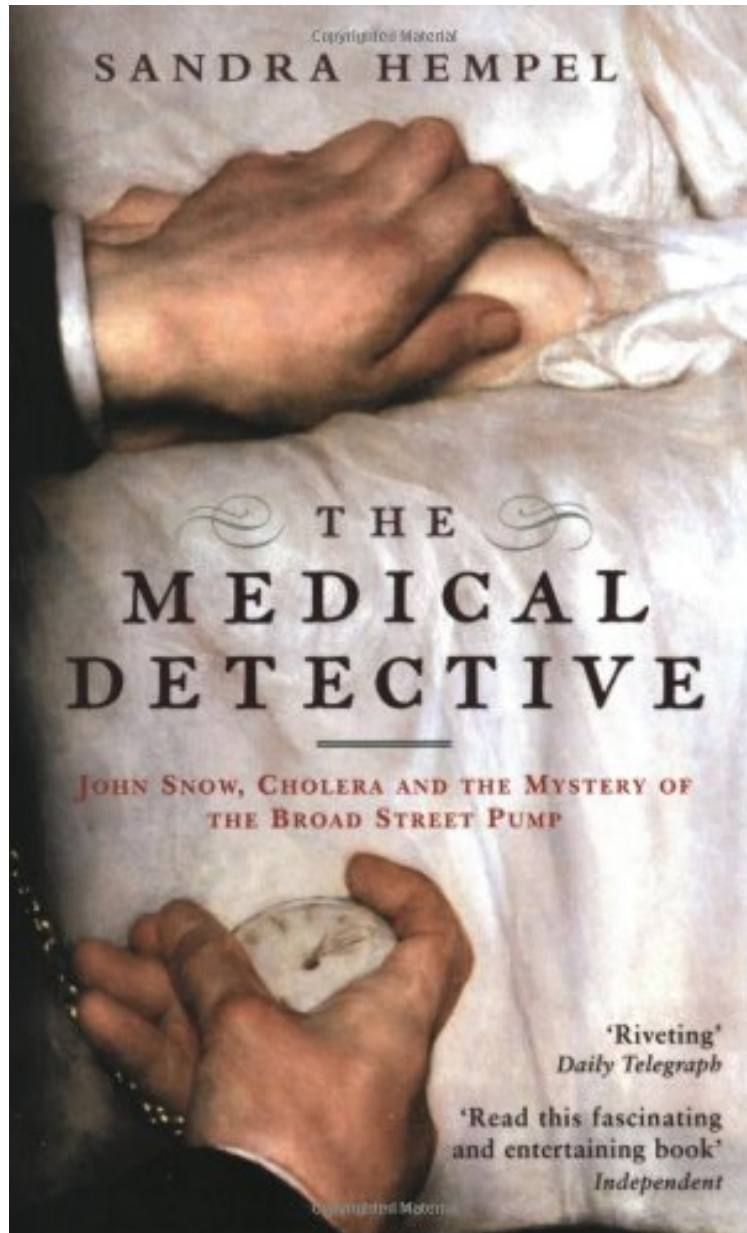


[Ebook pdf] Medical Detective: John Snow, Cholera and the Mystery of the Broad Street Pump

Medical Detective: John Snow, Cholera and the Mystery of the Broad Street Pump

Sandra Hempel

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Sandra Hempel : Medical Detective: John Snow, Cholera and the Mystery of the Broad Street Pump before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Medical Detective: John Snow, Cholera and the Mystery of the Broad Street Pump:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well written book on how Epidemiology began
By Colin Povey
Dr. Snow, who was one of the first doctors to specialize in anesthesiology (he was so well thought of that he provided anesthesia to Queen Victoria) essentially invented Epidemiology. This is his story.
Author Sandra Hempel paints a picture of a very hard working, studious physician who was one of the first in one field, and essentially invented another field of medicine. Pretty remarkable when you think about it.
Cholera was rampant during the mid-1800, with wave after wave of the disease hitting spreading across Europe. Doctors were puzzled by the disease, how it spread, and how to treat it. Dr. Snow, while concerned with individual patients, was more interested in where it came from and how it spread to so many people with such amazing speed. And in particular, why it was so localized. Lots of people in one block would succumb, while others a couple of blocks away would be perfectly healthy.
Dr. Snow had to fight the conventional wisdom of his day that most disease was carried by miasma, a strong or unpleasant smell. Even such luminaries as Florence Nightingale, who was working at the same time as Dr. Snow, was a dedicated miasma believer. But Dr. Snow proved them wrong. With his studious, tenacious nature, Dr. Snow went about his business and proved that it had to be ... well, I'll leave that for the book to explain.
The first chapter could move a little faster. Other than that minor quibble, it is an excellent book, well researched and written.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book - buy it.
By Shelley S. Clark
Well written, well researched, very informative. The author branches out, giving you lots of extra information that isn't totally necessary to the narrative but augments the story, with wonderful detail. I thought I already knew quite a bit about this era and the epidemics in general but this gave me lots more information. I don't think anyone would be disappointed if they bought this book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Customer
Great book.

In 1831, an unknown, horrifying and deadly disease from Asia swept across Continental Europe, killing millions in its path and throwing the medical profession into confusion. Cholera is a killer with little respect for class or wealth. When it arrived in Britain, its repercussions rocked Victorian England - from the filthy lanes of the Sunderland quayside and the squalid streets of Soho, to the great centres of power: the Privy Council, Whitehall and, the Royal Medical Colleges. One man - alone and unrecognised - uncovered the truth behind the pandemic and laid the foundations for the modern, scientific investigation of today's fatal plagues. John Snow was a reclusive doctor, without money or social position, who had the genius to look beyond the conventional wisdom of his day, and work out that cholera was spread through drinking water. The book draws extensively on 19th century medical, political and personal records in order to describe what is both an important breakthrough for medical science and also a dramatic story with a cast of colourful characters, from the heroic to the frighteningly incompetent. The book is also full of fascinating diversions into aspects of medical and social history - from Snow's tending of Queen Victoria in childbirth, to the Dutch microbiologist Leeuwenhoek's deliberately breeding of lice in his socks; and, from Dickensian children's farms to riotous 19th century anaesthesia parties.

* 'Ripping yarns from the dawn of proper medicine' Ben Goldacre, Guardian
About the Author
Sandra Hempel is a journalist and copy writer who has written for The Times, The Sunday Times, The Guardian and The Mail on Sunday, as well as for the Department of Health and the NHS. She lives in London with her two daughters.