

Book Reviews

chapters leaves the reader puzzling over the practicalities of historical writing. How many historians write text first and add footnotes afterwards? Is this less laborious than putting them in as one goes along?

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HILARY MARLAND (translator and editor), *Mother and child were saved: the memoirs (1693–1740) of the Frisian midwife Catharina Schrader*, with introductory essays by M. J. van Lieburg and G. J. Kloosterman, Amsterdam, Rodopi, 1987, 8vo, pp. 88, illus., Dfl. 25.00 (paperback).

This slim paperback makes available, for the first time in English, material from the notebook of the Frisian midwife Vrouw Schrader, who lived from 1656 to 1746 and conducted her last case when well into her eighties. Widowed with six children to support, she took up midwifery in 1693, apparently without previous training, like many others at that time. After her second marriage in 1713, she conducted very few deliveries until, on her second widowhood, she again became active, this time taking on a higher proportion of complicated cases. The translator's introduction should be read before the notes by M. J. van Lieburg (on her biography and the social background), and G. J. Kloosterman (on the obstetric aspects of her work), since the relationship of the 'notebook' and 'memoir' then becomes clear. The 'memoir' as translated is a small selection, made by Vrouw Schrader herself, of over 3000 cases recorded in the original notebook. The Dutch edition contained more cases, but the entire MS has not been published. Many of its entries are brief and repetitive; its importance lies in its being a complete case record. Kloosterman has used evidence from the untranslated parts to make an assessment of her practice. By contemporary standards she seems to have been competent, losing only five to seven per cent of the mothers, although she manipulated and interfered a good deal, frequently stating she had to "make all the openings". Perhaps the secret of her success was that she had mastered podalic version; probably other Frisian midwives were as little acquainted with this manoeuvre as the English midwives mentioned in Percival Willughby's *Observations in midwifery*. Certainly she had no great opinion of her competitors, and when she herself needed help, she sent for a man-midwife. Her style is much more pedestrian than Willughby's but any addition to the minute corpus of original records of obstetric practice in this early period is much to be welcomed.

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HORACE W. DAVENPORT, *Fifty years of medicine at the University of Michigan, 1891–1941*, Ann Arbor, The University of Michigan Medical School, 1986, 8vo, pp. viii, 525, illus., [no price stated].

At the start of the twentieth century, the University of Michigan had one of the leading medical schools in the United States, and certainly among the finest rooted in a state university. It was at the forefront in curriculum reform, and upheld a research ideal at a time when some American medical schools were little more than diploma mills. Between 1891, when the physiological chemist Victor Vaughan became Dean, and the start of World War II, its faculty boasted such leading figures in American biomedical research as John Jacob Abel, Frederick Novy, Hugh Cabot, Arthur Cushny, and Udo Wile. A history of the school during these decades could be important both as a study of the operation and role of a state institution for medical education, research, and patient care within its local community, and as an exemplar of the transformation of academic medicine in America.

This volume is neither. It is instead principally a fragmented summary of the research and teaching of selected Michigan faculty members, organized with some attention to chronology into chapters that roughly correspond to academic departments. The study is proudly acontextual and makes little use of the available secondary literature; in the Preface the author