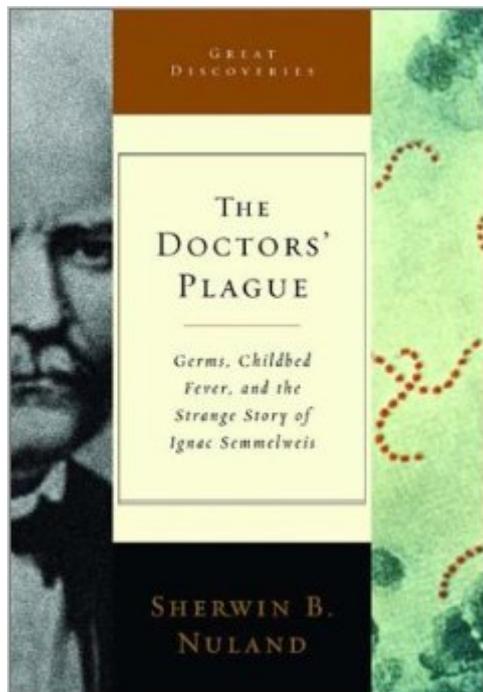


The book was found

The Doctors' Plague: Germs, Childbed Fever, And The Strange Story Of Ignac Semmelweis (Great Discoveries)



Synopsis

Ignac Semmelweis is remembered for the now commonplace notion that must wash their hands before examining patients. In mid-19th century Vienna, however, this was a subversive idea. This is the revealing narrative of one of the key turning points in medical history.

Book Information

Series: Great Discoveries

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (October 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393052990

ISBN-13: 978-0393052992

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.8 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ [See all reviewsÂ \(35 customer reviews\)](#)

Best Sellers Rank: #847,689 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #570 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Obstetrics & Gynecology #1139 inÂ Books > Medical Books > History #1777 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Medical

Customer Reviews

Many years ago, I read a story about Ignac Semmelweis that made him out to be a demigod. According to the legend, Semmelweis was a martyr to the cause of saving women from unnecessary deaths due to puerperal or childbed fever. In the early and mid-nineteenth century, childbed fever was ubiquitous and very often fatal in Europe and America. In his fascinating new book, "The Doctors' Plague," Sherwin P. Nuland traces the history of this tragic disease and he sheds some light on how and why the medical profession was helpless to prevent it for so many years. Nuland goes back to the great physician Hippocrates, who, over two thousand years ago, described childbed fever with great accuracy. For all of his powers of observation, Hippocrates knew nothing about the causes of the disease or how to prevent it. For many years, physicians promulgated wild theories, blaming the new mother's milk, bad air, suppression of discharges, and other equally irrelevant factors for the large number of infections that killed new mothers in hospitals. The figures tell the tragic story. At the London General Lying-In Hospital, between 1833 and 1842, 587 women per thousand died of childbed fever. The mortality statistics were similar in hospitals throughout Europe and the United States. Ignac Semmelweis was born in Hungary. As a

practicing doctor of obstetrics, he was appalled by the large number of women dying in childbirth. Because he was a keenly observant doctor who kept careful records and because he had a sharp, logical mind, Semmelweis eventually concluded that childbed fever was somehow passed to women from their doctors, nurses, and dirty bed linens.

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

The Doctors' Plague: Germs, Childbed Fever, and the Strange Story of Ignac Semmelweis (Great Discoveries) Discoveries: Story of Jazz (Discoveries (Harry Abrams)) Guns, Germs And Steel Armas, gÃƒÂ©rmenes y acero / Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies (Spanish Edition) Those Mean Nasty Dirty Downright Disgusting but...Invisible Germs / Esos desagradables detestables sucios completamente asquerosos pero... invisibles ... y espaÃƒÂnol (English and Spanish Edition) The Klondike Fever: The Life and Death of the Last Great Gold Rush Germs That Won't Die: Medical Consequences of the Misuse of Antibiotics Louis Pasteur: Hunting Killer Germs The Man Who Knew Too Much: Alan Turing and the Invention of the Computer (Great Discoveries) The Great Mortality: An Intimate History of the Black Death, the Most Devastating Plague of All Time Panama Fever: The Epic Story of the Building of the Panama Canal Panama Fever: The Epic Story of One of the Greatest Human Achievements of All Time-- the Building of the Panama Canal The Lost Dinosaurs of Egypt: The Astonishing and Unlikely True Story of One of the Twentieth Century's Greatest Paleontological Discoveries Plague of Frogs: The Horrifying True Story First, Do No Harm: The Dramatic Story of Real Doctors and Patients Making Impossible Choices at a Big-City Hospital The Doctors: Who's Who: The Story Behind Every Face of the Iconic Time Lord Chameleo: A Strange but True Story of Invisible Spies, Heroin Addiction, and Homeland Security Some of My Best Friends Are Black: The Strange Story of Integration in America Strange Glow: The Story of Radiation Hay Fever and Allergies: Discovering the Real Culprits and Natural Solutions for Reversing Allergic Rhinitis

[Dmca](#)