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THE HOSPITAL OF THE SANTA CARIDAD OF SEVILLE: STUDY OF DISEASES AND DRUG TREATMENTS DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

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Our study focuses on the Hospital of the Santa Caridad of Seville, founded in 1645 by Miguel Mañara, a treasure of Sevillian Baroque and for over three centuries has been doing an important work of care.

In this work we've investigated the Death Books of the nineteenth century kept in the Archives of Private Hospital of the Santa Caridad, which recorded not only the date of death but also the profession, age and cause of death. With these data, we statistically examined the prevalence of diseases by grouping systems and analyzed the drugs used for treatment, this being the main purpose of this dissertation. For example, for cases of respiratory diseases, they used simple drugs as camphor, belladonna, digital purpurea, stramonium, mauve blossom, ammonia and others and, among the medicinal compounds, the water of bañares, white looc, tisana pectoral [sic], tincture of cantharides or pitch water. We have also considered the employment of medicaments in epidemics such as yellow fever in 1800. In this epidemic, they used muriatic acid, common water, snow water, quina or camphor.