Society for the Social History of Medicine

The Gazette

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Email gazette@sshm.org
Web http://www.sshm.org
OFFICIAL NOTICES

Society for the Social History of Medicine, Annual General Meeting for 2006

The SSHM AGM for 2006 will be held on Saturday 15 September 2007 at 2pm. at the London School of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine in conjunction with the jointly-sponsored SSHM and European Association for the History of Health and Medicine, on Environment, health, medicine and history, 12-15 September 2007. Details of the room, agenda and election notices for the executive committee will be printed in the next issue. Or see the website: www.sshm.org

CONFERENCE REPORT

Hospitals and the Patient Experience: Architecture, Art, Music and Treatment.

International Network for the History of Hospitals Fourth International Conference at The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University College London, 16 February 2007.

Hospital history has increasingly placed emphasis on patient perspectives, and this conference provided a stimulating and varied discussion on some methodological approaches available to medical historians. This was the Fourth INHH conference, hosted by the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, generously supported by the Wellcome Trust. The day comprised four sessions that covered environment, art and material culture, music and ritual, and experiences of treatment, reflecting the breadth of therapeutic medico-sensory encounters potentially available to patients.

Clare Hickman (Bristol) opened with an insightful analysis of the use of landscape as a therapeutic agent in English psychiatric hospitals. Landscape was intended to promote tranquillity and cheerfulness under nineteenth-century moral management therapeutics, it was argued, while

rare patient narratives suggest that outdoor recreation and gardening offered patients welcome opportunities for privacy. The use of the picturesque and sublime to restore reason, Hickman suggested, was gradually displaced into the twentieth-century, as the ‘borderland’ offered by hospital landscape was gradually turned over to other uses.

Nicky Imrie (Birbeck, London) contrasted the architectures of two Austro-Hungarian sanatoria for nervous patients. Imrie argued architecture reflects concerns for prevailing medical concern for fresh air, cleanliness and the importance of providing environmental antidotes to nervous conditions perceived to result from the stresses of early twentieth-century urban life. Class created noticeable differences in the treatments patients at each institution could expect. Whereas upper-class spa resorts offering rest, working class sanatoria placed more emphasis on offering patients an escape to the pastoral, whilst incorporating a greater element of work therapy.

Antonia Whitley’s paper on treatment at the Santa Maria della Scala, Siena fruitfully elaborated the sufferer’s view, demonstrating how art, state records and written testimony may be combined to provide a nuanced picture of patient experiences. Whitley was careful to note the ‘positive gloss’ represented by such public depictions: while frescos offer an idealised view of treatment for the ‘everyman’ patient (reflecting patrons own ideals), written testimonies suggest both that patients would have enjoyed less space. Accounts of epidemics reveal patients shunned by medics unable to cope with the terrible stench, while the fiscal census data (lira) suggest how patients defined their illnesses to the authorities.

Gisela Drossbach, Antonia Whitely and Carole Rawcliffe.
Gisela Drossbach (Munich) analysed the exquisite illuminations of the fourteenth-century Liber Regulae manuscripts, and the didactic function of these images in reinforcing hierarchies and promoting internal order at the Roman hospital of Santo Spirito in Sassia.

It was argued that the Liber Regulae's illuminations sought to achieve multi-dimensional normative objectives, including legitimising the position of preceptor, reinforcing hospital codes, and conveying a message of order to the observer. As absorbing to the modern viewer as the brothers and sisters for which it was intended, the images were shown to have reinforced the message in the text, whilst giving historians valuable information on such areas as admission policy.

The first afternoon session turned to consider music and ritual, as Chris Bonfield (UEA) enquired into aural therapeutics in the Medieval hospital. Rhythmic recitation of prayers, such as the Pater Noster, and the masses and choral singing, contemporary medicine believed, could help regularise breathing, as well as raise the spirits, essential to promoting health. Musical experience, Bonham proposed, was therefore medical as well as liturgical. The stained glass windows and decorative clothing were similarly construed by Bonfield as providing an enhanced environment for patient care. While hard evidence is lacking, Bonfield was able to skilfully build a plausible case for the place of music in Medieval English hospitals.

Carmen Mangion (Birbeck, London) brought attention to more recent sacred rites and rituals practiced in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Catholic hospitals. Whereas wards perceptibly lack copious ritual religious ornamentation in extant photographs and prospectuses, Mangion argued this was less in deference to potential Protestant benefactors than to a focus on modernity, scientific medicine, and healthful surroundings. Looking beyond the physical evidence of Catholic material culture, Mangion suggested the nurses themselves were the key representatives of spirituality and healing to patients. The paper served as a reminder that people as well as artefacts and documents may be invested with a culturally-interpretable symbolism.

Vicky Long’s (Warwick) paper analysed the therapeutic benefits of anti-authoritarian mockery and subversiveness of an in-house patient paper circulated at late nineteenth-century Royal Edinburgh Asylum. While sanctioned and printed with the foreknowledge of the medical superintendents (and especially Dr Thomas Clouston), Long argued that the paper offered a vehicle for criticism as well as patient self-expression and identity that may have offered therapeutic benefits. Notably recognising the absence of women from the enterprise (and associated debating and curling clubs), the paper convincingly elaborated on the mediated opportunities participation could have for patient self-esteem and for briefly collapsing social distinctions.

The final paper of the session was given by Colin Gale (Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum) on the use- and misuse- of sedatives on an unwilling patient. Recording five confinements over twelve years, the account of ‘Mrs G’ revealed substantial divergence of experience, from maddening sedation and neglect to kindness and recreation enjoyed elsewhere. This paper provided a poignant demonstration of the ways extra-institutional records can enable historians to follow Porter’s dictum to balance institutional evidence with patient’s accounts.

Encompassing a wide range of chronologies and nationalities, the lively discussion provoked by the conference was summarised by Peregrine Horden. Following this well-attended conference, there can be little doubt that further debate will ensue, in the endeavour to uncover patient experience via textual and non-textual sources.

Stephen Soanes, University of Warwick.
On Wednesday 22 November researchers from around the School and from other institutions came together for an afternoon workshop on NGOs, voluntarism and health. This workshop was designed to provide historical and contemporary perspectives on the role of voluntary organisations in health and healthcare.

The workshop began with a presentation from the Centre’s own Martin Gorsky who spoke about community involvement in hospital governance before the NHS, looking specifically at the contributory schemes supporting the hospitals run by voluntary organisations. Particularly interesting were the connections he made between this work and the current attention being devoted to community involvement in foundation hospitals.

This contemporary focus was extended by Professor Judith Allsop (University of Lincoln). Judith presented a summary of her collaborative project on health consumer groups, assessing their contribution to policy and practice, but also looking at the limits to this. She began by addressing some definitional problems, explaining why she had chosen to use the term ‘consumer group’ rather than patient or user group.

Issues of definition also cropped up in Dr James McKay’s (University of Birmingham) presentation on the Database of Archives of UK Non-Governmental Organisations (DANGO). He explained that the term NGO was used instead of voluntary organisation because the team felt this conveyed a sense of ‘doing’; a sense that these organisations were (and are) socio-political actors.

After tea, Alex Mold (LSHTM) gave an overview of the project she and Virginia Berridge have been working on around illegal drug user groups and voluntary organisations. Alex questioned the extent to which there had been a ‘rise of the user’, pointing to user involvement in the past, and to tensions around the current position of the drug user in policy and practice.

The afternoon’s final speaker was Professor Jude Howell, Director of the Centre for Civil Society at the LSE. Jude outlined some key issues in the changing contours of donor-civil society relations. A central concern was an apparent backlash against the notion of civil society, and the dilemmas this raises for donor and receiver countries alike.

The workshop was concluded by Susanne MacGregor (LSHTM). In her closing remarks, Susanne offered the view that the ‘big idea’ at work in all of these presentations was the rise and fall of the welfare state and the move to issue-based politics. This stimulated further discussion from speakers and audience alike, giving everyone more to think about for their own future research.

Alex Mold
Centre for History in Public Health
emergent interest in the 'global'. Initial discussion questioned the claims to universality of 'western' medicine, with Professor Arnold suggesting that these were implicit as early as the seventeenth century in the writings of travellers. It was asked whether former colonies were re-evaluating their own place within colonial medical systems, and whether colonies are insufficient areas of debate. Should we be considering shared regional experiences, for example, across south and east Asia? Amongst the themes that emerged clearly in Arnold's session, was the centrality of conflict in the history of the colonised body, a theme that re-emerged throughout the day.

Claudia Stein's exploration of approaches to disease reflected her own diverse research interests, from the French pox to AIDS, and the varying ways in which diseases can be explored historically, from paleopathology, through social construction and Bruno Latour's questioning of the diagnosis of tuberculosis in Ramses II, to Rosenberg's 'framing' and Sontag's 'illness as metaphor'. Stein's talk raised many important questions including whether a current disease such as AIDS should be considered the same disease, or indeed treated in the same way in South Africa or Britain. Further questions again raised the question of conflict, and whether resistance is inbuilt to any given episteme. Explicit in Claudia Stein's discussion of approaches to disease was the need for historians to choose a concept or theory reflecting their own world-view.

Medical geography, argued Birmingham University's Jonathan Reinarz, is the key to transcending traditional thematic barriers within the discipline. Historians have generally regarded science and medicine as 'placeless', however, it was concluded that medicine is most certainly dependent on the place in which it is conducted. Reinarz urged a return to local history and reviewed works by Cresswell, Livingstone, Naylor and Warner who have used medical geography to demonstrate the interconnectivity of scientific, and medical history. The session reviewed the Foucauldian concept of 'spatial nomadism', and opted in favour of Chris Philo's 'spatial precision' as a concept requiring more attention from scholars. Colonial medical historians have traditionally been conscious of place as a key factor in writing history, and the links between Professor David Arnold's presentation in the morning were capitalised and expanded upon. It was suggested that only through an increased awareness of medical geography can scholars in the discipline hope to 'synthesise the disparate micro-studies,' that have been written and move forward with productive, comparative analysis of hospitals, cities, countries and regions.

The final session of the day was conducted by Flurin Condrau from Manchester University. Building on themes explored by the previous speakers Dr Condrau examined the historiography of the 'view from below' and raised a heated debate on the feasibility and productivity of attempting this type of history. Where is the patient in medical history and did he/she even exist before bioscience invented the concept of the 'patient'? After examining cultural and social approaches to conducting history from below, Condrau suggested the importance, especially in late nineteenth and early twentieth century medical history, of taking into account the politics of medicine. Patients and power relations in modern history are an important vehicle for understanding policy development and implementation. There is undeniably a problem of sources and bias in writing the history from below, but it was largely agreed that the benefits of such an approach far outweighed the drawbacks.

The level of debate and participation confirmed the need for conversation between widely divergent interests all focused on the uniting principle of health, its importance in the past and relevance in and around the world today. The organisers would like to acknowledge the support of the Wellcome Trust in providing funding through the Warwick Centre for the History of Medicine Strategic Award, all the attendees, and in particular the speakers for providing four completely different, but equally impassioned and enthusiastic discussions about what constitutes, and is important in, the history of medicine.

Lisa Grant & Kat Foxhall
University of Warwick
Disability History Group

In recent years the topic of disability has begun to be seen by many historians as an increasingly significant approach to understanding the past. Recently, the study of disability has expanded as a field of research. Through topics such as war, gender, medicine, social policy politics and economics, historians have sought to uncover the hidden history of disability and its impact on wider issues. As numbers of articles and books devoted to disability history increase, those working in this area bring new approaches and ideas to this topic but are often unable explore their ideas and work with fellow disability scholars. We are excited to announce the creation of the Disability History Group, under the auspices of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, which aims to bring together academics working on any field of disability history. Members would be able to access an online forum to discuss current work and ideas, discover new publications in this field, meet other scholars, and are alerted to relevant events. Members would also be able to enter for an annual essay prize. The Disability History Group will also be hosting various symposia and conferences. To mark the birth of the Disability History Group we will be hosting an inaugural conference entitled \textit{Reassessing Disability: New approaches to disability history} on 28 and 29 June 2007 at the Peninsula College for Medicine and Dentistry, Truro, Cornwall. The theme of this groundbreaking two-day conference is to explore ways of ‘doing’ disability history and to debate the future of disability history as an academic discipline. We encourage papers from any historical period which explore the various ways in which historians or those working on historical topics approach disability history. Papers can be purely theoretical in nature or showcase an approach to research or analysis. We invite contributions from anyone working on disability history. The deadline for submissions is 30 April 2007. Proposals of no longer than 300 words should be sent to Wendy Gagen, Knowledge Spa, Peninsula College for Medicine and Dentistry, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3HD, 01872 255176, wendy.gagen@pms.ac.uk.

Details of the Disability History group can also be found at this address. Further information concerning the conference can be found at www.knowledgespa.co.uk.

Details of the conference and the Disability History Group can also be obtained from Julie Anderson julie.anderson@manchester.ac.uk, Ana Carden-Coyne a.cc@manchester.ac.uk, Angela Turner a.turner@strath.ac.uk and Daniel Blackie daniel.blackie@helsinki.fi

Wendy Gagen
Peninsula college for Dentistry and Medicine

Livingstone Online

\url{http://www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk}

Livingstone Online is a new venture based at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London. 
Livingstone Online uses the potential of electronic publishing to make available an online edition of the medical and scientific correspondence of the African explorer and doctor, David Livingstone (1813-1873).

Livingstone Online is publishing fully annotated transcripts and facsimiles of all Livingstone’s medical and scientific letters. The Wellcome Trust has awarded Livingstone Online a three year project grant to realise its goals. Director of Livingstone Online is Christopher Lawrence, Professor Emeritus at UCL.

Livingstone Online is available free of charge.
Contact:
Livingstone Online
Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE
Email: livingstoneonline@ucl.ac.uk

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Varieties of Cultural History: Theory and Practice in the Cultural Histories of Medicine, Science, Literature and the Arts.

King’s College, University of Aberdeen, 5-8 July 2007

In the last twenty-five years, diverse anthropological, literary, and other perspectives adopted into Cultural History have transformed the theory and practice of historical disciplines more generally. As Cultural History comes of age, this conference provides the opportunity to reflect upon the particular achievements of the ‘Cultural Turn’ at work in histories of medicine, science, literature and the arts; to foster creative dialogue amongst advocates of these varieties of cultural history; and thus to look to possible futures of research in Cultural History.

Keynote speakers include:
Peter Burke (Cambridge): ‘Strengths and weaknesses of cultural history’
Peter Mandler (Cambridge): ‘Recent research on the intellectual history of the concept of national identity’
Alice Jenkins (Glasgow): ‘Cultural history, space and ahistoricity: Franco Moretti and Euclid’
Crosbie Smith (Kent): ‘Trust in history: technology and culture in Victorian Britain’
Michael Stolberg (Würzburg): ‘Towards a cultural history of medical ethics: euthanasia and the care of dying patients, 1500-1850’
Evelyn Welch (Queen Mary, London): ‘Making culture material’.
There is a very strong field of history of medicine papers within the parallel session. A draft conference booklet including the provisional programme, abstracts and participant details, is available on http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ch/conference.shtml

The deadline for papers has now passed, but anyone planning to attend who wishes to offer a paper in case a gap should arise in the final programme should contact Dr David Smith (d.f.smith@abdn.ac.uk), Department of History, School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, Crombie Annexe, Meston Walk, Aberdeen AB24 3FX, United Kingdom.

David Smith
University of Aberdeen

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Canadian Society for the History of Medicine

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, 31 May -2 June 2007.

The annual Canadian Society for the History of Medicine conference will be co-hosted this year by the Canadian Society for the History of Nursing. Panel topics range from ‘Environment and Health’ and ‘Nursing Education’ to ‘Masculinity and Eighteenth-Century Health’ and ‘Race’ in Medical Practice’. Maureen Lux (Brock University), who works on twentieth-century health care and Canadian Aboriginal people, will deliver the Hannah Lecture. For more information, please contact the Local Arrangements Coordinator, Lisa Smith (lisa.smith@usask.ca).

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Third International Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health

Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Birmingham, 18-21 April 2007.

The history of the interactions between work and health is a growing area of investigation for social and medical historians. The International Commission on Occupational Health’s scientific committee for history has held two major international conferences in Rome and Norrkoping, Sweden. Proceedings of the Rome conference were published in 1999. Those of a similar event at Norrkoping will be available shortly. This, the third such meeting, will be held close to one of the earliest centres of industrialisation in the world, with opportunities to see the remains of this heritage during, before and after the conference.

The event will not just focus on completed work, but will also include presentations and workshop sessions for the exchange of information and experience on methodology, sources and the growing points of the subject by discussion of work in progress.

www.medicine.bham.ac.uk/histmed/forthcoming.htm

Alternatively please contact Julia Hyland, the conference organizer on 0121 415 8175

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Representations of Early Modern Anatomy and the Human Body

Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, University of Durham, 22 June 2007.

Speakers:
Simon Chaplin (Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons); Rina Knoeff (Leiden University); Sachiko Kusukawa (University of Cambridge); Roberta McGrath (Napier
CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Medicine in Context: 10th Biennial Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society for the History of Medicine.

The Australian National University
Canberra, Australia, 3-6 July 2007.

Themes for 'Medicine in Context' include: Medicine & Innovation; Medicine & Government; Patient Perspectives; Medicine & Industry; Medicine & Community; Nursing Challenges; Professing Medicine; Medicine & Empire; Ailments Old & New; Therapies New & Old.

See website for full details and registration form: www.anzshmconf.com.au

Or email: Anthea.Hyslop@anu.edu.au

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sport, Medicine and Modernity: Historical Perspectives.

British Society for Sports History,
University of Stirling, 24-26 August 2007.

A meeting organised by the Department of Sports Studies at the University of Stirling and supported by The Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare Glasgow (CSHHH). While the themes of health, medicine, drugs and performance in sport are contemporary concerns, they remain relatively underexplored as topics for historians. The organisers of this event seek to draw together investigators interested in pursuing inter-disciplinary and innovative research approaches to the subject. We are grateful for the financial support of the Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine.

Panels on the broad theme of Sport, Medicine and Modernity will be organised as part of the British Society of Sports History Silver Jubilee Conference. Historians of Medicine may find other sessions on the history of sports of interest. The BSSH has traditionally fostered cultural and social histories of sport including debates on physicality, the body, health and performance.

Speakers already confirmed include: Professor Patricia Vertinsky, University of British Columbia, Canada; Professor Verner Moller, University of Aarhus, Denmark; Dr Ian Ritchie, Brock University, Canada; Dr Neil Carter, De Montfort University; Dr James Mills, CSHHH Glasgow, University of Strathclyde

Please contact Dr Paul Dimeo (pd4@stir.ac.uk) for further information and to submit abstracts of no more than 200 words by 30 March (Early Bird) or 31 May (Final). Please see the following webpages for full details, including the Booking Form: http://www.sports.stir.ac.uk/NewSite/BSSH/FrontPage.htm
CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT
AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Public Enemy No. 1: TB since 1800

Centre for the Social History of Health and Health care, Glasgow (CSHHM)

A joint collaboration between the University of Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian University, the conference seeks to use the 50th anniversary of Glasgow's mass tuberculosis radiography campaign as an occasion to draw together historians that have engaged with historical experiences of TB and the strategies devised to deal with it in order to develop comparative frameworks and new perspectives. Papers on topics related to all aspects of TB history are welcomed including urban and rural impacts; the construction and development of the social and medical responses to the disease; patient and community experiences; the development of new approaches within the historiography. All regions of the world are to be included and perspectives from other aligned disciplines are encouraged. Linda Bryder, University of Auckland, will be a key-note speaker.

Please submit a title and abstract of no more than 350 words with contact details by 1 July to Dr Anna Crozier: anna.crozier@strath.ac.uk

The conference is part of the 'X-Ray City' programme of events organised by the CSHHH to mark and explore the events of Glasgow's mass TB radiography campaign of 1957. The programme will include oral history interviews, public exhibitions and media coverage.

Some financial support may be available to postgraduate students travelling to the event. For more details please visit: http://www.gcal.ac.uk/historyofhealth/

PUBLIC LECTURES

Epidemiology and the Science of Detection, 1890-1960. Inaugural Lecture: Professor Anne Hardy

Wednesday 9 May 2007 at 5.30pm
Sir Ambrose Flemming Lecture Theatre (G06) Roberts Building, University College London, Torrington Place, London WC1E 6EQ

Followed by a reception in the Roberts Foyer
Registration:
Attendance is free but by ticket only.
Please send a stamped addressed envelope no later than Wednesday 18 April 2007 and clearly marked ‘Hardy’ to:
Ms Carol Bowen
The Wellcome Trust Centre
For the History of Medicine at UCL
210 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE
Tel: 020 7679 8163
Email: c.bowen@ucl.ac.uk
Website: www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed

PUBLIC LECTURES

The Roy Porter Lecture: The Asiatic Enlightenments of British Astronomy, Professor Simon Shaffer (HPS, Cambridge)

Wednesday 23 May 2007 at 5.30 pm,
Lecture Theatre 1, The Cruciform Building, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

Followed by refreshments in the Wilkins North Cloisters, UCL.
Registration
Attendance is free but by ticket only
Please send a stamped addressed envelope no later than Wednesday 2 May 2007 and clearly marked ‘Porter’ to Ms Carol Bowen at the Wellcome Trust Centre (see address above).
PUBLIC LECTURES

Guinea Pigs of the World Unite: Should Research Subjects be paid to test Drugs? Professor Carl Elliott (Minnesota)

Monday 23 April 2007 at 5.30 pm
The Pearson Lecture Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

Followed by refreshments in the Wilkins North Cloisters, UCL
Registration
Attendance is free but by ticket only
Please send a stamped addressed envelope no later than 2 April 2007 and clearly marked ‘Elliott’ to Ms Carol Bowen at the Wellcome Trust Centre (see address above).

PUBLICATIONS

Clark Lawler, Consumption and Literature: The Making of the Romantic Disease (Palgrave, 2006)

This fascinating new book seeks to explain an important and unanswered question: how consumption - a horrible disease - came to be the glamorous and artistic Romantic malady. It argues that literary works (cultural media) are not secondary in our perceptions of disease, but are among the primary determinants of physical experience. In order to explain the apparent disparity between literary myth and bodily reality, Lawlor examines literature and medicine from the Renaissance to the late Victorian period, and covers a wide range of authors and characters, major and minor, British and American (Shakespeare, Richardson and Sterne, Mary Tighe and Felicia Hemans, Keats and Shelley, Southey, Amelia Opie and Mary Mitford, Harriet Beecher Stowe).

Clark Lawler
University of Northumbria at Newcastle

SSHM BOOK OFFERS

Devices and Designs: Medical Technologies in Historical Perspective, edited by Carsten Timmermann and Julie Anderson (Palgrave, 2006).

The costs of medicine have been soaring in recent years, partly as a consequence of the introduction of expensive new drugs and devices for patient care. In this volume, leading scholars in the history and sociology of medicine analyze how technical innovation has become so central to health care over the last two centuries and how we are coping with the consequences.

As SSHM members, Palgrave Macmillan is delighted to offer you a 50% discount off the price of ‘Devices and Designs’. Simply quote the promotional code WSSHM2007a when ordering online at www.palgrave.com/history to receive your discount.
I have read the rules for the SSHM’s 2007 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Memorial Competition. I agree to abide by these rules. I declare that I am eligible to enter this competition according to the terms of rule 2 (please see website for further details).

Signature: …………………………………………………………………………………

Full Name: …………………………………………………………………………………

Date: …………………………………………………………………………………

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