

M0013447: Page from 'Ivory Apes and Angels' paper on anatomical manikins.

Publication/Creation

April 1954

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/amgkja6q>

License and attribution

Conditions of use: it is possible this item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

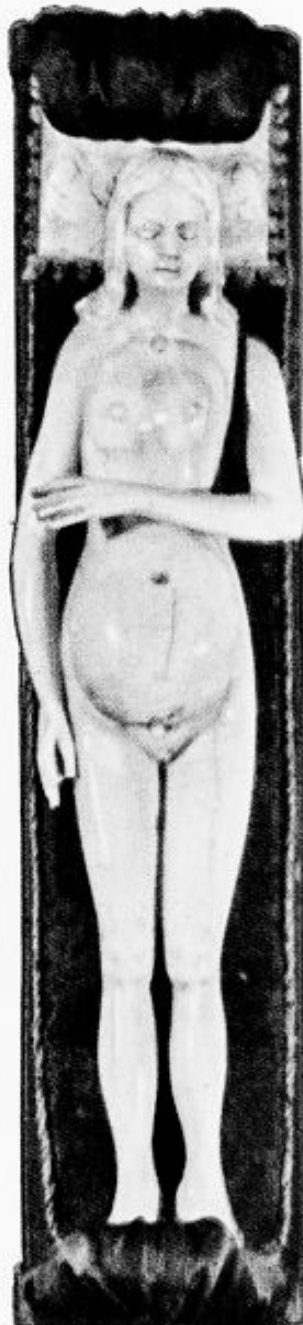
IVORY APES AND ANGELS

MEMENTOS OF A DAY WHEN IVORY CARVERS
LENT A HELPING HAND TO THE PHYSICIAN



ART too long has been accepted as only a superfluous and decorative hand-maiden. Too infrequently art's utilitarian value has been recognized. Yet art has had its share in the scientific development of the race, including the period of the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries when medical pioneers were beginning to study the organs of the human body as illustrated by the skilled artisans of the time. Among the most interesting and most successful of these illustrations were the ivory manikins of France, Italy and Germany, which were used as models for instruction in medical schools.

Ivory images had been employed for medical purposes centuries earlier by the Chinese. Their service then as now in



*Rare medical manikin from
collection of Dr. Arno B.
Luckhardt*

native medicine was as models at which the patients pointed to designate the spots where they were suffering. Chinese women of the better class particularly used such figures of ivory or wood to indicate to a physician the seat of the ailment. As the doctor was not permitted to see a woman of this class, she would thrust her hand through a curtain opening so that he could feel her pulse, and would then lay her finger upon that part of the ivory figure which corresponded with the part of her own body that was affected. Some of these Chinese manikins were perforated with as many as ninety tiny holes to show where acupuncture needles were to be inserted in the treatment of various diseases. The Chinese theory of medicine commonly attributed