

## Book Reviews

cause, (the legalization of abortion) for the benefit of women less fortunate than themselves; while in the former, these same women are vilified as collaborators in the imposition of male hegemony, along with Isabel Hutton. The latter's pioneering career in psychiatric medicine was seriously disrupted by marriage: the imposition of marriage bars in the 1920s and the attitudes behind it are discussed with reference to the teaching profession in Alison M. Oram's 'Serving two masters?'

The general impression given by these contributions is the rejection of simplistic monolithic interpretations: for example, in Ginnie Smith's discussion of the apparently tyrannical domestic ideology of the advice book writer Tryon. She shows that his ideas held considerable attraction for certain classes of women as well as for men. Charlotte Mackenzie suggests that women's role in the care of the insane was bound up with conceptions about the innately feminine qualities of care and compassion, and the devaluation of these qualities with the rise of a professionalized (male) medical model of psychiatric care. Myna Trustram's 'Distasteful and derogatory? Examining Victorian soldiers for venereal disease' is a fascinating exploration of the murky waters of mid-Victorian attitudes to sex and class. The papers by Anna K. Clark and Nazife Bashar on rape are excellent in their examination of the differences between legal theory and legal practice and the influence of popular myth and stereotype.

The preface to the volume, 'Writing our own history', contains a number of suggestions to those interested in pursuing their own research which I, as an archivist, find admirable; for example, that bibliographies should be consulted at an early stage (though perhaps even more emphasis should be given to the need to consult relevant secondary works before plunging into primary sources). I am also pleased to see the advice to write to record offices in advance: this practice cannot be too highly commended.

Lesley Hall  
Wellcome Institute

FRANZ-JOSEF KUHLEN, *Zur Geschichte der Schmerz-, Schlar- und Betäubungsmittel in Mittelalter und früher Neuzeit*, (Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Pharmazie, Bd 19), Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1983, 8vo, pp. xiv, 445, DM. 68.00 (paperback).

In a scholarly work, Kuhlen has reviewed the history of pain, sleep, and narcotic agents.

In Part 1, sleep is considered from the earliest concepts such as the departure of the soul from the body, the neutralization of the will, and the switching-off of all body regeneration and synthesis to the modern ideas of body rhythm and the variation of sleep by drugs.

Similarly in Part 2, the author discusses opinions on the origin and nature of pain through the centuries, including ideas such as punishment for sin, disturbance of normal body phenomena, specific function of certain nerve fibres, different pain in different organs, variations in conscious stimulus activity, and summation effects of subliminal stimuli.

A fascinating section (Part 3) surveys the historical development of remedies, detailed information being presented on types of preparations and the ranges of drugs employed especially in the period 1000–1850 when opium and nightshade combinations abounded. In the appended formulary, some 103 prescriptions are given, including formulations such as sponges, plasters, poultices, oils, salves, fumigants, ointments, suppositories, pills, and lozenges, spanning the ninth to seventeenth centuries. Predominant are the Solanaceous (nightshade) drugs such as mandragora and hyoscyamus and, inevitably, opium.

The origins of witchcraft in the context of the religious, intellectual, and social unrest in the eleventh to fourteenth centuries are considered in Part 4. The use of drugs by witches in salves and for trances reached a peak in the fifteenth century and declined due to the side-effects of the narcotic and hallucinogenic agents. The factors encouraging drug abuse then have changed little for today's society. The twenty-five "diabolical" prescriptions, including the witches' brew from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, make interesting reading.

The text is annotated with 800 references and indexes of persons and drugs are appended, together with information on the twenty-four illustrations, which are unfortunately not well reproduced.

## Book Reviews

To a medical or pharmaceutical historian this book is a mine of useful information, well presented and carefully considered.

W. E. Court  
University of Bradford

SHARON ROMM, *The unwelcome intruder. Freud's struggle with cancer*. New York, Praeger, 1983, 8vo, pp. xxiii, 164, illus., \$19.95.

Freudabilia continues to accumulate, and the slide towards the coffee-table end of the canon is now apparent. This short, well-illustrated book consists of fourteen chapters, varying in length from four to nearly forty pages, detailing the great man's prolonged encounter with oral cancer. The title is from Freud's own description, as quoted by Felix Deutsch – "an uninvited, *unwelcome intruder* whom one should not mind more than is necessary". However, given that the lesion was a squamous cell carcinoma, recurrently nurtured by twenty cigars a day, and that friends carefully supplied tobacco throughout all shortages, a more apt description – and Freudian interpretation? – might be "the honoured guest".

The details of Freud's operation and prosthesis are based on the notes of the surgeon, Hans Pichler. These are clear, original, and interesting. Some of the photographs and drawings would be nice to have for one's own slide catalogue. Much of the rest, though, is derivative, extensively quoting the Jones and Schur biographies, and lapsing constantly into a literal form of open-mouthed hagiography. Wisely, the author, a plastic surgeon, refrained from trying to relate Freud's oral pathology to his concurrent psychological ideas. But what are we to make of a patient who refused to stop smoking, who insisted on constant minor adjustments to his prosthesis, who twice switched to alternative doctors (returning each time to the gentlemanly Pichler), who demanded to be seen *more often*, and would only let his daughter nurse him? Perhaps this was not unusual in Viennese great men of the time, but the heroic tone isolates rather than informs. Short biographies of the medical men involved are plentiful, but there is no sense in which Freud's behaviour is embedded in the medical or patients' attitudes of the day.

Thus, while the book is easy enough to read in terms of style and print, there are too many irrelevant details. For example, a photograph of the London Clinic hardly seems necessary given Freud's brief and late attendance there. Likewise, there is a comment that "Freud might have looked across this street . . ." (on his first visit to Pichler), which tempts one to suggest he was probably too busy putting out or lighting up a cigar. In the end, however, one can only welcome the appearance of this book. Would that more of us attempted to bridge the widening gap between clinical and historical approaches.

T. H. Turner  
Department of Psychological Medicine  
St Bartholomew's Hospital

BARBARA MELOSH, *The physician's hand. Work culture and conflict in American nursing*. Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. ix, 260, [no price stated].

This is a useful, well-researched book and should be widely read for, although it relates to the American experience of the development of nursing as a profession, the similarities with the history of nursing in this country are more striking than the differences. *The physician's hand* recasts nursing history from the viewpoint of the nurse on the job and places it in the context of women's history, labour history, and sociology. Written from a feminist point of view, it traces the struggle of women to carve out a "profession" in a man's world and in a limited labour market.

Acknowledging the Nightingale influence, Professor Melosh rightly points out that the first nursing reform was about getting better women – "a higher type of womanhood". However, scientific advance and other social change supported the development of nursing as skilled labour, and hospitals were not slow to replace the old attendants with "respectable nurse students" who were more acceptable to their new fee-paying clientele. There was a burgeoning of schools of nursing. In this situation, the old schools and the self-conscious elite separated themselves from the rest. Rather than cast their lot with the growing number of nurses, the leaders pursued the restrictive policy of professionalization. The book is about the conflict that