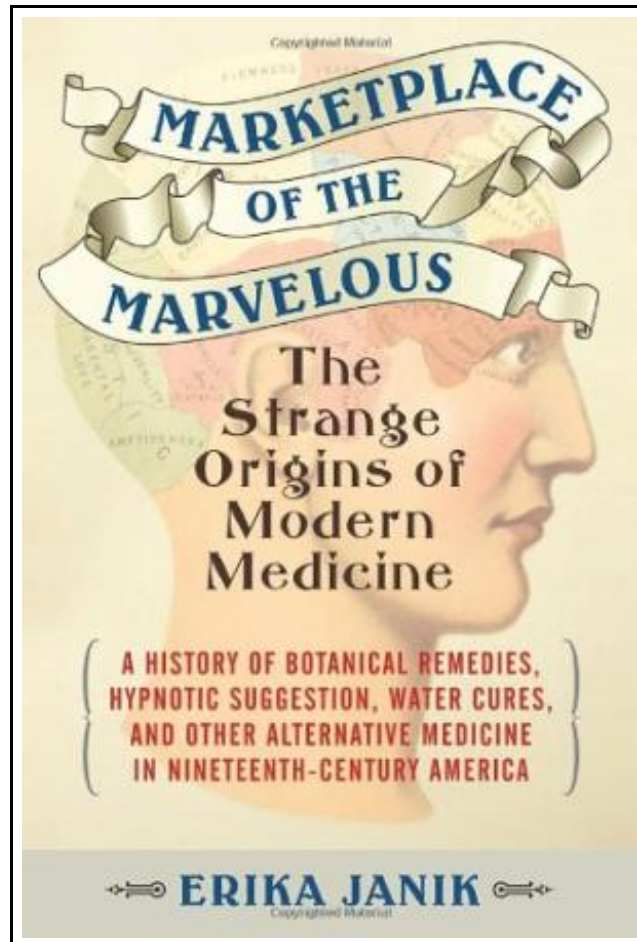


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Beacon Press, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 224 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. An entertaining introduction to the quacks, snake-oil salesmen, and charlatans, who often had a point Despite rampant scientific innovation in nineteenth-century America, traditional medicine still adhered to ancient healing methods, subjecting patients to bleeding, blistering, and induced vomiting and sweating. Facing such horrors, many patients ran with open arms to burgeoning practices that promised new ways to cure their ills. Hydropaths offered cures using healing waters and tight wet-sheet wraps. Phineas Parkhurst Quimby experimented with magnets and tried to replace bad, diseased thoughts with good, healthy thoughts, while Daniel David Palmer reportedly restored a man s hearing by knocking on his vertebrae. Lorenzo and Lydia Fowler used their fingers to read their clients heads, claiming that the topography of one s skull could reveal the intricacies of one s character. Lydia Pinkham packaged her Vegetable Compound and made a famous family business from the homemade cure-all. And Samuel Thomson, rejecting traditional medicine, introduced a range of herbal remedies for a vast array of woes, supplemented by the curative powers of poetry. Bizarre as these methods may seem, many are the precursors of today s notions of healthy living. We have the nineteenth-century practice of medical gymnastics to thank for today s emphasis on regular exercise, and hydropathy s various water cures for the notion of regular bathing and the mantra to drink eight glasses of water a day. And much of the philosophy of health introduced by these alternative methods is reflected in today s patient-centered care and holistic medicine, which takes account of the body and spirit. Moreover, these entrepreneurial alternative healers paved the way for women in medicine. Shunned by the traditionalists and eager for converts, many of...



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