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CHARLES WEBSTER (ed.), *Caring for health: history and diversity*, Health and Disease Series, Book 6, Buckingham, Open University Press in association with the Open University, 1993, pp. 224, illus., £12.99 (paperback 0-335-19118-5).

Caring for health is the sixth in a series of eight books designed for an Open University course. Using plenty of figures and illustrations the text aims to assist the student in understanding current international patterns of health care, but the method employed to achieve this end is historical. The emphasis on "health care", although at times introducing an anachronistic flavour, highlights the fact that this book is about much more than the history of medicine, important though that component is. After a general introduction, five chapters describe very broadly the picture of health, disease and care in the west and its colonies from 1500 to the 1970s. The significance of social change and political strategy in the production of health and disease is underlined. Descriptions of lay conceptions of disease and non-professional care are prominent. Orthodox medicine and the increasing importance of acute hospital-based medical intervention are of course central features of the story.

The final four chapters explore health care in the modern world, especially the third world. This is a most useful book, even though it makes for depressing reading at times. It conveys, even if it does not fully analyse, the ways in which the categories of orthodox medicine constrain the framing of solutions to ill-health. The historically constructed nature of these categories is not always made completely apparent. In this respect a single chapter covering the period 1848 to 1918, and designating it "The era of public health", fails to come to grips with the cognitive and organizational reordering engendered by the introduction of the laboratory as the seat of medical authority. None the less this is an impressive text which all teachers of historical matters relating to health will find valuable.

RICHARD BODMAN and DEIRDRE GILLIES, *Harold Griffith: the evolution of modern anaesthesia*, Canadian Medical Lives series No. 8, Toronto and Oxford, Hannah Institute and Dundurn Press, 1992, pp. 128, illus., £10.00, \$17.95 (1-55002-155-9).

Eighth in a series designed to bring Canadian medical folk to the Canadian general reader, this book, none the less, is of interest to the specialist historian. Griffith is best known for his use, in 1942, of a curare product to produce muscular relaxation during anaesthesia. What is important, however, is that Griffith had the confidence to do this because of his mastery of other technologies he had helped introduce: endotracheal intubation, cyclopropane anaesthesia and manual ventilation of the deeply unconscious patient. This volume lucidly chronicles his career and lifelong attachment to the Homeopathic Hospital of Montreal. Scantly footnoted, it contains a bibliography of Griffith's writings, but the reader is still left to guess at the whereabouts of the autobiographical fragments which are extensively (but fully?) quoted. Presumably they reside at McGill University.

B. RAYMOND FINK, LUCIEN E. MORRIS and C. R. STEPHEN, *The history of anaesthesia: Third International Symposium, proceedings*, Park Ridge, IL, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, 1992, pp. xvi, 467, illus., \$80.00 (hardback 0-9614932-5-9), \$70.00 (paperback 0-9614932-4-0).

Among medical specialists the anaesthetists consistently outstrip all others in investigative energy and historical productivity. The evidence is here again in the form of these weighty proceedings from their third international symposium. The volume lives up to the size of its two predecessors. The meeting that generated this book was held in 1992, in Atlanta, Georgia, to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the employment of ether anaesthesia by Crawford Long. There are 95 papers here varying in length from one to twelve pages. As in the earlier volumes the range of subject matter, industry, scholarly sensibility and analytical skill is cosmic. Most of the old chestnuts crop-up—Hickman, Davy, Morton—but there are some real treats: where else would you find, for example, an

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article in English on 'Anesthesia in the Wehrmacht (1939–1945)?' The delights are not just verbal, there are a number of reproductions of rare photographs. Most of this volume is for the enthusiast, but a useful Table of Topics will quickly alert those on the periphery of this vibrant research area to subjects of particular interest. Once again the Wood Library-Museum is to be thanked for its promotion of anaesthetic history.

GEORGE ROSEN, *A history of public health*, expanded edition, Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993, pp. xci, 535, £16.60 (paperback 0–8018–4645–5).

First published in 1958, George Rosen's history of public health, which follows international developments from their Graeco-Roman origins up to the 1950s, has not yet been superseded as a comprehensive introductory survey of the subject. In this new edition, the original text has been left unrevised, which must be questionable wisdom with any textbook that is thirty-five years old. Whatever its intrinsic value, however admirable its breadth of scope and scholarship, both language and opinion inevitably seem dated. Not only has the history of medicine expanded and developed dramatically as a discipline since 1958, but Rosen's optimism about the possibilities of social progress through medicine now appears naive.

In the absence of any competitor, however, this reissue is none the less welcome. It is redeemed, and its value enhanced, by the addition of a new introduction and an updated bibliography. Elizabeth Fee's introduction places Rosen's work in its historiographic context, with special reference to developments since 1950, and is itself a notable essay in the history of the history of medicine. Edward T. Morman's brief biography of Rosen extends our understanding of the context in which the book came to be written. The new 'classified bibliography of secondary sources' blends the major works cited by Rosen with significant English-language books on public health history published between 1958 and 1992. This will be an invaluable resource for all students of the subject, facilitating access to the relevant literature on a wide range of subjects, from specific diseases, through the experience of individual countries, to such areas of public health concern as education, statistics, mental health and nursing.

J. H. POWELL, *Bring out your dead: the great plague of yellow fever in Philadelphia in 1793*, reprinted with an introduction by Kenneth R. Foster, Mary F. Jenkins, and Anna Coxe Toogood, Studies in Health, Illness, and Caregiving, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993, pp. xxvi, 304, \$29.95 (hardback 0–8122–3210–0), \$12.95 (paperback 0–8122–1423–4).

The late J. H. Powell's *Bring out your dead* first came out to popular acclaim in 1949, and was reprinted twice, by Time-Life Books in 1965, and by the *New York Times* with the Arno Press in 1970. Now the original publisher celebrates the bicentenary of the devastating 1793 outbreak of yellow fever in Philadelphia with yet another reprinting, this time with a new short introduction by three local historians. Based on a compilation of records left by those who lived through the epidemic or died in it, it is a social historian's view of an episode which had elements of political significance as well as medical controversy amid the human misery created by the impact of a then ill-understood disease. Politically, the outbreak served to cool local enthusiasm and prevent riots threatened in response to Washington's insistence on neutrality in the face of French attempts to bring the fledgling United States into the European wars following the French Revolution; within the medical community, controversy erupted between Benjamin Rush and colleagues opposed to his "purges and bloodletting" therapies. For Rush, it became the great test of his theories and methods. When some of his patients recovered, he was fêted as a hero; when his methods failed, he was vilified by colleagues with other views. In the end, it became his undoing. Bowing to criticism, he resigned from the College of Physicians; before the end of the century, he had ceased to practise medicine. Much has been written on Benjamin Rush by medical historians. In this case, the last word may be left to Powell, the social historian, who writes: "Dr. Rush's radiant charm is seductive. I find I sometimes forget, in the spell of his presence, that he had no common sense . . .". Perhaps some of Rush's patients in Philadelphia in 1793 would have agreed.

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PAUL WEINDLING with URSULA SLEVOGT, *Alfred Blaschko (1858–1922) and the problem of sexually transmitted diseases in imperial and Weimar Germany: a bibliography*, Research Publication Series XI, Oxford, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 1992, pp. ix, 150, illus., £6.85 (+p&p £2.00) (0-906844-11-8). Available from Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45–47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE.

This is an attractively produced little booklet, though it is by no means clear who is likely to pay nearly £9 (with postage) for what is, given the authors' own admission of "many unresolved bibliographical problems", not an exhaustive bibliography. In fact it contains a detailed catalogue of Blaschko material held at the Wellcome Unit Oxford (it might have made more sense to indicate items *not* held there by some distinguishing mark, rather than those which are). This collection includes unpublished documents pertaining to Hermann Blaschko senior, Alfred Blaschko's father; photographs and documents relating to Alfred Blaschko and his family (also inscribed publications by others); and correspondence of Hermann Blaschko junior and Paul Weindling about Alfred Blaschko, as well as the incomplete set of Alfred Blaschko's publications. The publication of such detailed lists seems a little unnecessary, though it is useful to know that this material exists and where it may be found.

The Introduction on 'Alfred Blaschko, medical expertise and social reform' helpfully sets the context for the materials listed, and, given Paul Weindling's own expertise in this field, the description of Blaschko's involvement in wider issues of social hygiene in Germany is an invaluable short account for those less acquainted with German medicine of the period. British historians, however, may be startled to find the foundation of the National Council for Combatting Venereal Diseases in 1914 attributed to "Blaschko's success in building up" the German equivalent, the Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten. Though this may well have been a model, the immediate impetus for setting up the NCCVD was surely the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases.

GREG WILKINSON (ed.), *Talking about psychiatry*, London, The Royal College of Psychiatrists and Gaskell, 1993, pp. ix, 342, illus., £20.00 (0-9022-41-56-7).

These nineteen interviews, originally published in the *Bulletin* of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, provide an oral history of a medical élite, most of whom have already made substantial written contributions to post-war British psychiatry. The book provides a convenient primary source for historians with informal, but carefully indexed, accounts of the development of key institutions and journals. Even *Medical History* is mentioned in passing—the editor once rejected a paper by Edward Hare on masturbatory insanity.

Perhaps the most striking similarity between many of these men is the intensity of their personal reactions to training at the Maudsley ("a very strange hospital" with a "paranoid atmosphere"), and to Aubrey Lewis in particular ("abysmally shy", "a therapeutic nihilist", "a delightful person, with an immense sense of fun" or even "the greatest psychiatrist this country ever had").

Considerable conflict is aired in this collection. For example, Robert Cawley describes his fourteen-year struggle to integrate the Department of Psychological Medicine at King's College Hospital with the Maudsley across the road, and Michael Shepherd distances himself from the Royal College, which he portrays as a self-interested club that has yet to develop a strong academic dimension. Whether "these accounts clearly show how humanity and wisdom, combined with leadership and vision, have transformed British psychiatry within a generation", as Greg Wilkinson claims in his preface, the reader will judge.

KARL HOLUBAR, CATHRIN SCHMIDT, and KLAUS WOLFF, *Challenge dermatology, Vienna 1841–1992*, Vienna, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1993, pp. 115, illus., (no price given) (3-7001-1991-7).

This volume bears all the hallmarks of a generously financed commemoration-volume. As such, it was offered to the participants of the international meeting of 'Dermatology 2000' in Vienna in 1993, in order to celebrate "the sesquicentennial of the beginning of academic dermatology in Vienna", to "mark the end of an era", now the old Vienna General Hospital has been evacuated, and

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to draw attention to hitherto unpublished watercolours of skin-diseases by two contributors to Hebra's famous atlas, Anton Elfinger and Carl Heitzmann. In five brief period-sketches, the authors only very cursorily touch upon some important institutional and intellectual aspects of the development of academic dermatology in the Austrian capital. The descriptions by these professional dermatologists follow familiar moulds of professionals' historical self-representation, and are devoid of all pretensions to further interpretation. The accompanying reproductions of the nineteenth-century watercolours—the originals of which are presently in the holdings of the Vienna Institute for the History of Medicine—form therefore the more exciting part of the volume. The outstanding quality of these illustrations makes the reader regret that, except for two brief biographical notes on Elfinger and Heitzmann, not more is said about the ambitions and conventions these physician-artists worked under.

H. H. CUNNINGHAM, *Doctors in gray: the Confederate medical service*, Baton Rouge and London, Louisiana State University Press, 1993, pp. xi, 339, illus., \$14.00 (paperback 0-8071-1856-7).

Doctors in gray was first published in 1958. It was based on a wide range of published and manuscript sources and has enjoyed a reputation as a decent study of the Confederate Medical Service. Seeing it in its modern facsimile edition reminds the reader that Cunningham could be uncritical, that he wrote in the heroic mode of an older generation of historians, and that the present volume should have included a bibliographical essay examining work in the area published in the last thirty-five years.

ALISTAIR G. TOUGH, *Medical archives of Glasgow and Paisley: a guide to the greater Glasgow Health Board archive*, Publication no. 4, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine University of Glasgow, 1993, pp. viii, 69, £7.50 (0-9511765-2-8).

The Greater Glasgow Health Board is the largest health authority in the UK and was the first to appoint a full-time archivist, following a records project initiated in 1975. The GGHB Archive Repository is now responsible for some 4,000 linear feet of records, but many records are stored elsewhere, including in the hospitals which created them. Hence the value of this guide which pulls together a tremendous amount of information. More than simply a brief listing of the records, it contains valuable introductory notes on the administrative histories of each of the hospitals and clinics covered, with additional references to published sources. In the case of the oldest Glasgow hospital, the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where case records date back to 1788, these helpful notes occupy a page. Due acknowledgement is made to Derek Dow, the previous archivist, who undertook much of the research. Historians are increasingly making use of these records and will be further encouraged by this volume.

Apart from hospitals and clinics in and outside Glasgow, the guide notes records of NHS and local administrative bodies and the often incomplete series of archives of miscellaneous organizations such as the Scottish Association of Nurse Administrators or the West of Scotland Neuro-Psychiatric Research Institute, as well as a small number of personal papers ranging from testimonials to video recorded interviews.

The index should be fuller: it does not do justice to all the sources mentioned. Thus, for example, the material on the National Radium Centre (which came with records of the Southern General Hospital, p. 27), and pamphlets of the British Institute of Preventive Medicine (under William Younger & Co. Brewers, p. 48) are not indexed.

JOHANNES OEHME, *Pioniere der Kinderheilkunde*, Themen der Kinderheilkunde, vol. 7, Lübeck, Hansisches Verlagkontor, 1993, pp. 96, illus., DM 24.00, ÖS 188.00, SFr 24.00 (30873020-076-9).

Professor Dr Oehme, consultant paediatrician at Braunschweig Children's Hospital, decided to compile this collection of short biographies of "Pioneer Paediatricians". Some of these have already been published in the German journal *Kinderkrankenschwester* (paediatric nurse). This volume is aimed at doctors, nurses, medical historians, and the interested layman alike.

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Oehme has chosen ninety medical men and women, from a wide range of nationalities, whom he considers to be significant contributors to progress in paediatric medicine. Oehme defines a pioneer paediatrician as "a path-finder, whether in the scientific or clinical, or the academic or political sense". For easy reference he lists the biographies in alphabetical order. Thus the collection begins with Alfred Adam (1888–1956), who in 1923 identified a specific *Coli* bacterium as the main cause of severe diarrhoea in neonates. The volume ends with the work of Theodor Zwinger (1658–1724) who coined the term *Pädiatrie*. Each biography is accompanied by a photograph of the respective pioneer, a short summary of his or her life and achievements, and a reproduction of the title-page of the person's main publication.

DAVID A. KRONICK (comp.), *Scientific and technical periodicals of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: a guide*, Metuchen, N.J., and London, The Scarecrow Press, 1991, distrib. Shelwing Ltd, pp. xix, 332, £29.65 (0-8108-2492-2).

However important a historical resource, journals still lack a comprehensive guide to all that were published as well as to their location. Self-evidently, the difficulties of compiling such a list are enormous—not only finding out where they are housed, but also coping with the vagaries of changes in title, content, and place of publication. The interest of one of the pioneers in this field, David A. Kronick, started as long ago as 1952 with his doctoral thesis (the basis of his authoritative *History of scientific and technical periodicals*, published in 1976), and continued when he was director of the library at the University of Texas Health Center at San Antonio. Again concentrating on journals of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Kronick's new guide is based not only on major source and location lists but also on personal examination of as many of the titles as possible. He is too modest in claiming that the new guide has climbed merely one rung of the ladder: though, as always, much remains to be done, it will rapidly become as indispensable as the standard works of Garrison and Le Fanu.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

ERWIN H. ACKERKNECHT, *Geschichte der Medizin*, 7. überarbeitete und ergänzte Auflage von Axel Hinrich Murken, Stuttgart, Ferdinand Enke, 1992, pp. 214, illus., DM 24.80, SFr 25.30 (3-432-80037-1).

ELVIRA ARQUIOLA, LUIS MONTIEL, *La corona de las ciencias naturales: la medicina en el tránsito del siglo XVIII al XIX*, Estudios sobre la ciencia, 20, Madrid, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 1993, pp. xxii, 392, illus. (84-00-07333-9).

JONATHAN BARRY and COLIN JONES (eds), *Medicine and charity before the welfare state*, Studies in the Social History of Medicine, London and New York, Routledge, 1991, pp. x, 259, £45.00 (hardback 0-415-05741-8); 1994, £13.99 (paperback 0-415-11136-6). The hardback edition was reviewed in *Medical History*, 1992, **36**: 335.

MARINA BENJAMIN (ed.), *Science and sensibility: gender and scientific enquiry, 1740–1945*, Oxford and Cambridge, Mass., Blackwell, 1991, pp. x, 296, illus., £35.00 (hardback 0-631-16649-1); 1993, £12.99 (paperback 0-631-19207-7). The hardback was reviewed in *Medical History*, 1992, **36**: 229–30.

A. CAROLINE BERRY, *Beginnings: Christian views of the early embryo*, London, Christian Medical Fellowship, 1993, pp. 40, £2.00 (+p&p), (0-906747-27-9). (Available from CMF, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XN.)