

people's health that would tell of a simple shift "from the Poor Law to the National Health Service". By the time of the Great War, a huge and intricate fabric of services was in place, of various kinds, funded by diverse sources, and tailored for differing sectors of society with distinct conditions and needs. One of the great works of the NHS lay not in *creating* services but in *systematizing* them and removing the elements of arbitrariness and class deference.

Finally, every page of *Model mothers* reminds us (we should, in truth, not need reminding any longer) of the irreducible localism and extraordinary heterogeneity of health provision. If the Stepney workhouse was generous with medicines, or the Whitechapel guardians provided kosher food in their infirmary, or if home helps were provided in Bethnal Green, you could be sure that things were arranged quite otherwise in Mile End or Limehouse. Not the least pleasure of this rich and rewarding book is to be brought face-to-face time and again with the exceptionally personal and variegated nature of metropolitan medical, nursing and hygiene services. Something like community care did exist, because those were the days of fiercely defined local communities with identities of their own. The support systems depicted in Michael Young and Peter Willmott's classic *Family and kinship in east London* (London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1957) existed no less for the sustaining of health than for the upholding of family and cultural bonds.

Roy Porter, Wellcome Institute

J B Lyons, *Surgeon Major Parke's African journey 1887–89*, Dublin, The Lilliput Press, 1994, pp. xiv, 281, £19.95 (1874675-20-1).

Thomas Heazle Parke was a twenty-nine year old military surgeon of modest achievement when, in 1887, he persuaded the explorer Henry Morton Stanley to let him join the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition. By the time of his death seven years later, Parke was one of the best known Irishmen of his day; hailed

variously as "the man who saved Stanley" and "the first Irishman to cross Africa".

Although the reputation of Stanley and other members of the expedition was soon tarnished by stories of atrocities and incompetence, Parke's remained relatively intact. He had stood aside from the mud-slinging which had broken out between members of the expedition, and had attempted to dampen the controversy through the publication of an anodyne account of his experiences in equatorial Africa, which also did much to restore Stanley's reputation.

In this fascinating if disturbing biography of Parke, Dr Lyons presents a quite different account of Parke's journey into the "Heart of Darkness", based on the young surgeon's unexpurgated letters and diaries. Lyons recreates the journey in all its horror. Stanley emerges as a far less attractive figure than in Parke's memoirs: vain, imperious and ruthless. Other members of the expedition are also portrayed in a less than flattering light, such as Major Barttelot, whose temper and penchant for violence earned him the name *Kappapo* (whirlwind) among the African bearers. Indeed, Parke's diaries may be read as a sorry catalogue of a descent in barbarism. As the expedition loots and murders its way up the Congo, we encounter cannibalistic tribesmen and slave traders but also, refreshingly, Roger Casement, who was later to expose the appalling condition of native labourers in the Belgian Congo. But the story of Parke's journey is also at times an amusing one, particularly the depiction of the menacing yet preposterous ex-slaver Tippu Tib, who accompanied Stanley through the jungle with his harem of thirty-five women.

Parke comes out of all this fairly well. While some of his fellow officers took a delight in the scenes of barbarism which surrounded them (one even drew pictures of a "cannibalistic" ceremony) or beat the African bearers mercilessly, Parke was more judicious and sympathetic. Although he meted out several beatings of his own, he intervened on other occasions to prevent acts of violence, and appears to have tended to the sick and wounded of all races with equal diligence.

Book Reviews

But Parke, as medical officer, was fighting a losing battle. Attention to hygiene and the distribution of quinine tablets did nothing to prevent most members of the expedition—including Parke and Stanley—falling ill on several occasions. Stanley was close to death at one stage, while Parke's companion, Major Jameson, died of blackwater fever. Deaths were even more frequent among the African bearers, many of whom were recruited in Zanzibar, Sudan or Somalia, and unused to the climate and diseases of the equatorial jungle. However, Parke's efforts to treat the diseases which afflicted the expedition are well documented, and we gain from Dr Lyon's biography a valuable insight into the therapeutic practices of the period. The reader may be gratified to learn that the unappealing Stanley was treated for fever with castor oil and mildewed mustard leaf: a just desert if ever there was one.

Mark Harrison, Sheffield Hallam University

Frederic W Hafferty and John B McKinlay (eds), *The changing medical profession: an international perspective*, New York and Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1993, pp. x, 261, £35.00 (0-19-507592-7).

This collection of papers began as a supplemental issue of *The Milbank Quarterly* that was published several years before this reviewer became its publisher. The editors have increased the number and broadened the scope of the papers. The resulting book should become a standard introduction to comparative social science about the medical profession.

Most of the authors use data about the history and contemporary situation of medicine to test sociological theory. In the first chapter, for example, Fredric D Wolinsky describes the contending theories of professional dominance, deprofessionalization, proletarianization, and corporatization. Although such theories have uses, historians will wince at his statement (p. 13) that "professional autonomy . . . was conferred on American medicine around 1910, when the Flexner report . . . was published."

Such neglect of competent secondary sources is, however, rare among the sociologists represented here. Everyone interested in contemporary history as well as sociology will benefit from Eliot Freidson's updating of his earlier work in 'How dominant are the professions?' and from assessments of the medical profession in eleven countries by accomplished scholars (one a political scientist). Sol Levine contributes a thoughtful overview of 'Some problematic aspects of medicine's changing status'. The co-editors, in their introduction and conclusion, ably summarize contemporary problems in the social role of medicine.

The most compelling papers are, however, by persons who are unconstrained by the conventions of a particular social science. Julio Frenk and Luis Durán-Arenas offer a provocative overview of 'The medical profession and the state'. David M Frankford, writing on 'The professions and the law', argues against the tyranny of theory and method in the social sciences. Rudolph Klein explores the hazards of both "ethnocentric overexplanation" and comparative generalizations in explaining political behaviour.

In sum, this is a stimulating book. Hafferty and McKinlay have been aggressive editors.

Daniel M Fox, Milbank Memorial Fund

Sheila M Rothman, *Living in the shadow of death: tuberculosis and the social experience of illness in American history*, New York, BasicBooks, 1994 (distributed by HarperCollins in the UK), pp. xi, 319, £19.95 (0465-03002-5).

Over the last decade a more patient-centred history of medicine has been cultivated, and Sheila Rothman's well-researched and highly readable account of consumption and consumptives ("lungers") in nineteenth-century America is a model of its kind. Rothman's discovery in family papers and institutional