

If you disagree put a comment and if I also think I was wrong I'll change it.
If I've missed something out put a comment and I'll put it in if it's relevant.
This isn't going to be editable after what happened to the poetry doc.

The Black Death:

What people thought caused the Black Death:

- Unusual positioning of the planets. (Mars, Jupiter & Saturn.)
- Poisonous fumes from volcanoes and earthquakes.
- Miasma (bad air) from decaying waste that spread through movements in the air.
- Imbalance in the four humours.
- Activity of outsiders. (ie. strangers or witches.)

How did they try to avoid catching it?

- Carrying herbs and spices to smell. (Because of Miasma.)
- Lucky charms.
- Smelling bad smells. (They believed it would 'overcome' the plague.)
- Tidying rubbish from the street. (Decaying refuse = miasma.)
- Lighting a fire in the room.
- Keeping the air moving by ringing bells, or birds flying in the room. (Miasma.)
- Not allowing people entering the town or leaving the area themselves.

How did people attempt to treat it?

- Praying and holding lucky charms. (They believed God had sent it down.)
 - Eating cool things and taking cold baths. (Galen's theory of Opposites.)
 - Bloodletting and/or purging. (Theory of the Four Humours & Galen's influence.)
-

Who was responsible for treating the sick in the middle ages?

A lot of stuff you won't need is included in this section ie. 'Barber Surgeons.'

Trained Physicians:

- Diagnoses you using your urine and comparing it to their chart-thing.
- Uses Hippocrates' theories of the four Humours and bloodletting in conjunction to bring your humours into balance. This is Galen's influence (the bloodletting).
- Can diagnose herbal remedies that could be obtained from the apothecary.

Barber-surgeons:

- Practices a lot of bloodletting.
- Can do a small amount of surgery, yet has a small success rate and uses no anesthetics.
- Isn't trained, he's essentially a barber gone surgeon.
- Can also cut hair.

Hospitals:

- Usually a monastery or convent.
- They took care of you, but didn't cure you. I've explained this in detail in my other notes. ([c50-c1350](#).)

- Sick people were usually cared for at home, but people with specific illnesses, such as leprosy, often came to the convent/monastery.

Prayer & Pilgrimage:

- Many people went on a pilgrimage to a holy shrine because they believed it could mean that they'd be cured of their illness. ([Explained this in detail in my last notes.](#))
-

Women & Medicine:

Most treatment was done by women in the home, which is a contrast to Roman Britain. Some women worked as midwives but had to have a license from their Bishop to show they wouldn't encourage abortions, as they were illegal at the time. Women weren't allowed to attend universities in the 14th century, which drove them out of the medical profession; the church was the driving force behind education at the time.

Medicine until 1500:

Medicine continued to be dominated by Galen's and Hippocrates' ideas (because of the church endorsing Galen's ideas and not encouraging any further study in anatomy etc.) and they hadn't been proved to be wrong. Hence, medicine continued to be a mixture of bloodletting, tried and tested herbal remedies and supernatural ideas, such as going on a pilgrimage to a holy shrine.

The Medical Renaissance (c1500 - c1700):

A period of European history when a new attitude to knowledge spread. Educated people began to want to verify the authenticity of knowledge for themselves instead of relying on the views of an accepted authority. (The Church.)

Many new things were made during this time:

- Better lenses for microscopes, which lead to the discovery of Bacteria. (1673)
- Pumps and Clocks, which helped people accept the idea of the body working as a machine.
- The printing press was invented at sometime around 1440, the printing press toppled the Church's power base and helped the Medical Renaissance to develop.

Why the Printing Press was important:

This is because the Church held a monopoly over the majority of books that had knowledge about the medical profession, hence if you wished to learn something you had to come to one of their 'universities'.

The printing press allowed for far more people to gain access to knowledge of the medical profession, and hence allowed medical progress to grow at a much faster rate; it also allowed for people to share their findings with a larger amount of people in a smaller amount of time, which contributed to the rate of progression.

However, the general populace still couldn't gain this knowledge as the majority of them couldn't read, and if they did they probably couldn't read Latin, which most books written at the time of the Medical Renaissance were written in or the Hippocratic Collection, which was either written in Latin or Greek.

Galen	Vesalius
He said that the heart is divided by a septum which has holes in it to allow blood to pass through.	Showed the septum does not have holes.
Said the liver had five parts or lobes.	Showed the liver doesn't have any lobes.
Said the lower jaw was made up of two bones.	Showed this was true for monkeys & pigs but the lower jaw in humans is a single bone.
Said the sternum had seven parts.	Showed it only had three.
Galen.	Harvey
Said the veins carry a mixture of blood and air.	Showed that veins only carry blood.
Said that blood is constantly manufactured by the liver and used up as it travels around the body.	Showed that blood circulates repeatedly around the body, with the heart acting as the pump.

The impact of Harvey & Vesalius' findings on medical treatment:

Physicians began to take a more scientific approach to diagnosing and treating people.

However, Harvey & Vesalius' ideas weren't used in medical treatment for a long time, so it had a long term effect but little short term. This could've been because of the fact that people only began to learn about Harvey's ideas over 40 years after they were published. This was due to the reluctance of people to accept new ideas, especially due to the fact that Galen's ideas were still being taught in schools and the fact that physicians didn't carry out dissections themselves.

-----D
doctors & Training (c1500-c1750):

What affected the training of doctors?

- Improved technology ie. microscopes.
- Improved knowledge of anatomy & physiology through books such as Harvey's & Vesalius".
- Introduction of some medical schools and teaching hospitals.
- Growing acceptance that physicians should dissect human bodies.

- Growing importance of a scientific approach ie. observation of symptoms & experiment w/ treatments.

Training was also improved:

- Observing and examining patients instead of reading books.
- Students began to take part in dissections.
- Some physicians began to set up their own medical schools.

John Hunter, why was he important?

- He helped to develop a more professional approach to medical training through his lectures on anatomy.
- Emphasised the importance of observation and experimentation.
- Set up a medical school where physicians received intense training.
- His students included Edward Jenner, who followed Hunter's methods when investigating cowpox.

Public Health, 1350-1750: the problem.

Chamber pots were still emptied out either into the drain in the middle of the street, or sometimes the contents were thrown into the streets from an upstairs window.

Both of these methods decreased public health dramatically and increased the risk of disease.

The situation wasn't much better for the rich. They often had seats, which were over what were essentially buckets. The waste emptied into brick-lined drains and then into the River Thames, which also didn't help with the issue of public health. Many people didn't drink from the River Thames but instead drank Ale.

Public Health, 1350-1750: government action.

During the Renaissance period, some towns and cities became very large, ie. London with a population of around 100,000. Due to the issue of public health and the large population of some towns and cities infectious diseases became hard to control, case in point: The Black Death. During an epidemic days of prayer may be ordered and barrels of tar may've been burnt in the streets. These measures would have very little effect.

During The Black Plague, the following government action was taken:

- Closed theaters to avoid large crowds gathering & banned large funerals.
- Dogs and cats killed. (They thought they spread The Black Plague.)
- Carts came through the city daily and collected the dead, they buried them at night in large mass graves deep in the ground.
- If a case of plague was discovered, the entire household were bordered up for 28 days and a red cross was painted on the door w/ the words 'Lord have mercy on us'
- Days of fasting and prayer were ordered.

Many of these measures were ineffective, including quarantine as the Black Plague wasn't spread with human contact. Many people left the city in fear of catching the Plague. Until Pasteur's work in the 19th century neither doctors nor governments could deal effectively w/ infectious diseases such as the plague. Pasteur's work gave them a better understanding of disease.

The problem of gin:

The government increased the price of gin in order to combat the negative influence cheap gin was having upon the poor. In 1750 the government passed laws that made gin more expensive. This was partly to improve the standard of health among the poor and partly in order to make sure that people weren't too drunk to work properly, as it'd negatively affect the economy. This also helped to decrease the death toll from excessive drinking.

Change in Medicine between 1350-1700:

To be fair, it changed very little. All that really changed was knowledge. This was because the Medical Renaissance wasn't a time of revolutionising treatment, but a time of fast progression of new knowledge that was related to medicine, and could be used for it, but wasn't at the time. For example, even if they knew someone's lungs were failing what could they do about it? Nothing. They didn't have surgery back then, Vesalius' findings was only knowledge for a long time that wasn't used in medical treatment, so was Harvey's.

Physicians continued to use the Four Humours amongst other things to try and treat people and people STILL went on pilgrimages to holy shrines, nothing much changed except knowledge was gained about the human body etc.