Author-Physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle played a significant role in the circulation of the conceptual metaphor "medicine is war," the dominant paradigm in medical discourse which frames humans in a bellicose relationship with death and disease. Both Doyle's Holmes fiction and medical prose work together to conflate the medical and the military in the face of imperial threats of foreign infiltration-in the form of material disease and colonial others-and the degeneration of the British race. His stories reveal that the very political, economic, and military structures of empire produce an inherently pathological construction of Englishness. Ultimately, Doyle's drawing attention to and facile inoculation of biopolitical anxieties relating to colonial others and a weakening national population bolstered the need for thinking of medicine as war.

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