



Edition: 1st Edition 1995
pages: 228
Images: 380
Cover: Hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-86715-306-4
Published: January 1995

Quintessence Publishing Company, Inc.

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Book information

Authors: Thomas Schnalke
Title: Diseases in Wax
Subtitle: The History of the Medical Moulage

Short text:

Moulages- inventory from a wax museum? Not in the least. Moulages are three-dimensional wax figures of pathological changes in the human body. Until the mid-1950s they served as teaching models in the medical curriculum. This book, illustrated with numerous color photographs, describes the history of the art of moulaging, which had its beginnings in the anatomical wax figures of the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, physicians in newly formed special disciplines of medicine requested models of illness from their fields of competence. This demand was met with moulages. The moulage, a realistic object that could be painted and formed, lent itself above all to the representation of those illnesses that appeared on the epidermis or at least produced changes on the surface of the skin. Thus it was in dermatology - the specialty that places the most value on the study of morphology - that moulages have enjoyed their broadest distribution and most intensive use. How could such an illustrative teaching material, which still exists today in a number of medical schools and museums, have fallen so completely into oblivion? This book provides answers to this question.

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