemporary gilt-ruled straight-grained green Morocco, flat spine gilt, board edges gilt, all edges gilt. Some light foxing, but overall a very good copy.

**First edition,** a curious attempt to devise a system of anthropology and psychology based exclusively on observation of deaf-mutes. Building on the sociological work of Kaspar Hauser, the authors, director and instructor at the Prague Institute for Deaf-Mutes, assert that the actions of the deaf and dumb take place in a sort of vacuum in which the true spiritual nature of man can be witnessed. They argue that gestures and facial expressions are the language of the soul and are the key in understanding the relationship between the body and spirit.

The first nine illustrations show men expressing various emotions by way of body language and hand signals. The other six are almost psychedelic, portraying thought and will as a sort of circular diagram leading from intention to action.

OCLC locates only 4 copies worldwide: UCLA, Harvard, University of Chicago, and Manchester. A Czech edition was published the same year.

$ 2250.00
WE'RE OLDER THAN WE THINK

11. HOLMES, Arthur
_The age of the earth._ New York & London: Harper & Brothers, 1913. 8vo. xii, 196 pp., including index. With 17 illustrations including frontispiece with 4 photographic figures, 3 plates and 10 text engravings. Original red cloth, author, title and elaborate tree design in gilt on spine, boards with designs in blind, top edge gilt; a fine uncut copy.

**First edition, first printing** of the celebrated work which significantly pushed back the estimated age of the earth. Holmes (1890-1965) was the leading authority on radiometric dating of the earth’s crust. “It was this method which allowed scientists to discover the age of specimens which are many millions of years old, and eventually to attempt to discover the age of the earth itself. Initially Holmes was reluctant to comment on this topic, but by 1913 he had published results in a book entitled _The age of the earth_ indicating that some of the oldest rocks identified were 1.6 billion years old” (Edinburgh Geological Society biography). Holmes continued to adjust his estimate of the earth’s age as new techniques were developed, and his final estimate of 3.5 billion years, published in 1947, was only superseded by Clair C. Patterson’s correct estimate of 4.5 billion in 1953. _The age of the earth_ was republished in 1927 and 1937.

Holmes’s other major contribution was his proposal of a mechanism for continental drift. He was an early supporter of Alfred Wegener’s theory, which was deeply unpopular with the scientific establishments because there was not thought to be a force on earth great enough to shift the continents. “However, Holmes’s profound understanding of radioactivity – the amount of heat it generated and the enormous time it bestowed on geology for infinitely slow processes – coupled with his work on crustal differentiation, placed him in a unique position to formulate a mechanism for continental drift” (DSB).


$1650.00
Fig. 12.
Taken in the dark by its own rays.

Fig. 13.
Taken in ordinary daylight

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PITCHELENDE.

Fig. 5.
Symmetrical Nebula in Piscium, M 74.

Fig. 6.
Whirlpool Nebula in Canes Venatici, M 51.

SPIRAL NEBULÆ.
MAJOR SURGICAL PRACTICES UPDATED

12. LISTON, Robert


**First American edition.** Responding to the “rapid advancement made in the pathology and treatment of surgical diseases,” the author seeks to update surgical practice through a focus on specific procedures including inflammation of various parts of the body, injuries, diseases of the scalp, eye, and nose, facial wounds, and affections of the chest, spine, urinary and genital organs, among other body parts. Of particular interest is his text on tumors and the most current surgical methods of removing them. He completes the treatise with a section on fractures, dislocations and amputation.

Liston (1794-1847) was professor of clinical surgery at London’s University College. His “brilliant knowledge of anatomy, coupled with the speed and dexterity of his scalpel, made him one of the finest surgeons of his day. He introduced a number of important surgical innovations, most notably in the area of dislocation reduction, amputation and plastic surgery. Liston was the first European to use the newly discovered ether in surgery.

*Heirs of Hippocrates,* 1508; see Garrison & Morton, 3328 for his 1837 book *Practical surgery.*

$ 550.00
13. [OSLER, William]
CUSHING, Harvey. The life of Sir William Osler. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1925. Two volumes. 8vo. xiii, [3], 685; x, [2], 728 pp. With photographic frontispieces and 19 photographic illustrations. Original cloth (light rubbing to spine of Volume 2); an excellent set with the presentation signature of Cushing dated June 6, 1925 on the fly-leaf of the first volume.

First edition, first printing of this Pulitzer Prize winning biography. Cushing, Osler’s pupil and friend, presented this copy to his friend and colleague F. William Marlow Jr. (1902-1988), an internal medicine physician who practiced in Massachusetts and was on the faculty at the Harvard Medical School.

Osler, 7746.  

$ 4500.00
A CREDO ON ANARCHY

14. SAGRA, Ramón de la

First edition thus, an aphoristic credo on anarchy. Written as 1583 numbered maxims, this self-published profession of faith traces the logical development of a Protestant society to a post-religious anarchy, an eventuality the author believed unavoidable and beneficial. Aphorism 1532 states: “As true liberty cannot exist being separated from religious truth, that which is established by reason became anarchic” (tr.).

This work was published ten years after Sagra’s exile from France for promoting radical ideas; in the prefatory matter he addresses the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, who fought for his expulsion: “Illustrious Colleagues, you condemned my principles. Your judgment contributed to making me a victim of slander and misfortune. I suffered and kept silence for ten years; now: judge me” (tr.). He had published a version of this book prior to his exile, and states in the lengthy memoir that precedes the main text that he thought it necessary to update based on recent events.

Sagra (1798-1871) was the first known Spanish anarchist. He founded the world’s first anarchist journal El Porvenir in 1845, which was quickly suppressed. In addition to his prolific political activities, he was a celebrated botanist and served as director of the botanical gardens of Havana.

OCLC locates 4 institutional copies in America (Columbia, Harvard, Fisher, and Kansas); Caillet, 9129.

$1250.00
15. SNOOKE, William Drew

The calendar of the memory. Comprehending familiar explanations of the subjects necessary for the general calendar, &c. With the rules rendered in verse for the memory, by which the principal divisions of time, moon's age, eclipses, tides, with various other astronomical and interesting particulars, can be mentally ascertained. Also a guide to the stars, artificial memory, rules, theorems, &c. &c. London: J. Stephens, 1787. 12mo. vii, [v], 201, [1] pp., plus leaf of publisher's advertisements. Contemporary blue calf, title in gilt on front cover; signatures E, F and G foxed due to paper stock, otherwise a wonderful copy from the library of Murray Gell-Mann with his ornate bookplate on the paste-down and the author's name written in pen on the fly-leaf (possibly his signature).

First and only edition of this rare guide to memorizing timekeeping rules and astronomical tables from the library of Nobel Prize-winning physicist Murray Gell-Mann. Building on the familiar verse “Thirty days hath September,” the author treats us to formulae and other tricks by which we can easily and mentally calculate dates, solar and lunar cycles, epacts (phases of the moon), zodiac signs, planetary longitudes, sunrise and sunset, tides, eclipses, etc. Like a mental almanac! For example, in order to calculate how far a body falls in free-flight, just memorize: “Four times the seconds, squared, will tell / the feet through which the body fell.” Easy!!! Of particular interest is his sections on artificial memory and how to memorize verses.

Snooke (1787-1857) was a teacher of mathematics and astronomy on the Isle of Wight. Gell-Mann (1929-2019) received the 1969 Nobel Prize in physics for his work on the theory of elementary particles.

OCLC locates no copies in America and 5 copies in the UK. $ 1500.00
SPIRITS, GHOSTS & DEMONS, OH MY!

16. THYRAEUS, Petrus
De apparitionibus spirituum, dei, angelorum, daemonum et animarum humanorum libro uno...Posterior continet divinarum seu dei in veteri testamento apparitionum & locutionum tam externarum, quam internarum libros quattuor nunc primum edtos. Koln: Maternus for Goswin Cholinus, 1600. 4to. [xvi], 486, [2] pp. With the arms of the Society of Jesus on title. Contemporary vellum blindstamped on both boards, lacking ties; interior is browned due to quality of paper. Interesting bookplate on paste-down of a dragon with the initials NH, 2 contemporary ownership signatures on the title page, one dated 1603.

First edition of this famous treatise on spirits, apparitions, ghosts and demons. Thyraeus describes the activities of the spirit world by identifying as many authentic cases of the powers of spirits. He writes of apparitions and visions of all kinds as they appear in the Old and New Testaments, as angels, devils, and other shapes such as souls of the dead. He fully treats the power of demons and the extent to which God permits them to exert it, stating how the opposing power of prayer can make the wicked spirits disappear. He goes on to discuss possessed people, superstition and mysticism of the perverse. Thyraeus' writings on exorcism “have been called the first scientific (i.e., systematic) research on modern exorcism, based in part on the experiences of Peter Canisius (1521-1597)” (see David Lederer, Madness, Religion and the State in Early Modern Europe, Cambridge University Press, p. 13).

Thyraeus (1546-1601), a Catholic theologian, joined the Order of the Society of Jesus in 1561. He was a teacher, professor of theology and preacher in Wurzburg, where he worked until his death. As a writer, he published a large number of books on hallucinations produced by spirits on the human senses, ghosts, superstitions, hauntings, demonology and witchcraft, and the role of the Catholic church in dealing with such subjects.

This tract is one of the rarer of the author's writings.

Cornell, Witchcraft Catalogue, 472; De Backer & Sommervogel, VIII, 21; Rosenthal, Magica, 1942; VD 16 ZV-14966. $ 4500.00
A THOROUGHB LOOK AT RESPIRATION

17. WILLIAMS, Charles J.B.
A rational exposition of the physical signs of the diseases of the lungs and pleura; illustrating their pathology, and facilitating their diagnosis. Philadelphia: Carey and Lea, 1830. 8vo. 203, [2] pp. With 2 plates. Original boards with the original spine label; spine torn in places, paste-downs, endleaves and plates foxed and browned, but otherwise an uncut and very wide-margined copy.

First edition. A thorough and engaging treatise on all aspects of the chest and respiration. After a preface detailing the genius of the stethoscope the author explains the different sounds a human body will make, including their properties and vibrations. This extends not only to the heart and the chest region but also to the voice, and what Williams calls laryngophony broncophony and pectoriloquy. He lays out in this first part an exposition of the general physical signs of both a healthy and diseased state and action of the thoracic viscera. The second part treats the pathological history and physical signs of the principal diseases of the lungs and pleura. Included at the end are some tabular views of the physical signs and a plate showing the regions of the chest. The second plate shows how to construct a stethoscope.

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