



Medicine and Modernism: A Biography of Sir Henry Head

L S Jacyna, University College, London

This is the first in-depth study of the English neurologist and polymath Sir Henry Head (1861-1940). Head bridged the gap between science and the arts. He was a published poet who had close links with such figures as Thomas Hardy and Siegfried Sassoon. His research into the nervous system and the relationship between language and the brain broke new ground. L S Jacyna argues that these advances must be contextualised within wider Modernist debates about perception and language.

In his time, Head was best known for his research into the human nervous system. He did a series of experiments in collaboration with W H R Rivers in which cutaneous nerves were surgically severed in Head's arm and the stages by which sensation returned were charted over several years. Head's friend, the philosopher Alfred North Whitehead, drew out the epistemological implications of how, in this new conception, the

nervous system evolved knowledge of the world.

Another important strand of his research concerned the localization of the language function within the brain. In his monumental work, *Aphasia and Kindred Disorders* (1926), Head radically revised current ideas about the physiological basis of language. As well as its impact on medicine and biology, this work was seen to have implications for other disciplines including linguistics and social anthropology.

This important new study draws upon a wide range of previously unpublished resources.

Readership

History of Medicine, History of Science, Literary Studies

Hb: c.256pp: 2008
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Science and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Britain

Series Editor: **Bernard Lightman**

This new monograph series focuses on the history of British science during the nineteenth century. An era of exciting and transformative scientific discoveries, it was also a period when significant features of the relationship between contemporary science and culture first assumed form. The series includes studies of major developments within the "disciplines," from geology and botany, to astronomy and medicine, as well as works on popular science. The evolution of scientific ideas is placed in its social, political, religious, cultural, imperial, and international contexts.

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Recreating Newton: Newtonian Biography and the Making of Nineteenth-Century History of Science

Rebekah Higgitt, University of Edinburgh

Higgitt examines Isaac Newton's changing legacy during the nineteenth century. She focuses on 1820-70, a period that saw the creation of the specialized and secularized role of the 'scientist'. At the same time, researchers gained better access to Newton's archives. These were used both by those who wished to undermine the traditional, idealised depiction of scientific genius and those who felt obliged to defend Newtonian hagiography. Higgitt shows how debates about Newton's character stimulated historical scholarship and led to the development of a new expertise in the history of science.

Readership

History of Science, Nineteenth-Century Studies, Newton Studies, Biographical Studies

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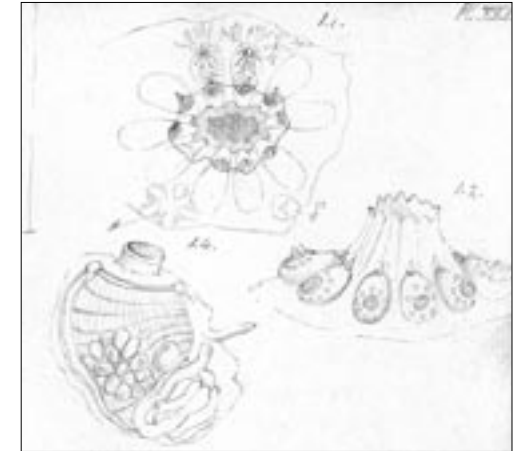
Frontispiece, *Correspondence of Sir Isaac Newton and Professor Cotes*, J Edleston (1850)

Styles of Reasoning in British Life Sciences: Shared Assumptions, 1820-1858

James Elwick, York University

Elwick explores how the concept of 'compound individuality' brought together life scientists working in pre-Darwinian London. Scientists conducting research in comparative anatomy, physiology, cellular microscopy, embryology and the neurosciences repeatedly stated that plants and animals were compounds of smaller independent units. Discussion of a "bodily oeconomy" was widespread. But by 1860 the most flamboyant discussions of compound individuality had come to an end in Britain.

Elwick relates the growth and decline of questions about compound individuality to wider nineteenth-century debates about research standards and causality. He uses specific technical case studies to address overarching themes of reason and scientific method.



Colonial *Botryllus* sea squirts in T.H. Huxley, 'Voyage of HMS Rattlesnake Notebook, Papers of T. H. Huxley, College Archives, Imperial College London 50.59, by permission of the College Archives

Readership

History of Biology, History of Medicine, Darwin Studies, Nineteenth-Century Studies

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