CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix
Introduction 1

PART ONE: Contested Body Politics: Women, Health, and Social Reform in the 1830s and 1840s 13
  2. The Reproductive Body, Part II: The Tasks of Social Reproduction 36
  3. Gender, the Poor Law, and the Ambiguity of the Able-Bodied Worker 57

PART TWO: Living in the Body: Women’s Experiences of Health and Illness 73
  4. The Evidence of the Body: Poor Women and Medical Cultures 77
  5. Testing the Reproductive Hypothesis: Women’s Illnesses, the Environment, and Menstruation 96
  7. “Rather a Hard Life”: Domestic Relationships and Health at Home 131
  8. “She Continued at Her Work”: Negotiating Employment and Health 150

Conclusion: The Politics of Women’s Health and Work 176

Notes 185
Select Bibliography 229
Index 249