

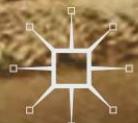


PALGRAVE  
STUDIES IN  
LITERATURE,  
SCIENCE AND  
MEDICINE

# Syphilis in Victorian Literature and Culture

Medicine, Knowledge and the  
Spectacle of Victorian Invisibility

MONIKA PIETRZAK-FRANGER



Palgrave Studies in Literature,  
Science and Medicine

Series Editors

Sharon Ruston

Dept. of English and Creative Writing

Lancaster University

Lancaster, United Kingdom

Alice Jenkins

School of Critical Studies

University of Glasgow

Glasgow, United Kingdom

Catherine Belling

Feinberg School of Medicine

Northwestern University

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Monika Pietrzak-Franger  
Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik  
Universität Hamburg  
Hamburg, Germany

Palgrave Studies in Literature, Science and Medicine  
ISBN 978-3-319-49534-7 ISBN 978-3-319-49535-4 (eBook)  
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-49535-4

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017934332

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s) 2017

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use. The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Cover illustration: George Henry Fox, *Syphiloderma Tuberculosis*. In George Henry Fox, *Photographic Illustrations of Cutaneous Syphilis*. New York: E.B. Treat, 1881. Plate XXV. Reproduced from the Wellcome Library.

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature  
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG  
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction: Ways of Seeing</b>	<b>1</b>
	<i>Syphilis and Its (In)Visibility</i>	4
	<i>Critical Blind Spots</i>	11
	<i>Peripatetic Viewing</i>	14
	<i>Notes</i>	23
<b>2</b>	<b>Aetiology and Etymology: Concepts, Bodies, Media</b>	<b>27</b>
	<i>Syphilis Concepts</i>	29
	<i>Discursive-Material Syphilis</i>	36
	<i>Syphilis-in-Media</i>	44
	<i>Media Production and Dissemination of Knowledge</i>	
	<i>about Syphilis: A Case Study</i>	52
	<i>Reframing Grünewald: The Rhetorics of (Icono)Texts</i>	64
	<i>Notes</i>	67
<b>3</b>	<b>Recognizing Syphilis: Pornographic Knowledge and the Politics of Explanation</b>	<b>71</b>
	<i>Medical Sightings and Protective Narratives</i>	74
	<i>Professional and Civic Narratives in the Polyclinic</i>	78
	<i>Self-fashioning</i>	88
	<i>Unhealthy Sights and the Conspiracy of Silence</i>	91
	<i>Feminist and New Woman Voices on Syphilis</i>	92
	<i>Wages of Ignorance: Domestic Medicine Manuals</i>	95

<i>Public Anatomy Museums: (Cautionary) Tales of Moral Perdition and Financial Profit</i>	102
<i>Recognizing Syphilis</i>	112
<i>Pornographic Knowledge</i>	118
<i>Notes</i>	121
<b>4 Facing Pathology: Modern (Re)Production of Difference</b>	127
<i>The Poetics and Politics of Syphilis Typologies</i>	130
<i>Facing Syphilis: Visual Typologies</i>	132
<i>Shifting Appearances: From Women's Bodies to Contagious Touch</i>	144
<i>The Body of Consumption/Consumptive Bodies</i>	152
<i>Syphilis for Public Consumption</i>	153
<i>The Pleasures of the Marketplace 1: Modernist Aesthetics</i>	162
<i>The Pleasures of the Marketplace 2: Hysteria and Individuality</i>	167
<i>The Power of Mimicry</i>	177
<i>Notes</i>	179
<b>5 Prophylaxis and Treatment: Geopolitics of Differentiation</b>	185
<i>Mapping the Pox-Ridden World</i>	188
<i>Geographies in Flux: Space, Syphilis and Soldiers' Mobility</i>	190
<i>Colonies and Cordons Sanitaires</i>	191
<i>Distance, Movement and Care</i>	199
<i>Containment at the Border</i>	203
<i>Lock Hospitals: Nodal Points of (In)Visibility</i>	208
<i>Spaces of Isolation and Invisibility</i>	209
<i>Sites of Reformation and Healing</i>	218
<i>The Geopolitics of Representation</i>	224
<i>Notes</i>	226
<b>6 (Eugenic) Utopias: National Future and Individual Suffering</b>	233
<i>Heredity, Victorian Childhood and Spectres of (De/Re)Generation</i>	238
<i>Hereditary Syphilis, Medical Uncertainties and Popular Fears</i>	240

<i>The Ghosts of Unborn Children, Civic Responsibility and the Future of the Race</i>	251
<i>Individual Suffering and the Economy of Care</i>	261
<i>The Indexicality of Pain in Medical Casebooks</i>	266
<i>Individual Suffering and Care Provision in the Victorian Asylum</i>	271
<i>The Ethics of Interpretation</i>	275
<i>Notes</i>	276
<b>7 Conclusion: “Uncomforable Proximity” and the Ethics of Display</b>	281
<b>Bibliography</b>	289
<b>Index</b>	327

## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 2.1	My elaboration of Pauwels's and Barad's models	49
Fig. 2.2	Examples of (visual) sources and techniques combined in <i>An Atlas of Illustrations of Clinical Medicine, Surgery and Pathology</i> . London: New Sydenham Society, 1902–04. Fasciculus 14. Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine	54
Fig. 2.3	“Syphilitic Chancre of the Face” and two examples of “Syphilitic Chancre of the Breast.” John James Pringle. <i>A Pictorial Atlas of Skin Diseases and Syphilitic Affections in Photo-Lithochromes from Models in the Museum of the Saint Louis Hospital, Paris</i> . London: Rebman, 1895. Plate 40. Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine	56
Fig. 2.4	Examples showing various practices of appropriation. Prince A. Morrow. <i>Atlas of Skin and Venereal Diseases</i> . New York: William Wood & Company, 1889. Moriz Kaposi. <i>Die Syphilis der Haut</i> . Vienna: W. Braumüller, 1882. Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine	58
Fig. 2.5	A case of symptomatology added to an albumen print. Verso: “Probably syphilis.” John Ross, J. Wood, Lambeth Infirmary, Polyclinic 1907. Sir Jonathan Hutchinson Collection, Institute of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD	59
Fig. 3.1	The frontispiece of A. M. Barthélémy's <i>Syphilis: Poème en Quatre Chants</i> , 1851. Wellcome Library	72
Fig. 3.2.	The plans of the Polyclinic. “The New Museum.” <i>The Polyclinic</i> 2.1 (1899b): 50–61. Wellcome Library	85

Fig. 4.1	Francis Galton's composite portrait of the phthisical syphilitic type. Francis Galton and F. A. Mahomed. "An Inquiry into the Physiognomy of Phthisis by the Method of 'Composite Portraiture'" 1882. Wellcome Library	129
Fig. 4.2	Syphiloderma Tuberculosum Serpiginosum. Plate XXIX from George Henry Fox's <i>Photographic Illustrations of Cutaneous Syphilis</i> , 1881. Wellcome Library	150
Fig. 4.3	Félicien Rops. <i>Mors syphilitica</i> . 1865, pointe sèche, 22.2 × 16.2 cm. Coll. Musée Félicien Rops, Province de Namur, inv. PER E353.1.P © musée Rops	164
Fig. 5.1	Alfred Dyer's maps of the Empire, <i>The Sentinel</i> , 1888. Image published and produced with permission of ProQuest as part of <i>British Periodicals</i>	195
Fig. 5.2	Lock Hospital in Aldershot, <i>Aldershot Lock Hospital, General Plan</i> . 1871. National Archives, London	215
Fig. 5.3	<i>Colchester Lock Hospital</i> , detail, 1867. National Archives, London	223
Fig. 6.1	Edvard Munch. <i>Inheritance</i> . 1903–05. The Munch Museum, Oslo – Artepics/Alamy Stock Photo	234
Fig. 6.2	Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida. <i>Sad Inheritance</i> . 1899. FUNDACIÓN BANCAJA, Valentia. © Juan García Rosell	235
Fig. 6.3	Two Illustrations of the same patient, before and after treatment. Nd. Sir Jonathan Hutchinson Collection, Institute of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD	244
Fig. 6.4	Physiognomy of syphilis. Byrom Bramwell. <i>Atlas of Clinical Medicine</i> . Edinburgh: T. & A. Constable at the University Press, 1892–1896. Bernard Becker Medical Library, Washington University School of Medicine	245