



Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia

Their Impact on Medicine in the Developing Nation

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Jefferson and Ideology



product of the Enlightenment

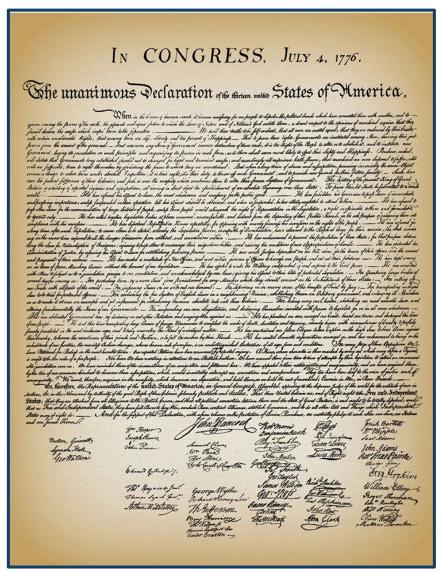
- sovereignty of reason & the evidence of the senses
- rationalism, empiricism, scientific method = advancement & progress
- medicine still in "long night of superstition, intolerance, & misery"
 (Bailyn)
- valued health and exercise
- proponent of preventative medicine
- established practices in public health
- shaped medical education in the developing nation

Jefferson and Ideology



Enlightenment Ideology

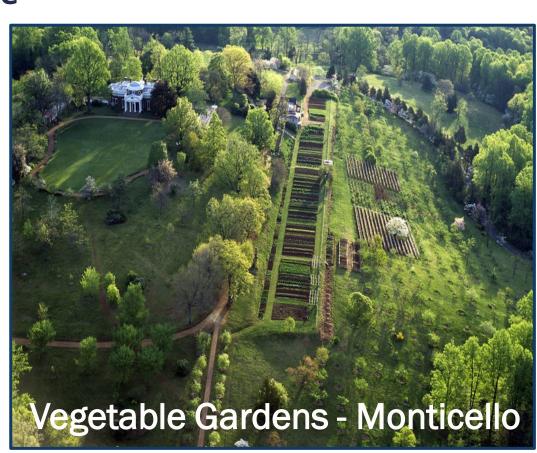
- shift in values and social policy
- 'natural' evolution of the innate intellectual and moral tendencies in man
- Liberty a 'right' for the attainment of happiness and fulfillment
- "greatest happiness for the greatest numbers" (Hutcheson)
- unalienable rights... Life,
 Liberty and the pursuit of
 Happiness (Jefferson, Declaration of Independence)



Jefferson - Health & Exercise



- frequent topic of letters
- importance of exercise
- healthy diet
- no tobacco
- only wine, no liquor



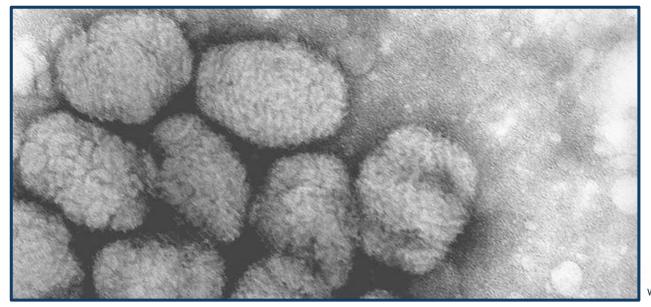
Preventative Medicine



Vaccination



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- "environmental" factors of health
 - the concept of hygiene
- Governor of Virginia, 1779-1781
 - works to improve public health
- Notes on the State of Virginia, 1780
 - notes on public health and influence on the Parisian years



"Environmental" Factors of Health

- manipulate to insure health and to avoid illness
- 'hygiene'
 - the conduct necessary to follow for maintaining the state of existing health (D'Aumont, Encyclopedie 1751-65)
 - prophylactic measures recommended to prevent the occurrence of disease
 - fresh air, personal cleanliness, sufficient exercise & rest, control of the passions
 - concept of personal responsibility for illness arises
- rise of medical professionals



Governor of Virginia

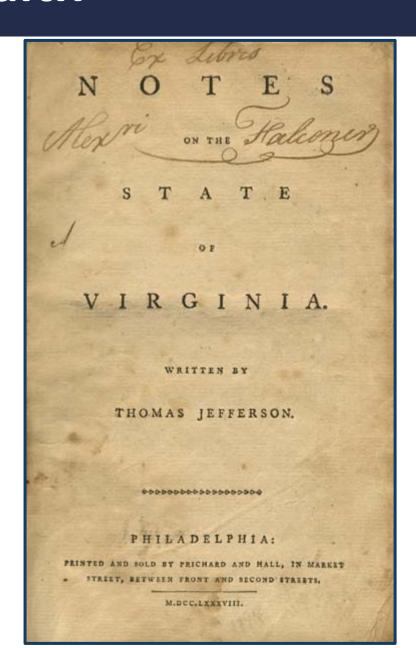
- **Public health measures**
 - improvements in sanitation, ventilation, and water supplies
 - care of the poor and sick
 - insured care for those unable to provide for themselves
 - insured those who could work would do so

C H A P. LXXIX. A BILL for the more general diffusion of Knowledge. HEREAS it appeareth that however certain forms of government are better cale culated than others to protect individuals in the free exercise of their natural rights, and are at the same time themselves better guarded against degeneracy, yet experience hath fhewn, that even under the best forms, those entrusted with in time, and by flow operations, perverted it into tyranny; and it is believed that the most effectual eventing this would be, to illuminate, as far as practicable, the minds of the people at large, and lly to give them knowledge of those facts, which history exhibiteth, that, possessed thereby of the other ages and countries, they may be enabled to know ambition under all its shapes, and prompt natural powers to defeat its purpoles; And whereas it is generally true that that people will be



Governor of Virginia

- Notes on the State of Virginia
 - parish relief system of care
 - local government system
 - care by family & neighbors
 - home care, better than hospitals



Jefferson, Medicine and UVA MUVAHealth



Influence of Paris Learnings & Enlightened Thinking

- building the University of Virginia
- the importance of public health and prevention
- Impact on medical education in the US
 - started two medical schools in US
 - novel approach to medical education
 - appointment of the first full time, academic physician educator

References



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