



Chagas Disease: History of a Continent s Scourge (Paperback)

By Francois Delaporte

Fordham University Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book. Francois Delaporte s Chagas Disease chronicles Brazilian medicine s encounter with a disease, an insect, and a history of discovery. Between 1909 and 1911, Carlos Chagas described an infection (pathogenic trypanosome), its intermediate host, and the illness that he believed it caused, parasitic thyroiditis. Chagas s work did not lack significance: the disease that came to share his name would be one of Latin America s most serious endemic diseases. However, the clinical identification of the disease through Romana s sign (a palpebral edema or swelling of the eyelid) some decades later marked a transformation in the general medical knowledge of the disease and its basis altogether. Not only was the disease entity that Chagas had described shown to be a nosological illusion, but twenty-five years of scientific controversy turned out to have been based on a misunderstanding. The continued use of the term Chagas s Disease even after Cecilio Romana s discovery thus refers to a fundamental ambiguity. Delaporte dispels this ambiguity by reexamining the various discoveries, dead ends, controversies, and major epistemological transformations that marked the history of the disease--a history that begins...



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