

Contents

Acknowledgements	11
Preface	13
Chapter 1: Introduction	19

PART I

Chapter 2: Social Systems Theory	31
Concepts	31
Observing systems	40
Chapter 3: Self-Reference	45
Symbolic medium	46
Medicine self-reference as science and as practice	51
Public health	52
Health systems	56

PART II

Chapter 4: The History of Medicine in Four Acts	63
<i>First period</i> (from the fifth century BC to the fifth century AD). Craftsmen's medicine, observing the surface of the body at the bedside	65
<i>Second period</i> (from the fifth to the fifteenth century). Medicine of books, universities and hospitals	77
<i>Third period</i> (from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century Reformation, Renaissance and Enlightenment). Medicine of the visible inside the body; medicine as science and technique	86
<i>Fourth period</i> (from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century). Medicine of the invisible made visible, medicine of specialities and medicine of the health systems	101
Chapter 5: Canguilhem and Foucault	115
Foucault	116
Canguilhem	134
Health system	139
Conclusions of the chapter	142

PART III

Chapter 6: "Anatomy" of Public Health: Indicators and Self-Reference	155
Introduction	155
The form of problem	158
Meanings and complexities: what the theory tells us	162
Indicators: anatomical features of public health	164
Discussion	187
Concluding remarks	192
Risk	195
Chapter 7: The Construction of the Self-Reference of Social Health Systems	205
Self-reference and complexity	206

PART IV

Chapter 8: Concluding Remarks	237
Ways of looking	245
Chapter 9: Advanced Theoretical Topics	259
Decision, tautology and paradox	259
Studying self-reflection	263
Social differentiation, form of problem and complexity	267
Symbolic medium and second-order observation	271
Public health, self-reference of a scientific domain	282

Appendix

References	295
Brief Glossary of Luhmann's Terms	301
Index	311

