

The Stirring Saga of Medicine's "Forgotten Hero" – the Patient



# THE PATIENT'S PROGRESS

Edited by

**FELIX MARTI-IBAÑEZ, M.D.**

*Editor-in-Chief of the Medical Newsmagazines MD, MD of Canada, MD en Español, and MD Pacific; Former Professor and Chairman of the Department of the History of Medicine, New York Medical College*

**S**ET AGAINST the vast panorama of the social, economic, artistic, and religious background of each historic epoch, *The Patient's Progress* weaves the vibrant and colorful tapestry of one of the most significant relationships in the development of human experience—the personal relationship between a patient and his physician. This stirring narrative of the art of healing focuses not on the great medical and scientific discoveries of each age, but on how these advancements changed and alleviated the lot of suffering humanity.

From the magic rituals of the primitive and archaic societies, who regarded the patient as possessed with evil spirits, *The Patient's Progress* explores the medico-philosophic treatment of the Greeks and Romans, the religious beliefs and superstitious practices of the Middle Ages, the scientific awakening of the Age of Enlightenment, and great strides and triumphs of the modern era. The highlight of each of the five sections, which appeared serially in MD, the Medical Newsmagazine, is the introductory essay by Dr. Martí-Ibañez, who sets the scene philosophically and culturally for this dramatic and splendid pageant.

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