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C. DAVID NAYLOR (ed.), *Canadian health care and the state: a century of evolution*, Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1992, pp. x, 241, £42.70 (hardback 0-7735-0934-8), £18.95 (paperback 0-7735-0949-6).

In the past ten years Canadian health care historiography has undergone a remarkable transformation as trained historians have applied new historiographical methods and theoretical questions to a rich and relatively unexplored area of Canadian history. *Canadian health care and the state* edited by C. David Naylor is the fourth collection of essays marking the transition from the traditional Whiggish approach to a more critical examination of the history of medicine in Canada. Like its predecessors, this volume is eclectic in its content but the essays are loosely organized around the modern state's involvement in health care. The essays range from a case study of the social engineering approach of Alexander Reid, a prominent physician activist in Nova Scotia, to narrative accounts of military medicine in World War I, the development of neuropsychiatry in World War II, class differentials in parental access at Toronto Sick Children's Hospital, and an overview of government measures (or lack of) to control sexually transmitted diseases. The three obligatory essays on health insurance in Canada and the United States cover familiar ground to readers working in the history or sociology of health care. The focus of this volume is the relationships among the medical profession and the federal and provincial governments. While issues of class inequality are ably represented, gender (e.g., the state's involvement in reproductive rights) and race (e.g., aboriginal health issues) are virtually invisible—despite the fact that there is considerable scholarship in these areas. The majority of the essays offer solid contributions to the history of state involvement in the health care system but readers will be disappointed by the collection's narrow scope.

CLAUDE E. WELCH, *A twentieth-century surgeon: my life in the Massachusetts General Hospital*, Boston, Massachusetts General Hospital, 1992, pp. xx, 392, illus., \$24.95 (0-88135-181-4), distributed by Science History Publications/USA, Box 493, Canton, MA 02021, USA.

There will come a time soon when autobiographies by surgeons will swamp all other published recollections. This condition will reflect the sheer number of potential authors, and also current perceptions of the prestige and power of surgery. Claude E. Welch's book is the testimony of an eye-witness to the explosive growth of surgery—professionally, institutionally, technically—from the 1930s onwards. All of Welch's working life was spent associated with the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). The prose style is straightforward and undistinguished, but the recollections and anecdotes are rich and revealing. Every generation of surgeons describes itself as having passed through a profound transformation in the discipline. Welch and his generation are no exception. His account of practice in 1930s Boston, and even more so his vivid description of wartime work in North Africa and Italy (he was with the MGH Unit) provide strong evidence for endorsing such a claim. After the war he was deeply involved in the technological transformations and specialization that took place within surgery. Professionally he was involved with the *New England Journal of Medicine* and politically with the American Medical Association (his memories of the struggles over ensuring racial equality in that organization are revealing). This is a valuable complement to the autobiographical volume of another MGH surgeon, Edward D. Churchill, whose *Wanderjahre: the education of a surgeon* was published in 1990.

GORDON UHLMANN and URSULA WEISSER (eds), *Krankenhausalltag seit den Zeiten der Cholera: Frühe Bilddokumente aus dem Universitäts-Krankenhaus Eppendorf in Hamburg*, Hamburg, Ernst Kabel Verlag, 1992, pp. 160, illus., DM 39.80 (3-8225-0212-X).

This collection of illustrations originated in an exhibition held to mark the centenary of what is now the University Hospital in Hamburg in 1989. It consists mainly of photographs, with a small

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number of reproduced documents and plans. There are thematic chapters on the patients, the doctors, the hospital pharmacy, the treatment of the sick, the specialists, the hospital furniture, and the boiler-room, kitchen and laundry, as well as chapters illustrating the hospital's origins and foundation, its early development, its history under the National Socialists and its reconstruction after the war. The commentaries at the beginning of each chapter, and the captions appended to the illustrations, are descriptive rather than analytical. Nearly all the photographs are posed. The reader's eye remains unoffended by any gross physical details of sickness or injury: most of the "patients" look remarkably healthy, and the "wounded soldiers" shown in a photograph from the First World War appear not to be wounded at all. Many of the illustrations, such as the photograph of smiling, healthy, buxom nurses from the Nazi "People's Welfare" organization, or the portrait gallery of Jewish doctors dismissed in the 1930s, tell their own story all too well. Few, however, are of more than local interest.

ANDREW PICKERING (ed.), *Science as practice and culture*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1992, pp. viii, 474, \$22.50 (0-226-66801-0).

The sociology of scientific knowledge (SSK) has come a long way in the last twenty years, although initial imperatives still inform much current work. Two of the most notable shifts in the subject have been from interest in science as theory to concern with science as practice and also to how the theory is made from the practice. Coincident with this change has been the increasing confidence of scholars in the SSK community. This has meant that practitioners have increasingly addressed each other rather than scholars at large, and their work is no longer prefaced with lengthy explications of the basic issues and defensive gestures towards the scientific community. All these features can be discerned in this work. This is not a primer. A number of the essays are hard to follow, several of them self-consciously address other specialized texts and other essays in the work. The volume as a whole, including the editor's introduction, assumes familiarity with the literature. There are rewards however, even for the non-specialist. Ian Hacking has interesting things to say about the stability of laboratory science, and Karin Knorr Cetina draws out an important distinction between laboratory science and experimental science. There are solid case studies of mathematics and oncogenes. The second part begins with a lucid and polemical account by Michael Lynch of the various uses that have been made of Wittgenstein in SSK. Much of the remainder of the volume is filled with responses to this piece. What is clear overall is how SSK is no longer on the defensive. Only the most convinced flat-earther could still confuse social constructionism with idealism or find an attack on science in this book.

JEAN HAMBURGER, *The diary of William Harvey: the imaginary journal of the physician who revolutionized medicine*, transl. Barbara Wright, New Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, 1992, pp. xii, 255, \$35.00 (hardback 0-1835-1825-3), \$14.95 (paperback 0-1835-1826-1).

To write one's own diary in a form suitable for publication is difficult enough. Even more daunting is the task of writing that of someone else, particularly when that individual is no imaginary creature but the greatest of all English physicians. Furthermore, the writer is a Frenchman, the late Professor Jean Hamburger, to whom we should be grateful for taking so encyclopaedic an interest in an English national hero. Originally written in French, the English translation tends to retain something of the verbosity of the French intellectual, which is hardly Harvey's style. Hamburger begins with 1st April 1647, when Harvey was in his seventieth year, and continues with more than 50 imagined diary entries covering seven years of Harvey's life, ending on 20th June 1654 with an adieu to cockfighting and itinerant singers on the orders of the Lord Protector. It is a work of considerable scholarship based on extensive reading and analysis of the relevant literature, yet the form taken inevitably introduces a considerable degree of hindsight, with material that would not normally have been included by a contemporary diarist. Periodically imagination takes over; there is no evidence, for example, that Harvey ever attended any of Galileo's lectures when he was in Padua. The seventeenth-century individual we glimpse in these pages seems curiously at variance with the sometimes passionate figure described by John Aubrey. It is also difficult to imagine Harvey writing

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so persistently in the first person, nor does the English usage in any way resemble that of other diarists of the same century such as Samuel Pepys. Nevertheless, the political background is well dealt with, often including extensive quotations from contemporary records, although again it is difficult to imagine a diarist including such material in a daily record. *The diary of William Harvey* makes on the one hand an entertaining if imaginative read, but on the other there are occasions when it will jar on the minds of those who admire its hypothetical author. After all, Harvey himself mistrusted both imagination and theory.

JOHN PARASCANDOLA, *The development of American pharmacology: John J. Abel and the shaping of a discipline*, Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992, pp. xvii, 212, illus., £24.500 (0-8018-4416-9).

Pharmacology is a unique medical science, which exists, usually uncomfortably, in association with pure chemistry, with physiology, with biochemistry, with clinical medicine and with behavioural science. Its evolution in Europe in the nineteenth century was hampered by the traditions of materia medica and the convictions of clinicians that they alone knew about the actions of drugs. In the USA pharmacology developed more quickly and with less interdisciplinary fighting (though there was no shortage of conflicts). It owes much to John J. Abel, who trained in Europe and then went to Michigan, briefly, and Johns Hopkins for the rest of his long life. John Parascandola, who with Elizabeth Kenney has already written the most useful *Sources in the history of American pharmacology*, has now expanded his studies into a full and excellently documented book, which combines a biography of Abel with an account of U.S. pharmacology up to the beginning of the Second World War. The result provides a valuable factual basis for studying just how this complicated subject did become established in one continent.

LAURENCE SPURLING (ed.), *From the words of my mouth: tradition in psychotherapy*, London and New York, Tavistock/Routledge, 1993, pp. viii, 165 (0415-06257-8).

Tradition, as Laurence Spurling reminds us in this original little book, denotes the handing over of knowledge, or passing over of a doctrine. Unfortunately there is a fissiparous tendency in the traditions of dynamic psychology. Freudian patients have Freudian dreams, Jungian patients have Jungian dreams. Many of those trained in the school of Klein cannot communicate with those trained elsewhere. People laugh at the "Primal Scream" school unless they were trained in it, and so on. Freud expressed anxiety about how psychoanalysis would be handed on. Despite positive politicking, the various groups within the main branches of psychodynamic tradition can scarcely even participate in the same debates. No one is more conscious of professional ancestry and "inheritance" than many modern psychotherapists. Some even proudly compare their own analytical "family tree" with those of others. Antagonism is as strong and disputes as acrimonious as ever.

"Tradition" also means "betray", which is what many therapists fear they will do if they step outside the tradition in which they happen to have trained. So it is timely that Spurling, a practising psychotherapist and an academic, should address this problem and link it subtly with the story of "the emperor's new clothes". Too many incompetent practitioners fear to step out of line and therefore impose tradition as they were taught onto every patient and problem they encounter.

WILLIAM G. ROTHSTEIN, *American physicians in the nineteenth century: from sects to science*, Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992, pp. xxii, 362, £13.50 (0-8018-4427-4).

Rothstein's 1975 survey of nineteenth-century American medicine has achieved the status of a minor classic, and it is good to have a paperback reprint, with a new (brief) introduction. Rothstein's account of the threat posed to regular physicians by Thomsonians, eclectics and homoeopaths during the middle decades of the century is particularly well done.