



ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND

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History of Medicine Section

17th May 2017 at 6.15pm
Geoffrey Bourke Room, First Floor, Setanta House
Setanta Place, Dublin 2.

The Year without Summer (1816) and the Mortality Crisis of 1817: Causes and Consequences

Breandán Mac Suibhne

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Mount Tambora, a volcano on the Indonesian island of Sumbawa, began coughing ash and smoke in 1812. Its eventual eruption in April 1815, sent a massive cloud of ash high into the atmosphere. As a veil of sulphuric dust spread across the globe, temperatures plummeted. In Europe, crops failed to ripen in the fields; food prices soared; social unrest and epidemics of disease followed. Here, Breandán Mac Suibhne explores Ireland's experience of this hemispheric, if not global crisis, paying particular attention to the response of the medical profession, in Dublin and provincial towns, to the fever epidemic of 1817.

All Welcome, particularly students