

which increases when the author's promises are considered.

At the beginning, in fact, we learn that this biography 'is defined as a model of the dynamics of cognition leading to a dual account of the life and scientific endeavours' of Rademaker (hence the reference to 'cognition' in the title). According to the author's intentions, a careful reconstruction of all stages of Rademaker's career through 'the intuitive and experimental evidence' of his work should lead to an understanding of his experience not only as a historical singularity, but also as a model of scientific reasoning and life. In this endeavour, the author has drawn inspiration from the Plutarchian model of the *Vitae Parallelae*, in that he resorts to various parallels in order to highlight the main features of Rademaker's intellectual and moral development. None of these claims are actually met by the book. The dynamics of cognition are often referred to (not least in the very concise conclusion), but in an obscure way, without any real commitment to the theoretical issue. As for the reference to Plutarch, its validity is very doubtful.

This said, one can easily see how Hogenhuis's work could have been a good (at times very informative) traditional biography if only it had undergone some real editing. The quantity of avoidable repetitions (a few times even entire paragraphs), misprints and sketchy digressions of dubious utility is far above the average. The interesting historical hints are diluted in a narrative overflow oscillating between extreme detail (for example, the summaries of all the PhD dissertations prepared in Rademaker's institute, book IV) and excessive generality (for instance, the history of research on muscle tone in book VIII). Finally, the very outline of the chapters, with the partial exception of books II and III, is sketchy and the lines of argument often hard to follow. It is difficult to understand how such a sloppy editorial product can be sold for €99.

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**Peter Williams**, *The Story of the Wellcome Trust: Unlocking Sir Henry's Legacy to Medical Research* (Hindringham: J.J.G. Publishing, 2010), pp. xvi + 118, £16.95, hardback, ISBN: 978-1-899163-92-2.

In this book, Peter Williams' 'personal broad brush approach' offers us an 'easily digestible' (p. ix) account of the history of the Wellcome Trust. Williams is ideally suited to writing such an overview: employed by the Wellcome Trust in 1959, he served as its Director from 1965 to his retirement in 1991, during which time the Trust grew from a small operation to the global charity it is today.

On Williams' retirement, he produced *The Wellcome Trust Story 1960–1991: Personal Recollections*. His new book is also based on 'personal recollections' and mirrors the structure of its predecessor in being a chronological account of the Trust's development, interspersed with personal pen portraits of key figures. A good deal of the story will be familiar to readers. Sir Henry Wellcome's rise to prosperity on the back of his pharmaceutical company is probably as well acknowledged now as ever before, but the oft-misremembered difference between the Wellcome Trust and Wellcome Foundation lingers on, and the untangling of the two is still necessary (the Trust was established in Henry Wellcome's will as the sole shareholder of his drug company, the Wellcome Foundation, and charged with re-investing profits from the Foundation into research). Williams is also clear on the Trust's problematic early years, when the near-bankruptcy of the Foundation after the Second World War almost strangled the Trust at birth.

The main focus of the book is, however, the period of Williams' employment. When Williams joined the Trust, the charity was still

small both in size (it consisted of seven Trustees and four administrative staff) and stature (the 'Annual' Review in 1956 actually covered its first twenty years of existence). It funded buildings and equipment rather than researchers, and Williams describes in detail the change in Trust policy in 1966, which put the focus more on individuals' personal grants and research expenses.

Given the seismic effect it had on the Trust, it is fitting that the longest – and most detailed – chapter is on the Trust's sale of its shares in the Wellcome Foundation, which begun under the Chairmanship of Sir David Steel in the 1980s. This process – not without opposition from the Foundation – certainly benefited the Trust: reinvestment after the initial flotation in 1986 produced £211 million.

Williams cedes authorship of this chapter to the financial journalist Neil Collins and, given that Collins is a former City editor of both the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Times*, it is perhaps not surprising that here the narrative quickens. This makes for a lively account of the sell-off of the Trust's shares in the Foundation, but the change of style gives the book a somewhat uneven structure.

In summary, Williams offers a personal account of how much the Wellcome Trust changed from the 1960s to the 1990s, both in wealth and in policy. However, aside from some examples from the field of tropical medicine, what you will not find in this book is much on the concrete results – research undertaken, books published – of what the Trust funded during this period. As a result – and with this year being the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Trust's creation – *The Story of the Wellcome Trust* not only reminds us of the at times complex nature of the Trust's past, but also the areas of its history in which more detailed research is needed.

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**Iris Borowy and Anne Hardy** (eds), *Of Medicine and Men: Biographies and Ideas in European Social Medicine between the World Wars* (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2008), pp. 224, £27.30, paperback, ISBN: 978-3-631-58044-8.

When a group of scholars from the Wellcome Institute in London and academics from public health education set up the Society for Social History of Medicine in 1970 their stated goal was to broaden a discipline in order to address the relationship of medicine and society. And that meant redefining an academic discipline that had been more or less practised by associations such as the Osler Society of London as the intellectual history of great men in medicine. For some decades subsequently the role of biography in the history of health and medicine was even more disparaged than intellectual and political biographies were by the broader world of academic historical scholarship. However, as Patrick Zyberman comments in a fascinating essay on 'A Posthumous Audit', the death of biography in the social and cultural history of health, medicine and science was much exaggerated with a 'spectacular upsurge' in biographical publications in the mid-1980s. As Iris Borowy points out in her introduction to this excellent volume, perhaps the continued value of biography as a means of excavating the past and as a heuristic for interpreting pivotal historical transformations is because it remained a genre that could communicate to audiences both within and beyond the world of academic scholarship. Because if, at its most axiomatic, history is the lives of socially interacting and organising individuals then all history is as much narrative as it is structural analysis. Zyberman emphasises, though, that contemporary biographical inquiry does not reproduce the eulogic trope of the great man. Instead biographies of individuals, involved, for example, in public health, are more likely nowadays to be accounts of what Zyberman persuasively refers to as 'epistemic