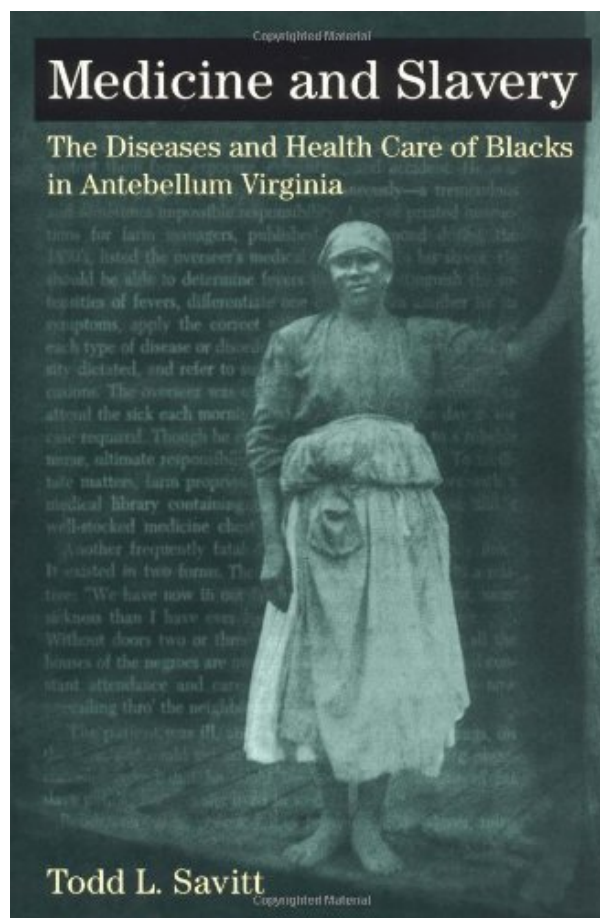


# MEDICINE AND SLAVERY: THE DISEASES AND HEALTH CARE OF BLACKS IN ANTEBELLUM VIRGINIA (BLACKS IN THE NEW WORLD) BY TODD L. SAVITT



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# Medicine and Slavery

## The Diseases and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia

...a tremendous and sometimes impossible responsibility for farm managers, published in 1830, listed the overseer's medical duties. The overseer should be able to determine fevers, distinguish the varieties of fevers, differentiate one from another by its symptoms, apply the correct treatment for each type of disease or disorder as dictated by the symptoms, and refer to a physician in extreme cases. The overseer was expected to attend the sick each morning and to call for medical assistance as required. Though he was not a nurse, ultimate responsibility for the health of the slaves, farm property matters, farm preparation, and the maintenance of a well-stocked medicine chest were his.

Another frequently fatal disease was typhoid fever. It existed in two forms. The acute form was described as follows: "We have now in our midst a sickness than I have ever known before. Without doors two or three hundred of the negroes are now lying in bed, and constant attendance and care is required, revealing thro' the neighborhood."

The patient was ill, and the disease could be cured only by the use of medicine. The patient was ill, and the disease could be cured only by the use of medicine. The patient was ill, and the disease could be cured only by the use of medicine.



Todd L. Savitt

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REVIEWS "In all details of symptoms and sores and cadavers, this is a meticulously researched analysis of medical and health conditions and a valuable account of the relationship between black health and white society. It is fresh and objective, and represents a major contribution to the understanding of the pre-Civil War South and its peculiar institution." -- Times Literary Supplement "This impressive work contains a fascinating analysis of sickle-cell anemia, heat and cold tolerance, lactose deficiency, tuberculosis, and other ills that plagued the slave population." -- Choice "No historian writing about slavery in America should be without this masterful study. No one learning about slavery should be without it. Savitt's work is indeed the definitive work on the subject." -- Journal of Mississippi History "Medicine and Slavery will be necessary reading for all scholars dealing with black history and the antebellum south, as well as those concerned with the history of medicine and medical thought." -- Journal of American History

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- Sales Rank: #958283 in Books
- Published on: 1981-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .80" w x 6.00" l, 1.03 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

## Review

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