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By Charles L. Bardes

Bellevue Literary Press, United States, 2008. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 188 x 135 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Who would have thought that something so commonplace as iron deficiency would lead to prehistoric ochre, Egyptian amulets, Renaissance alchemy, Victorian projections of maidenhood, and the astrophysical end of everything? Whether mild or deadly, anemia affects an essential body fluid: blood. In *Pale Faces*, Charles L. Bardes probes deeply into this illness as metaphor by exploring the impact of both science and culture on its treatment across the ages. His innovative life of this condition ranges widely through history, mythology, literature and clinical practice to examine how our notions of specific medical conditions are often deeply rooted in language, symbolism and culture. Delving into the annals of anemia and its treatment, he takes us on a fascinating journey back through the history of medicine--from the Greeks and ancient practices of bloodletting and magic up to the diagnostic rituals of a modern medical office. A scholar of the literary as well as the medical arts, Bardes gives us a beautifully written, free-ranging text, resonant with poetic associations yet anchored in concrete clinical experience. As a practicing physician, Bardes is also able...

Reviews

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