

## **The Egyptians**

Lasted from about 3000 B.C. to 400 B.C. .

Well organised.

Farmed in the Nile delta, land in this area was very fertile. When the Nile flooded silt was left which reinvigorated the soil.

Egyptians developed writing. Separates them from prehistoric man. Meant treatments could be recorded.

Blamed the Gods for illness. And thanked them for cures.

Used charms to ward off evil spirits.

Used herbal cures. Not however separate from spiritual cures. There was no natural theory

supporting their use. Inhaled steam.

Egyptians believed in an afterlife. Needed the body in the afterlife. Led to mummification. This led to knowledge of anatomy. Removed organs in this process, this led to them knowing about the shape and size of organs. Dissection was however forbidden so knowledge remained superficial. Dissection was banned as the body was required for the afterlife.

### **The Theory of the Channels**

Believed the body was made up of channels. Worked like their irrigation system. If a channel

became blocked they would be ill. Led to some physical cures-vomiting, laxatives and bleeding. It was not a natural cure/theory to replace spiritual cures.

Egyptians didn't carry out major surgery. Did however carry out minor surgery. Use willow on minor wounds- worked like an antiseptic.

Religion led to the idea of keeping clean. This led to them being more healthy especially priests. More to do with religion than a real concern for cleanliness.

Egyptians did not have an organised public health system. Rich had baths and toilets but the state provided next to nothing.