

11/03 The Rise of Hospitals

What is a Hospital? MGH in 2005

Patient rooms, nursing stations, offices, bunkrooms, conference rooms
Operating rooms, laboratories, morgues, MRI, cyclotrons
Medical records, information technology, laundries, cafeterias, security...

Colonial Hospitals

Spanish Empire: Hispaniola 1502, Mexico City 1521, Puerto Rico 1524
Quebec: 1639
Philadelphia Hospital 1752, New York Hospital 1791, MGH 1821
Why were the English slow to build?

Roles of Hospitals in the Early 19th century

From almshouses to therapeutic institutions
Medical education
Social and moral reform
Exclusions: chronic care, terminal patients, contagious diseases
The "worthy poor"
Control of Hospitals: doctors, trustees, and patronage
Life on the wards: treatment amidst filth and chaos
Declining status of hospitals: places of death and disarray

Models for Reform

Edinburgh and clinical teaching
Paris, Napoleonic Hospitals, and the numerical method
German scientific Method

Reforming American Hospitals

Florence Nightingale, health = purity
Civil War: enormous growth of pavilion hospitals
Urbanization: growing demand for hospital care
Nursing schools
Surgery
Rapid proliferation of hospitals after 1860s

Hospitals and Ethnic Identity

New hospitals for Catholics, Episcopalians, and Jews...
... and for Blacks, Germans, Chinese, etc.