11/15  Anesthesia and the Rise of Surgery

Puzzles from History of Psychiatric Surgery
   Rise and fall of lobotomy
   Lobotomy often done without general anesthesia
   Risk vs. Benefit? Expediency? Punishment?

Origins of Surgery
   Trephining
   Prohibitions in the Hippocratic Oath, vs. success of Galen
   Early modern surgery: Royal College of Barber-Surgeons, 1540
   Louis XIV, Francois Felix, and anal fistulae
   Warfare and surgery: amputations

Surgery c. 1800
   clip from Master and Commander
   Violent, gruesome, often deadly: 30-50% operative mortality
   Mix of practitioners, common and elite
   Pain and the culture of surgery: masculinity

Surprising Histories of Anesthesia
   Discovery and priority: Wells, Morton, and Long
   Delayed adoption of anesthesia: calculus of suffering
   Anesthesia and dentistry
   Anesthesia in the marketplace: making treatment more appealing
   Mesmerism as precedent and threat
   Disparities: women more like, blacks less likely, to receive anesthesia

Surgery after Anesthesia
   Initial increase in mortality: longer operations, more infections
   Laudable pus
   Lister, antisepsis, and asepsis
   Surgical successes in 1880s and 1890s
   Improving prestige of doctors and hospitals
   Persistence of a masculine culture