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MEDICINE AND THE BODY
IN THE RENAISSANCE

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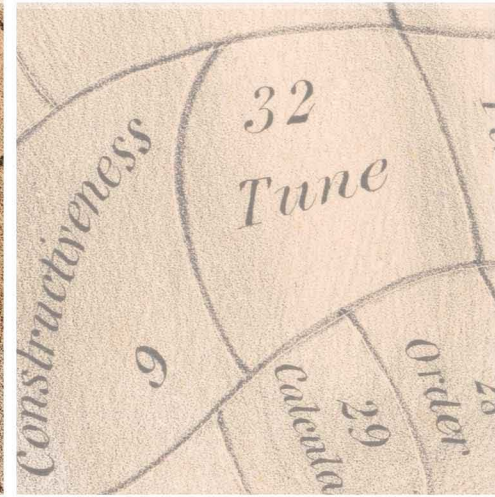
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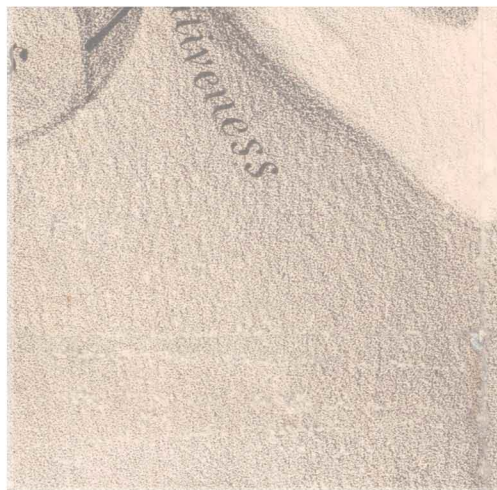
STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA



PSMEMM
Palgrave Studies in Medieval & Early Modern Medicine



CSMBR
ONLINE
EVENTS



THE RIGHT MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE

26
SEPTEMBER
2023
5.00pm CEST

EDUCATION, PRE-EUGENICS, AND THE BRAIN IN HUARTE'S «EXAMEN DE INGENIOS»

LUANA SALVARANI • University of Parma

How did Galenism influence education, politics, and professional selection up to the late 17th century? A relevant and clear-cut source is Juan Huarte's *Examen de Ingenios*, published in 1575 and soon condemned by the Index and translated into the main European languages during the subsequent century. Huarte, a Spanish physician, relies on Galen's *Quod animi mores* to develop a theory whose declared aim is to first shape, via appropriate

reproductive techniques, and then appoint the right individuals for all necessary functions in the (absolutist) State, provided that their talents are duly assessed and connected with the corresponding profession. In Huarte's perspective, mental faculties are purely organic functions, have specific locations in the brain and descend from the temperamental complexion of each individual. Talents and personality (*ingenia*), therefore, are

native to each individual. They are partially pre-determined at conception and immutable: each individual is predestined to a specific role in society, and the government must make sure that this happens seamlessly. Huarte's thought was far from void of consequence in the reality of education. His theory was embraced, with distinction, by the early Jesuits through Antonio Possevino's *Cultura degli Ingegneri*, and temperamental assessments were performed in Jesuit colleges for a long time, influencing the education of the ruling classes and contributing to the fortune of a long-lasting strain of the Galenic thought.

The event is free to attend but registration is required. Info at csnbr.fondazionecomel.org