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The Anatomy of Robert Knox: Murder, Mad Science & Medical Regulation in Nineteenth-Century Edinburgh

By A. W. Bates

Sussex Academic Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Anatomy of Robert Knox: Murder, Mad Science & Medical Regulation in Nineteenth-Century Edinburgh, A. W. Bates, Robert Knox is now remembered chiefly as the Edinburgh doctor who dissected corpses supplied by Burke and Hare. His contemporaries knew him as the most celebrated anatomist in Britain, the author of a controversial book on race, and a radical natural philosopher with revolutionary ideas, who taught a generation of medical students that species and races were produced by the operation of biological laws, independent of design or providence. Though he did not achieve the theoretical breakthrough he hoped for, his writings offered a challenging alternative to Darwinism that anticipated later theories of rapid evolution. This academic biography is the first to examine the influence of Knox's radical upbringing, Parisian training and ethnological studies in the Cape Colony on the development of his higher' anatomy, which traced the multifarious forms of the animal kingdom to an ideal body plan supposedly common to all. New evidence is presented that the subsequent decline in his career, often attributed to the murder for dissection scandal, was a consequence of his opposition to the 1832 Anatomy Act and...



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