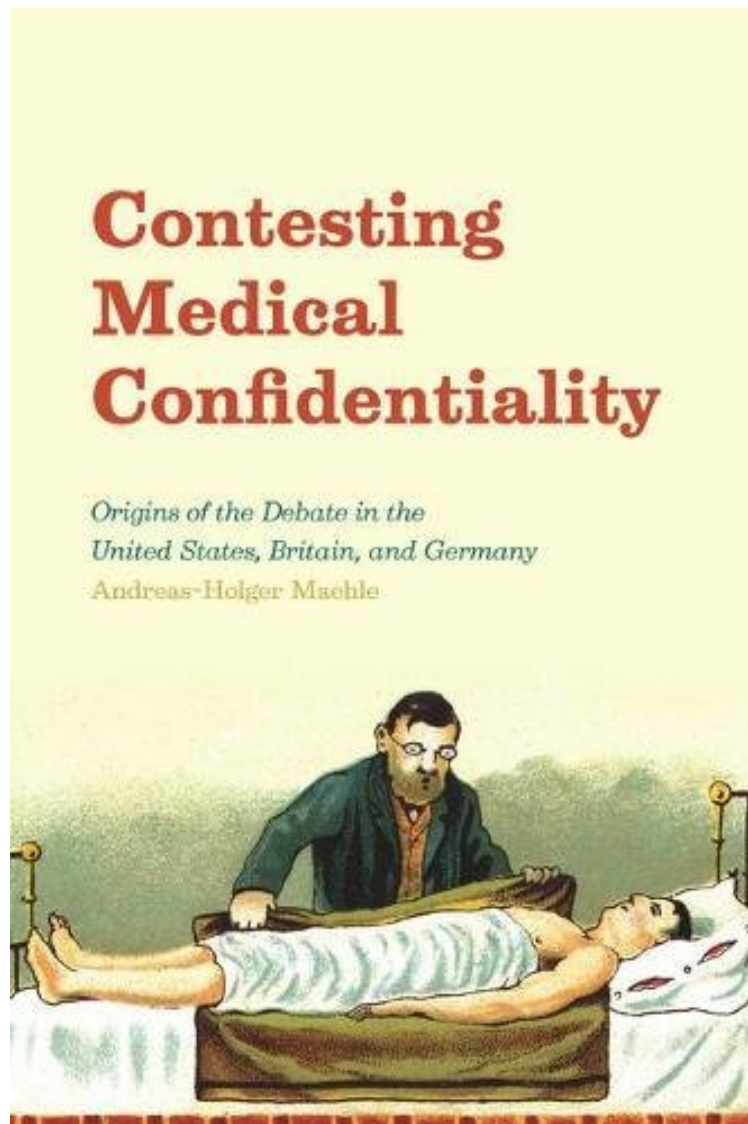


[Ebook pdf] Contesting Medical Confidentiality: Origins of the Debate in the United States, Britain, and Germany

Contesting Medical Confidentiality: Origins of the Debate in the United States, Britain, and Germany

Andreas-Holger Maehle

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#3977443 in Books Maehle Andreas Holger 2016-10-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022640482X168 pagesContesting Medical Confidentiality Origins of the Debate in the United States Britain and Germany | File size: 58.Mb

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praised *Contesting Medical Confidentiality: Origins of the Debate in the United States, Britain, and Germany*:

Medical confidentiality is an essential cornerstone of effective public health systems, and for centuries societies have struggled to maintain the illusion of absolute privacy. In this age of health databases and increasing connectedness, however, the confidentiality of patient information is rapidly becoming a concern at the forefront of worldwide ethical and political debate. In *Contesting Medical Confidentiality*, Andreas-Holger Maehle travels back to the origins of this increasingly relevant issue. He offers the first comparative analysis of professional and public debates on medical confidentiality in the United States, Britain, and Germany during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when traditional medical secrecy first came under pressure from demands of disclosure in the name of public health. Maehle structures his study around three representative questions of the time that remain salient today: Do physicians have a privilege to refuse court orders to reveal confidential patient details? Is there a medical duty to report illegal procedures to the authorities? Should doctors breach confidentiality in order to prevent the spread of disease? Considering these debates through a unique historical perspective, *Contesting Medical Confidentiality* illuminates the ethical issues and potentially grave consequences that continue to stir up public debate.

"A detailed history of the quarrels to flexibilize medical confidentiality in the late 19th to early 20th century should be quite tedious. Not in this case, though: Maehle manages to come up with an exhaustively documented and yet highly readable volume. The book recounts the parallel journeys of medical confidentiality in Germany, the US, and Britain. To that end, the author astutely uses three fields where the clash between medical confidentiality and the public interest of those times was more intense: giving judicial testimony against patients, reporting patients with sexually transmitted diseases, and taking to the authorities patients suspected of illegal abortion. The author's strategy proves fruitful in both delivering the contents and capturing the reader's attention. The result is an erudite and interesting short volume. Highly recommended."