



ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND

Setanta House, 2nd Floor
Setanta Place
Dublin 2
Telephone: +353 1 633 4820
Facsimile: +353 1 633 4918
Website: www.rami.ie

History of Medicine Section

Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 6.15 pm
Conor Ward Room, First Floor, Setanta House
Setanta Place, Dublin 2

Knowing the prostate, knowing the man: the creation of a surgical specialty, 1895-1920

Kieran Fitzpatrick BA, MA, DPhil

NUI Research Fellow in the Humanities, Moore Institute at NUI Galway



A Urethral Sound



Some of Freyer's Casebooks



An Early X-ray

Between 1880 and 1920, medical knowledge of the genitourinary organs was made 'modern' by innovative surgeons who devised new and safer techniques to cure their patients. However, in addition, the social meanings of masculinity, particularly in Britain, were changing around them. These changes placed greater emphasis on the protection of men's health in line with middle-class values, particularly those concerned with the protection of the nation and the empire via a man's 'character'. This paper traces the relationship between masculinity and genitourinary medicine through the casebooks of the Galwegian surgeon, Peter Freyer.

All Welcome, particularly students