

# Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Preface</i>  | page vii  |
| <i>List of Abbreviations</i>  | x         |
| <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>I</b>  |
| A Problem of Terminology  | I         |
| Geographical and Chronological Parameters                                 | 12        |
| Sources   | 14        |
| A New Discipline?   | 20        |
| <b>1 Conception, Birth and the ‘Crucial’ First Days</b>                   | <b>23</b> |
| Survivors? Handicapped Babies within a Regime of Massive Infant Mortality | 23        |
| Physicians and Parents in Search of Explanations                          | 29        |
| Biological Birth and Social Birth: A Crucial Interval?                    | 31        |
| <b>2 Mental and Intellectual Disabilities: Sane or Insane?</b>            | <b>37</b> |
| The Madness of Emperor Caligula   | 37        |
| Four Historical Approaches to ‘Mental Disorders’:                         |           |
| A Way Out of the Impasse?   | 42        |
| Roman Legal Thought: A ‘Practical’ File                                   | 46        |
| In Search of Learning Disorders and Intellectual Disabilities             | 52        |
| Anecdotal Evidence for ‘Mental Disorders’                                 | 61        |
| Classifications by Ancient Physicians                                     | 66        |
| Ancient ‘Psychotherapy’   | 72        |
| Christians, Devils and Possession   | 76        |
| <b>3 Blindness, a ‘Fate Worse Than Death’?</b>                            | <b>80</b> |
| Homer as ‘Symbolic Blind Man’   | 80        |
| Material Conditions   | 85        |
| Theory and Practice of Ancient Ophthalmology                              | 88        |
| Ancient Authors on the Causes of Blindness                                | 93        |
| Blind and Visually Impaired People in Everyday Life                       | 99        |
| Blind People in Opinion and Thought                                       | 107       |
| Christianity: Signs of Change?  | 110       |

|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| 4 | Deaf, Mute and Deaf-Mute: A Silent Story   | 114 |
|   | The Son of Croesus   | 114 |
|   | Deaf-Mute, Mute, Deaf?   | 117 |
|   | Medical and Demographic Explanations: Old and New  | 120 |
|   | Deaf-Mutes in Roman Law  | 124 |
|   | Echoes from Everyday Life  | 127 |
|   | The Venerable Bede and the Christian Vision  | 130 |
| 5 | Speech Defects: Stammering History   | 133 |
|   | Demosthenes: The Symbolic Stutterer?   | 133 |
|   | Causes of Speech Defects: Antiquity and Now  | 135 |
|   | In Search of Cases   | 137 |
|   | The Emperor's Speech: Claudius as a Stutterer  | 140 |
|   | Ancient Speech Therapy   | 144 |
|   | Moses in the Jewish and Christian Traditions   | 147 |
| 6 | Mobility Impairments: History of Pain and Toil   | 149 |
|   | Philip II of Macedonia and Other 'Crippled' Kings  | 149 |
|   | Mobility Impairments Then and Now: Osteology and Demography                                | 151 |
|   | Ancient Physicians on Deformities, Fractures and Healing                                   | 155 |
|   | A Glimpse of Daily Life  | 160 |
|   | The Role of Christianity   | 165 |
|   | Conclusions  | 168 |
|   | Functioning and Labour   | 169 |
|   | Capabilities and the Happiness Index: Exclusion or Inclusion?                              | 173 |
|   | The Happiness Index  | 175 |
|   | Monsters and Anti-Physiognomics: A Path to Identity Formation?                             | 176 |
|   | Disabilities as Political Invective: Despised as a War Hero and Reviled<br>as a Politician | 179 |
|   | Basic Positions  | 182 |
|   | A History of Long Duration, but with Little Change?  | 187 |
|   | New Paths  | 189 |
|   | A Final Thought: The Emperor's New Clothes   | 190 |
|   | <i>Bibliography</i>  | 192 |
|   | <i>General Index</i>   | 215 |
|   | <i>Index of Impaired Persons</i>   | 220 |
|   | <i>Index Locorum</i>   | 224 |