The trends noted in previous chapters have all intensified: there is more per capita energy use, with nuclear power added to the mix, more emissions and more material acquisition than ever before. The world has become a humanized habitat with few ecosystems that are independent of human activity. Even the great ‘wildernesses’ like Antarctica are showing the effects of impact in the accumulation of pesticides and the melting of ice. Although industrial nations' birth rates have slowed, many developing economies have high rates of population growth so leading to many unemployed young men. Only the devastations of HIV infection have slowed some of these increases. All this is mediated through a communications network of an immediacy and intensity never before experienced and in which digital electronics are key in ‘creating’ capital for projects affecting the environment and producing global-scale interactions. Visual media are especially important in conveying authority and replace the printed word of the previous era.
context. It introduces a Caribbean geography of health and disease, the contours of which appear familiar, but upon closer scrutiny morph into unsettling spaces. Rather than being mere reproductions of Old World hierarchies and dynamics, the chapter shows, Caribbean landscapes of healing were created anew through the multiple encounters that occurred between mostly black historical actors in the highly competitive cultural economy based on the experiential that developed in the region. These were arenas in which a variety of actors deployed multiple visions of the natural, cultural, and social world of the early modern Atlantic. The multiplicity of origins of practitioners of African descent implies that analysis of their historical circumstances cannot be contained in simple dialectic terms of continuities, ruptures, or coarsely defined hybridities. By unmasking muddying labels and maps of social and physical landscapes conceived through Old World imaginaries, we begin to perceive the countless ways in which black Atlantic actors usurped canonical and mundane spaces in which to enact their own corporeal encounters.