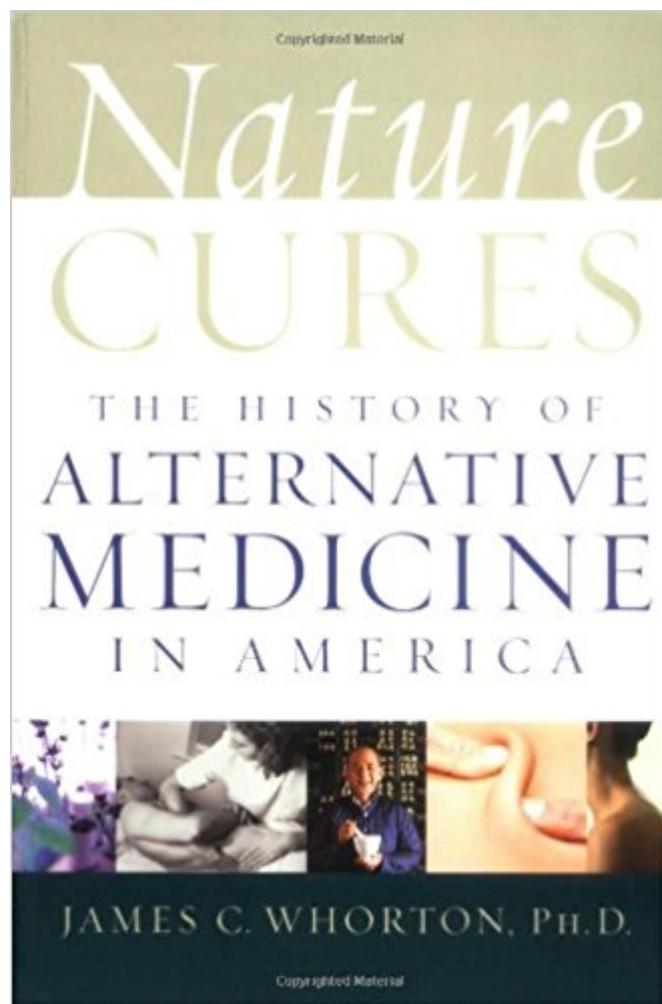


The book was found

Nature Cures: The History Of Alternative Medicine In America



Synopsis

From reflexology and rolfing to shiatsu and dream work, we are confronted today by a welter of alternative medical therapies. But as James Whorton shows in *Nature Cures*, the recent explosion in alternative medicine actually reflects two centuries of competition and conflict between mainstream medicine and numerous unorthodox systems. This is the first comprehensive history of alternative medicine in America, examining the major systems that have emerged from 1800 to the present. Writing with wit and with fairness to all sides, Whorton offers a fascinating look at alternative health systems such as homeopathy, water cures, Mesmerism, Christian Science, osteopathy, chiropractic, naturopathy, and acupuncture. He highlights the birth and growth of each system (including European roots where appropriate) and vividly describes both the theories and the therapies developed within each system, including such dubious practices as hour-long walks barefoot in snow or Samuel Thompson's "puking and steaming" regimen. In particular, Whorton illuminates the philosophy of "natural healing" that has been espoused by alternative practitioners throughout history and the distinctive interpretations of "nature cure" developed by the different systems. Though he doesn't hesitate to point out the failings of these systems, he also shows that some "cult medicines" have eventually won recognition from practitioners of mainstream medicine. Throughout, Whorton writes with a light touch and quotes from contemporary humorists such as Mark Twain. His book is an engaging and authoritative history that highlights the course of alternative medicine in the U.S., providing valuable background to the wide range of therapies available today.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (May 6, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195171624

ISBN-13: 978-0195171624

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 1.2 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,100,218 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in Books > Textbooks >

Medicine & Health Sciences > Alternative Medicine > Holistic Medicine #573 in Books >

Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Special Topics > History #993 in Books >

Customer Reviews

Thorough, enjoyable, and rigorous, this study documents the major "unconventional" healing movements of 19th- and 20th-century America. Whorton (history of medicine, Univ. of Washington) traces the origins and influences of Thomsonianism, homeopathy, mesmerism, Christian Science, osteopathy, chiropractic, naturopathy, and acupuncture, briefly discussing therapeutic touch, visualization, and prayer as well. The author also examines the rancorous history of medical licensing in the United States and leaves the reader with a sense that 21st-century healthcare will allow for a more conciliatory system of integrative medicine. He focuses on organized healing traditions and therefore does not examine the recent trend toward mass-market teas, supplements, herbal remedies, and other now-routine household therapies. This book fills a large gap left since the publication of Norman Gevitz's 1988 collection of essays, *Other Healers: Unorthodox Medicine in America*. Highly recommended for academic and public libraries. Andy Wickens, King Cty. Lib. Syst., Seattle Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

One of the bits of doggerel that James Whorton missed as he tracked the course of *vis medicatrix naturae* over the past two centuries came from the prolix pen of Oliver Wendell Holmes (from "The Morning Visit"): Of all the ills that suffering man endures, The largest fraction liberal Nature cures. None knew this better than Holmes's contemporary "irregular" practitioners of the healing art, some of whose theories Holmes demolished with overkill in "Homeopathy and Its Kindred Delusions" (Boston: Ticknor, 1842). The first third of James Whorton's history is devoted to the heyday of alternative medicine in the 19th century, a time when homeopathy, hydropathy, neuropathy, and magnetism were preferable to the mercury purges and bleeding of traditional medicine. In spite of their crack-brained theories, however, the so-called irregulars were ahead of the traditionalists in some ways: they welcomed women into their fold, they emphasized prevention, and they promoted sex education. Those physicians, who, like Holmes, abhorred the heroic "cures" of traditionalists were reduced to a therapeutic nihilism that militated against any placebo effect. None of this is new information, but Dr. Whorton has performed a service by bringing it all together in one place and in relation to the times. He is well prepared for the task, having written two previous books that cover the same period in different contexts. For the present book, in addition to many other sources, he has combed the files of 96 journals, including well-established medical journals, organs of current

alternative therapies, and those of historical interest, such as the Kneipp Water Cure Monthly. The object of Nature Cures "is to provide a perspective on the past that will serve health professionals of all affiliations in their interactions today." This Whorton does well. Elsewhere he states that "questions of efficacy cannot be answered by an historian." This is fair enough, but it opens up a gray area where Whorton's selective reporting can be criticized. However, in general he tries not to take sides. The book is easy to read and is sprinkled with amusing doggerel and wisecracks from Mark Twain, H.L. Mencken, and others. Readers may be surprised to learn that many folk maxims derive from the theories of 19th-century alternative medicine: "Starve a fever, feed a cold

A comprehensive and engaging overview of the fascinating history of the nature cure and the rise of natural therapies in a post-industrial era. A scholarly work written with passion and intelligence. I found this book essential reading on the history of the nature cure.

The value of this book to me is the historical context of the sometime strained relationship between natural medicine and "western medicine". History indeed repeats itself. Natural, alternative medicine grew out of a disenchantment with traditional medicine. As today, people began searching for answers other than what they were receiving from their doctors. The stories are informative and illuminating and really help one understand the chasm between the two worlds. I have not completed the book so I am simply at the stage of understanding the problem. I hope the book offers some type of solution that allows these polarized sides with similar hope for outcomes to work together on what might get us out of the healthcare crisis we are currently in.

Nature Cures presents the history of alternative medicine in America, showing that the recent rise of alternative medicine actually reflects two centuries of competition between mainstream medicine and unorthodox systems. In providing a running history of alternative medicine, author James Whorton enables readers to analyze the progress, successes and failures of both traditional and alternative treatments.

Vitalism is a profoundly science-ejected concept, though many CAM or 'natural health' cabals falsely claim that vitalism survives scientific scrutiny. I quote: "naturopathic medical practice nevertheless is still comprised of distinctive therapies backed by faith in nature [...] detoxification, like all other therapies, is meant to serve the more basic purpose of strengthening the *vis medicatrix*. Naturopathy still means trusting in nature to cure [...per] 'confidence in the perception of

a vital force or life force.' Hence, today's hydrotherapy procedures are justified in terms that Lust, or even Thrall, would commend: hydrotherapy provides 'general stimulation of the vital force' [...] naturopathic medicine thus retains much of the old in its now 'science based natural medicine' [p.291]. "When is an article of faith unprofessionally / falsely labeled a medical scientific fact? Naturopathy.CAM: there be monsters here.-r.c.

The book was just what I needed, not in bad shape, and for a great price. Thank you!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Cancer: Taboo Cancer Cures 6 Impressive and Secret Cancer Cures that Most People do not know about (Cancer, Cancer Cures, Yoga, Cancer Treatments, Cancer Medicine, Cancer Patient Book 1)

High Blood Pressure Cure: How To Lower Blood Pressure Naturally in 30 Days (Alternative Medicine, Natural Cures, Natural Remedies, High Blood Pressure ... Cures for High Blood Pressure, High Bl) Nature Cures: The History of Alternative Medicine in America Blackwell Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Fast Facts for Medical Practice (Complimentary and Alternative Medicine) Alternative Medicine Definitive Guide to Headaches (Alternative Medicine Definative Guide)

Alternative Medicine: Homeopathic Medicine, Herbal Medicine and Essential Oils for Total Health and Wellness Essential Oils for Dogs: 100 Easy and Safe Essential Oil Recipes to Solve your Dog's Health Problems (Alternative animal medicine, Small mammal Medicine, Aromatherapy, Holistic medicine) Insider-cures against cancer: 54 Insider-cures, scientifically founded, over 100 study sources + experience reports Nail Fungus Treatment: Cure Nail Fungus Naturally With This Fast

Toenail Fungus Treatment and Toenail Fungus Cures (nail fungus cures, nail fungus treatment, nail fungus) Maria Treben's Cures: Letters and Accounts of Cures through the Herbal "Health Through God's Pharmacy" Alternative Cancer Therapies (Cancer,Cancer Cure,Cancer Diet,Coping With Cancer,Cancer Books,Breast Cancer,Lung Cancer,Cancer Prevention,Colon Cancer) (Alternative Medicine Book 1)

Alternative Cures: More than 1,000 of the Most Effective Natural Home Remedies

1000 Cures for 200 Ailments: Integrated Alternative and Conventional Treatments for the Most

Common Illnesses THE ALTERNATIVE QUILL: WRITING ALTERNATIVE HISTORY World History,

Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian

History, African History. (world history) Mayo Clinic Book of Alternative Medicine, 2nd Edition

(Updated and Expanded): Integrating the Best of Natural Therapies with Conventional Medicine

Fundamentals of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 5e (Fundamentals of Complementary and Integrative Medicine) Building Green, New Edition: A Complete How-To Guide to Alternative

Building Methods Earth Plaster * Straw Bale * Cordwood * Cob * Living Roofs (Building Green: A

Complete How-To Guide to Alternative) Alternative Photographic Processes: Crafting Handmade Images (Alternative Process Photography) Jill Enfieldâ™s Guide to Photographic Alternative Processes: Popular Historical and Contemporary Techniques (Alternative Process Photography)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)