Record Nr. UNINA9910816319303321 Autore Madden Deborah <1970-> Titolo 'A cheap, safe and natural medicine': religion, medicine and culture in John Wesley's Primitive Physic / / Deborah Madden Amsterdam, : Rodopi, 2007 Pubbl/distr/stampa 94-012-0495-0 **ISBN** 1-4356-1423-2 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (320 p.) Collana Clio medica (New York, N.Y.) Wellcome series in the history of medicine Disciplina 610.9 Soggetti Medicine - History Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese Formato Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Preliminary material / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine --Dedication / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Preface / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Acknowledgements / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Introduction: Primitive Physic Explain'd in an Easy and Natural Method / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- John Wesley's Hermeneutics of Primitive Christianity and Practical Piety / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Experience and the Common Interest of Mankind: Physic, an Art or Science in Eighteenth-Century England? / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Preserving Health, or a Few Plain and Easy Rules / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Primitive Physic: Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine for Health and Long Life / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Conclusion: The Search for Pristine Purity / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine --Bibliography / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine -- Index / Editors A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine. Sommario/riassunto John Wesley's Primitive Physic (1747) achieved twenty-three editions in his lifetime, ensuring its popular – and controversial – status in eighteenth-century medicine. This is the first full-length study to examine the theological, intellectual and cultural background to one of

the period's most successful medical texts. By exploring Wesley's work in the context of his theology, 'A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine'

extends the on-going reconfiguration of the relationship between religion and medicine. Wesley was on a theological mission to recover the primitive purity of the first Christians. Yet the remedies contained within Primitive Physic suggest a pragmatic thinker, whose concern for spiritual health did not prevent him from providing practical assistance to those who needed it. The evolution of Wesley's thinking also demonstrates some of the struggles he faced as leader of the Methodist movement, such as the way he handled contemporary criticism of Primitive Physic when religious 'enthusiasm' was often conflated with medical 'quackery'. 'A Cheap, Safe and Natural Medicine' will be of interest not only to medical and literary historians, but to anyone who is interested in the way religion influences medicine.