

PREFACE

It is not long since the question ‘Where are the animals in medical history?’ prompted yawning and shuffling of feet among scholars of that discipline. While in the wider world the health agenda known as ‘One Medicine’ or ‘One Health’ was gathering momentum by highlighting the deeply interconnected nature of human and animal health and the need for integrated approaches to it, with a few key exceptions, scholars in medical history continued to believe that the only animals important to medicine were human animals. Conference organizers asked if animals belonged on medical history programmes; conference delegates voted with their feet; and scholarly discussions proceeded largely in ignorance of how animals and animal health had shaped—and been shaped by—the history of human health, medicine and society.

This was the situation that inspired the programme of research on which this volume is based. Generously sponsored by the Wellcome Trust,¹ it set out to explore the zoological foundations of human medicine, to illuminate the history of animals in medicine, and to develop an empirically grounded history of the recent movement for One Health. Research began at Imperial College London in 2011 and terminated at King’s College London in 2016. It was conducted by a team of four scholars—Abigail Woods (principal investigator), Michael Bresalier,

¹Programme Grant reference 092719/Z/10/A.

Rachel Mason Dentinger and Angela Cassidy—who are the joint authors of this volume.

Combining first degrees in veterinary medicine and the life sciences, with scholarly careers that straddle the history and sociology of veterinary medicine, human medicine and biology, we formed an interdisciplinary team well equipped to study the history of medicine as an interdisciplinary, interspecies phenomenon. Each of us has worked on discrete research projects that address a different aspect of this issue. This volume presents findings from each project, in five sample chapters that bear the authors' names.

However, the work as a whole is a shared endeavour. It grew out of our many meetings, in which we reviewed existing historical accounts of animals and medicine, and worked together to develop a shared language, conceptual apparatus and approach to studying their interconnected histories. It aspires to greater cohesion and coherence than a standard edited volume. It was also more difficult to write—more difficult, even, than a standard monograph in which only a single author has to make decisions about arguments and narrative. We found few precedents to guide us: team working is relatively new to the discipline of history, and, judging by certain publishers' responses to the notion of a volume with four authors, it is equally unfamiliar to academic publishing. Consequently, we have had to develop our working, writing and publishing practices by trial and error. This has been a very time-consuming but ultimately fulfilling experience. The mutual support and advice of colleagues has pushed our scholarship to a higher level, and enabled us to work on a broader canvas than would have been possible otherwise.

We are very grateful to Palgrave for supporting our vision and helping us to realize it. We hope that our readers—whether medical historians, animal historians or participants in One Health today—will find this an interesting and a thought-provoking volume. We also hope that it will persuade our colleagues in medical history that without asking 'Where are the animals?' and 'What do they do?', we cannot truly understand what has constituted medicine in history or what it has become today.

Many people have contributed to the preparation of this volume. Collectively, we wish to thank the Wellcome Trust for funding our research, colleagues (especially Dr. Kathryn Schoefert) in the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at King's College London for their ongoing support, and the various audiences, reviewers and expert advisors who have provided constructive feedback on our

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