

Jane Winter, MA History of Medicine (P/T)
j.a.winter@warwick.ac.uk

Children and Curative Culture

Having previously been a student of several Social Sciences, the History of Medicine has become a logical point to focus the knowledge from my interdisciplinary past. My dissertation research is very much in its infancy but the topic of 'Curative Culture' with regard to children has very much drawn upon my earlier studies of Education, Child Development and Sociology within my main field of History.

My initial interest in the area was sparked, while reading for a taught module, about Morison's Pills and the Hygiest Movement. "Each man his own physician" they cried, proclaiming self-treatment and self-medication for many of life's illnesses and injuries. While the Hygiests declared a supposed shift away from the increasingly scientific and institutionalised style of medicine, the opposite seems to have been happening in England and the West with regard to new, especially first time mothers and their infants. By the late Nineteenth Century the medicalization of pregnancy and childbirth meant that the practice and experience of motherhood was also widely bound up with science, perhaps in an attempt to achieve perfection. Though I have not yet settled upon a firm avenue for my research, the strands shown below are all possible angles to consider and certainly pose some interesting questions.

