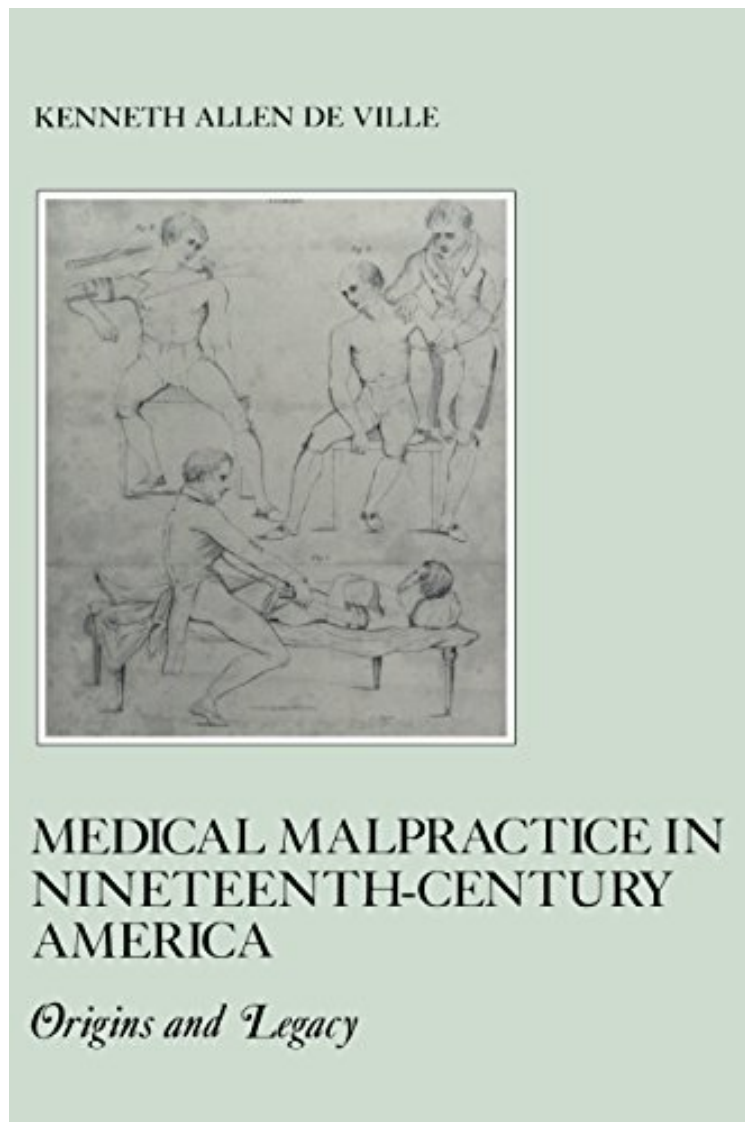


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## Medical Malpractice in Nineteenth-Century America: Origins and Legacy (The American Social Experience)

*Kenneth De Ville*

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looks at the development of professional medicine in the 19th century from a legal standpoint. Malpractice directly relates to power and disciplinary structures effecting decision making and the practice of medicine. DeVille touches on pain, but ideas about pain might be better integrated into the legal context this book provides. The narrative is a bit dry, but the information is worth a look as there are few works on the emergence of the medical profession in the United States that focus on how malpractice influenced behavior and policy.

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"Well-written and superbly documented . . . Both physicians and lawyers will find this book useful and fascinating."- Journal of the American Medical Association "By far the best compilation and analysis of early medical malpractice cases I have seen . . . this excellently crafted study is bound to be of interest to a large number of readers."-James C. Mohr, author of *Abortion in America: The Origins and Evolution of a National Policy* "This is the first book-length historical study of medical malpractice in 19th-century America and it is exceedingly well done . . . The author reveals that, beginning in the 1840s, Americans began to initiate malpractice lawsuits against their physicians and surgeons. Among the reasons for this development were the decline in the belief in divine providence, increased competition between physicians and medical sects, and advances in medical science that led to unrealistically high expectations of the ability of physicians to cure . . . This book is well written, often entertaining and witty, and is historically accurate, based on the best secondary, as well as primary sources from the time period. Highly recommended."-Choice "Adept at not only traditional historical research but also cultural studies, the author treats the reader to an intriguing discussion of how 19th-century Americans came truly to see their bodies differently . . . a sophisticated new standard in the field of malpractice history."-Journal of the Early Republic "Highly readable . . . interdisciplinary history of a high order."-The Historian About the Author Kenneth Allen De Ville received a Ph.D. in history from Rice University and a J.D. from the University of Texas Law School. He is Assistant Professor of Medical Humanities and History at East Carolina Medical School.