The Scientific Attitude of Dr. Semmelweiz: Medical Observations to Eliminate Childbed Fever

Historical Context

Who was the doctor?

Where was he trained?

Scientific training?

What was the prevailing medical theory at the time? (4 humours)

No germ theory

No anesthesia or antiseptic surgery

What was the problem? Women were dying after giving birth.

The Scientific Attitude

Empirical evidence counts

Street births

Ward 1 vs. 2

Birth position

Changing priest behavior

Willingness to change theory in light of new evidence

Contamination event

Explain how each observation (above) now makes sense

Conclusion