

detriment of other aspects that are discussed diffusely throughout the book. Thus it often seems that little bits of each piece of the jigsaw are being described simultaneously, instead of the picture being built up piece by piece. The final two chapters, on the APS itself and on the establishment and early achievements of scientific medicine in America do go some way in correcting this dizziness, by reiterating and extending some of the initial debates, particularly those on the role of experimental techniques on living animals and on the dilemmas and difficulties of the “second-generation” physiologists in creating new opportunities for themselves.

Despite these limitations, in organization rather than in content, this is a useful volume, particularly as an adjuvant to other publications celebrating the centenary of the Society. In addition to providing a record of the founding and growth of American physiology, it discusses the historical development and significance of several concerns such as anti-vivisectionist activity and scientific funding, which have acquired a new relevance to physiologists today.

E. M. Tansey  
Wellcome Institute

MARY ANN JIMENEZ, *Changing faces of madness. Early American attitudes and treatment of the insane*, Hanover and London, University Press of New England, 1987, 8vo, pp. ix, 219, \$25.00.

Nancy Tomes has recently emphasized how, once the age of the asylum dawned in the United States in the Jacksonian era, America steadily came to diverge from England in the treatment of the mad. Mary Ann Jimenez’s well-researched and crisply-written monograph convincingly demonstrates that, by contrast, before the asylum age, madness in colonial America was regarded and treated in much the same ways as it was in early Georgian England. Above all, and *pace* Foucault’s notion of a “great confinement”, it was rare for the “distracted” in colonial Massachusetts (the bulk of her primary evidence comes from that state) to be institutionally confined. Those physically detained were chiefly violent maniacs, sequestered not because they were mad but because they were dangerous, and, even then, their confinement was generally brief. Lunatics were usually left in charge of their families or their township overseers, and no great shame was attached to the condition.

The great watershed, Jimenez plausibly argues, came not with the first erection of asylums on a large scale from the 1820s, but after the Revolution, around the close of the eighteenth century. As physicians such as Benjamin Rush grew more prominent, madness — traditionally seen in a rather loose Providentialist framework — was progressively medicalized; and rationales for segregating the insane emerged as medical therapies were proposed (Rush advocated heroic bloodlettings) and hopes of cure were raised by popularization of the works of Pinel and Tuke. Most importantly of all, however, the new stress on individualist social discipline in the infant republic created for the first time a sharp censoriousness towards deviants, especially drunks and masturbators, and led to the widespread and quasi-punitive securing of the insane not in purpose-built asylums but in jails, workhouses, and other lock-ups. Thus the eventual spread of the asylum in Jacksonian America was not a coercive measure, ending the liberty of the insane; it was designed as a benign gesture to liberate them from places of mere confinement.

Jimenez’s is the first book-length study of colonial insanity; it is securely grounded upon local and legal records, medical evidence, and asylum reports. Her work forms an original and convincing prologue to the tide of monographs currently appearing on nineteenth-century insanity.

Roy Porter  
Wellcome Institute