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Lewis Carroll's rather famous *Alice in Wonderland* (1865) includes this demand of the White Rabbit, when he is called to the witness stand to report on what he knows about who stole the Queen of Hearts' tarts: "Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end; then stop." Perhaps this is good advice for the White Rabbit and the mystery of the missing tarts, but the thing with medicine is this: it's not really just one simple frame but rather a huge expanse of interlocking frames, all of which have their own innumerable jumping-off points—and so first beginning at the beginning and then going on until the end is far too much to ask of a single book. Such a pursuit needs to be broken down into volumes—which is what I have done. - Introduction

"Because the "great unwashed" suffered infections at an alarmingly higher rate than the "washed," pre-mid nineteenth-century scientists held on to the belief that "miasma" or "bad air" was at the root of all infections, since it was quite an observable fact, one that could scarcely go unnoticed by the olfactory apparatus, that the wretched poor, les misérables, lived in abject smelly squalor... It is true that nearly every common medical malady is more frequent in poor segments of society, but not because it is their "providence," but because it is their circumstances." - Chapter 15

THE SECOND HISTORY OF MAN

THE FIRST HISTORY OF MAN JOHN BERSHOF, MD



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