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Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material -- List of Illustrations -- Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- Patients and their Doctors in Eighteenth-Century Britain: Etiquette, Eclecticism, and Ethics -- New Science Rhetoric in Medicine-by-Post: The Private Practice Correspondence of Dr James Jurin -- George Cheyne: A Very Public Private Doctor -- The Correspondence of Dr William Cullen: Scottish Enlightenment and New Directions in Medicine-by-Post -- Literary Applications of Medicine-by-Post -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Medicine-by-Post is an interdisciplinary study that will engage readers both in the history of medicine and the eighteenth-century novel. The correspondence from the large private practices of James Jurin, George Cheyne, and William Cullen opens a unique window on the doctor-patient relationship in England and Scotland from this period. The letters, many previously unpublished, reveal a changing rhetoric that mirrors contemporary shifts in medical theory and the patient's self-image. Medicine-by-Post uncovers the strategies of self-representation by both healers and patients, and reinterprets the meaning of illness and the medical encounter in eighteenth-century literature in the light

of true-life experience. The tension between the patient's personal needs and the doctor's professional will presents a ready metaphor for the novelist, depicting the social expectations placed upon the individual as well as a measure of one's moral character in the context of illness. The correspondence also demonstrates the subtle changes in rhetoric regarding 'sensitivity', reflecting evolving medical speculation. It also describes the differing perspectives of the female body between doctors and novelists and the women patients themselves. Yet much of this correspondence shows an unexpected blend of metaphor with a realistic and utilitarian approach to therapeutic advice and the patient's own compliance. In these letters we discover some genuinely sympathetic doctors.
