

... the Fatal Diseases and Casualties in London  
Beginning from 1701, and ending with 1776.  
... Bills of Mortality, and arranged into Five separate progressive Periods  
... the Five Periods, or Seventy-five Years Mortality, is added together

**“TO IMPROVE  
THE EVIDENCE OF MEDICINE”**

*The 18<sup>th</sup> century British origins  
of a critical approach*

Year	Population	Deaths	Smallpox	Measles	DISEASES AND CASUALTIES
1701	81	99	109	114	Cholera and Typhoid
1702	81	99	109	114	Measles
1703	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1704	81	99	109	114	Measles
1705	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1706	81	99	109	114	Measles
1707	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1708	81	99	109	114	Measles
1709	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1710	81	99	109	114	Measles
1711	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1712	81	99	109	114	Measles
1713	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1714	81	99	109	114	Measles
1715	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1716	81	99	109	114	Measles
1717	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1718	81	99	109	114	Measles
1719	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1720	81	99	109	114	Measles
1721	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1722	81	99	109	114	Measles
1723	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1724	81	99	109	114	Measles
1725	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1726	81	99	109	114	Measles
1727	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1728	81	99	109	114	Measles
1729	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1730	81	99	109	114	Measles
1731	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1732	81	99	109	114	Measles
1733	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1734	81	99	109	114	Measles
1735	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1736	81	99	109	114	Measles
1737	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1738	81	99	109	114	Measles
1739	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1740	81	99	109	114	Measles
1741	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1742	81	99	109	114	Measles
1743	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1744	81	99	109	114	Measles
1745	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1746	81	99	109	114	Measles
1747	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1748	81	99	109	114	Measles
1749	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1750	81	99	109	114	Measles
1751	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1752	81	99	109	114	Measles
1753	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1754	81	99	109	114	Measles
1755	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1756	81	99	109	114	Measles
1757	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1758	81	99	109	114	Measles
1759	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1760	81	99	109	114	Measles
1761	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1762	81	99	109	114	Measles
1763	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1764	81	99	109	114	Measles
1765	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1766	81	99	109	114	Measles
1767	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1768	81	99	109	114	Measles
1769	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1770	81	99	109	114	Measles
1771	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1772	81	99	109	114	Measles
1773	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1774	81	99	109	114	Measles
1775	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1776	81	99	109	114	Measles
1777	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1778	81	99	109	114	Measles
1779	81	99	109	114	Cholera
1780	81	99	109	114	Measles

ULRICH TRÖHLER

‘A controversial analysis of the way in which numerical evidence came to underpin modern therapeutics . . . [his work] remains important in today’s debate about the acceptability of new and sometimes unorthodox medicines.’

*The Lancet, 16 December 2000*

In this book, Ulrich Tröhler documents the origins of systematic efforts “*to improve the evidence of medicine*” (in the words of the 18<sup>th</sup> century physician, George Fordyce), demonstrating that a quantitative and critical approach to the evaluation of medical practice became established far earlier than previously thought.

Long before Pierre-Charles-Alexandre Louis and his colleagues in 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris began using comparative statistical analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of therapy, James Lind, the Scottish naval surgeon (whose controlled trial of oranges and lemons for scurvy is so well known) and many other clinical investigators in 18<sup>th</sup> century Britain had pioneered the introduction of observation, quantification, and experimentation in medicine and surgery.

Professor Tröhler’s book provides a fascinating account of the way that doctors who often had begun their clinical careers outside the medical establishment, used quantified observations to challenge therapeutic dogma based on theory and to introduce new treatments. He explores a number of contemporary health care problems and their solutions as seen by the pioneers of a critical approach, and by their opponents. As well as painting a vivid picture of 18<sup>th</sup> century medical practice, readers will find that many of the issues discussed are equally pertinent to health care, clinical practice and therapeutic evaluation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



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