



Gazette

Number 1

April 1990

Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of the SSHM Gazette. This publication will now come to you with each edition of the journal and by separate cover to members not taking the journal. This venture will replace the Bulletin Board and some of the other inserts with which you will be familiar. However, it is hoped that the Gazette will do a number of new things and complement the Society section of the journal. The Gazette aims to publish more news of the Society's activities and of other developments in the social history of medicine both in Britain and abroad. With a press date only a matter of weeks before journal circulation, it will be able to carry more up to date information. The Gazette will also takeover some of the items previously published in the Society Section of the journal, including conference reports and research in progress. Due to the timing of meetings this edition contains no conference report, but does have items on general news, a listing recent articles of interest which may have been missed, small ads, and the Annual Report, which few members normally see.

We would welcome your comments on this new venture, especially ideas for future content. The Gazette hopes to meet the needs of members, but to do this effectively we need feedback from as many members as possible.

Michael Worboys, Editor

All correspondence about the content and circulation of the Gazette should be sent to the editor, Michael Worboys, Department of Historical and Critical Studies, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Psalter Lane, Sheffield, S11 8UZ, Great Britain. Telephone 0742 532686 or 532656. FAX 0742 532603.

DISCLAIMER It is stressed that any views expressed in this Gazette are those of the Editor or the named contributor; they are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee or general membership. While every care is taken to provide accurate and helpful information in this Gazette, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the Chair of its Executive Committee and the Editor of the Gazette accept no responsibility for omissions or errors or their subsequent effects. Readers are expected to check all essential information appropriate to specific circumstances.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The information given below is accurate as far as we know. However, we accept no responsibility for errors. Please contact the organiser to confirm details. Notice of events, not only conferences, for inclusion in this section should be sent to the Editor. We reserve the right to edit and select items for inclusion.

Society for the Social History of Medicine.

Annual Conference

Famine and Disease

5-7 July 1991, Christ's College, Cambridge

Speakers include: A de Waal, P Nolan, A Wrigley, D Arnold, L del Pantà, R Fogel, C O'Grada, R Wall, A Waldron, P Slack, C Dyer, R Smith, L H Lumey, F W A van Poppel, T Dyson, Arap Mahatna.

Details from: Dr John Henderson, Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, 27 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA.

Autumn Conference

Ethnicity, Religion and the History of Health Care Provision

12 October 1991, Central London Polytechnic, Marylebone Road, London. (Opposite Baker Street Underground)

Speakers include: M Harrison, K Jochelson, G Black, L Marks, L Hilder, I Jones, L Greenslade, J Eade. (See p.12 for provisional programme and booking form)

Details from: Dr Michael Worboys, Department of Historical and Critical Studies, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Psalter Lane, Sheffield, S11 8UZ.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Summer Conference 1992

Communities: "Caring" and Institutions

3-5 July 1992, St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Details from: Richard Smith, All Souls College, OX1 4AL. (Offers of papers welcome.)

Other Meetings

Women's History in Britain: Present and Future Prospects

1 June 1991, Institute of Historical Research, University of London.

Introductory lecture by Leonore Davidoff, workshops with panels on Women's history and women's studies, Women's history and the history of gender relations, Rewriting the Record: Invisible Women.

Details from: Sue Grace, Department of History, University of York, Heslington, York, YO1 5DD.

Modern Medicine and Reproduction

14 June 1991, University of Essex

A one day meeting on the history of gynaecology and related matters. Speakers include: Ornella Moscucci, Michael Bevan and Jane Eliot Sewell. There will also be a round table discussion about the use of oral history in this area of work.

Details from: Dr Ludmilla Jordanova, Department of History, University of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

Historical Epidemiology and the Health Transition

11-13 September 1991, University of Southampton

Annual conference of the British Society for Population Studies. Speakers include: RM Smith, M Dobson, S Kunitz and S Engerman, J Landers, J Cleland, A Hill, C Langford, M Inez Lyons, D Bradley, P Aaby, B Fetter, J Caldwell.

Details from: Dr John Landers, All Souls College, Oxford, OX1 4AL.

Oral History for Historians of Medicine

30 September-4 October 1991, University of Essex.

A residential course, supported by the Wellcome Trust, for historians of medicine to learn and discuss the techniques of collecting and interpreting oral sources.

Details from: Professor Paul Thompson, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SQ.

New perspectives on the social history of medicine

'The death rate after minor surgery and orthopedic operations which Pasteur performed in Edinburgh significantly dropped, but still many doctors were sceptical of germ theory. But gradually they were won over, especially when Pasteur saved the lives of a group of nine compound fracture sufferers, bar one, without having to amputate.'

'Absorption of acid from the wound site could lead to carbolic acid poisoning. This was especially so in children and emancipated adults ...'

'... the graduates of the school were reinforced by the ... existentialist aura generated by Nightingale ...'

'The operating theatre was indeed a theatre, open to medical students and the public alike, the operating table being a wooden table surrounded by tiers enabling spectators to have the best view of an operation.'

'G.P.s, Apothecaries, Physicians and Surgeons were all entitled to have their names placed on the New medical registrar.'

'Of central importance is the change from the patient paying the doctor ... to the state paying. This meant that the doctor no longer had to please the patient, hence the clothes coming off ...'

JOURNAL EDITORS TO CHANGE

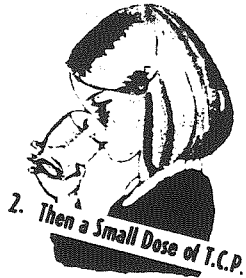
The editors of the Society's journal, Richard Smith and Anne Digby, are to resign at the end of this year. Richard has served as editor from the start and played a major role in its successful launch, subsequent growth and quality. Anne took over from Linda Bryder at the end of the first year of publication and has contributed significantly to the development of the journal. The burdens of this job have been considerable and the Society owes a considerable debt to Richard and Anne. We wish them well in their new ventures and trust they will continue to be active in the Society.

MENTAL HEALTH MUSEUMS

To the ever growing number of museums in the history of medicine, two more can now be added; one new and one not so new, but currently little known. The new museum, or rather 'interpretation centre', is in the newly opened Lawns complex in Lincoln. The centre is housed in the 1820 lunatic asylum and along with shops, a theatre, tropical house, archaeological centre and restaurants, there is a museum devoted to the development of mental health care. (Admission free, open everyday, 10.00-17.00) There are, of course, many other attractions in Lincoln, but the keen social historian should not miss the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, or the 'Panopticon' prison chapel in the Castle. A long day could be restfully concluded at nearby Woodhall Spa. The Museum of Mental Health at the Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield (formerly the West Riding Asylum) has been open a number of years. It is a small museum which opens on Wednesdays, 10.00-12.00 and 14.00-16.00. There is an exhibition of the history of the institution and changing treatments. The museum also holds many of the records of the asylums, including all of the committal orders from 1816 to the early part of this century. The treatment record books are at the County Record Office in Wakefield. Intending visitors should contact the curator, Mr Ashworth, telephone 0924 375217 ext. 2170.

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T.C.P.
Regd.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Dr David Gentilcore, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Free School Lane, Cambridge, CB2 3RH

'Systems of healing in the Kingdom of Naples, 1550-1750'

The work seeks to explore the medical pluralism of early modern Italy and the pragmatic way in which sick people would often go from one form of treatment to another in the search of a cure. Account will also be taken of those maladies which did not fit into the standard medical categories, such as tarantism. I am adopting the configuration of three overlapping circles to depict the three coexisting cultural systems of interpreting and treating disease: i) the traditional-cosmological of a sacred order that regards illness as a rupture of the order of the world; ii) the ecclesiastical, identifying illness with evil and emphasising the importance of salvation; and iii) the Galenic or academic, regarding illness as natural, not supernatural, caused by an upset in the balance of the humors. Using sources such as trial records, canonisation processes, shrine registers and *protmedicato* accounts, the work will explore the relationships amongst these three competing systems and the degree of participation in each by the different levels of society and the extent to which this changed over time.

Executive Committee 1990-91

Paul Slack (President)
John Woodward (Chair)
Mary Fissell (Hon. Secretary)
Jonathan Barry (Treasurer)
Catherine Crawford (Publicity)
Bernard Harris
John Henderson (Programme)
Gerry Kearns
Bill Luckin
Lara Marks
Margaret Pelling (Publications)
Richard Smith (Journal Editor)
Michael Worboys (Gazette)



Membership of the Society for the Social History of Medicine includes a subscription to the journal and is paid through: Journals Marketing Department, Oxford University Press, Pinkhill House, Southfield Road, Eynsham, Oxford, OX8 1JJ. The subscription in 1991 is £16 (UK and Europe) and \$28 elsewhere.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

We welcome the receipt of short summaries of 'Research in Progress' by members. We ask you to send summaries of your work that do not exceed 250 words in length. These will now be published in this Gazette, thereby offering a speedier and more informal service.

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NAME (Please print)

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

TITLE OF RESEARCH

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH

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QUERIES, REQUESTS AND INFORMATION

The Missing Casebook of Dr Thomas. The casebook of Dr RS Thomas, a practitioner in Exmouth, Devon, dates from the early 1900s. It was lent to Dr Irvine Loudon in 1980 when he was a member of the Wellcome Unit in Oxford. No trace of it can now be found, and no record of its being lent elsewhere or returned to its owner. The historian of the practice in question is now very keen to track down this item. The casebook is about 14 inches wide and 8 inches tall, hardbound, perhaps partly in leather. Some pages are printed for casenotes, with columns and entries for patients' details. There are fold-out temperature charts. I should be grateful to hear from anyone who knows where the casebook might be.
Richard Smith, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE

SSHM Bulletin Backnumbers The following back numbers of the Bulletin of the Society for the Social History of Medicine are available: Numbers 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41. Plus the Index for Numbers 1-21 (1970-77). These are available at £6.00 each, from Dawson Back Issues, Cannon House, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5EE.

Books wanted. I would very much like to purchase the following, in any condition: JL Brand, Doctors and the State; WD Foster, A History of Medical Bacteriology and Immunology. Michael Worboys, address on page 1.

Research Publications Series of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine This series aims to make available at low cost bibliographical, documentary and research aids. The following are obtainable:

- I The Preservation of Medical and Public Health Records (£1.00).
- II C Webster, Utopian Planning and the Puritan Revolution: Gabriel Plattes, Samuel Hartlib and Macaria, (£2.00).
- IV L Jordanova (ed), Medical Records Newsletter, (£1.50).
- V P Weindling, From Bacteriology to Social Hygiene: The Papers of Martin Hahn (1865-1934), (2.50).
- VIII J H Appleby, A Selective Index of Siberian, Far Eastern and Central Asian Russian Materia Medica, (4.50).
- IX M Shortland, Medicine and Film: A Checklist, Survey and Research Resource, (£6.95).
- X C Webster, Aneurin Bevan on the National Health Service, (£7.95). This collection makes available for the first time the full texts of Bevan's writings and speeches on the NHS, including addresses to the medical and other audiences, speeches in Parliament, and Cabinet memoranda. The documents are fully edited and there is a substantial introduction. Available from: Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE

Recent articles and book chapters

This section will list articles on the social history of medicine from sources outside of the mainstream social history of medicine publications. Contributions for future issues are welcomed by the Editor.

- C Webster 'Conflict and Consensus: Explaining the British health service', Twentieth Century British History, 1990, 1 (2), 115-51
- R Lowe 'The Second World War, consensus and the foundation of the Welfare State', Twentieth Century British History, 1990, 1 (2), 152-82.
'Opportunities for women: the development of professional women's medicine in Canton, China, 1879-1920', Women's Studies International Forum, 1990, 13 (4), 357-68.
- RJ Gray 'Medical men, industrial labour and the state in Britain, 1830-50' Social History, 199
- C Patten 'Inventing "African Aids"', New Formations, 1990, 10, 25-40.
- J Walmsley 'Provision for the non able-bodied poor in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries: some evidence from three Bedfordshire parishes', The Local Historian, 1990, 20 (1), 9-19.
- G K Veeder 'The Red Cross Bureau of Pictures, 1917-21: World War I, the Russian Revolution and the Sultan of Turkey's harem', Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television, 1990, 10 (1), 47-70.
- D Kennedy 'The perils of the midday sun: climatic anxieties in the colonial tropics' in J M MacKenzie (ed.), Imperialism and the Natural World, Manchester University Press, 1990
- J Foster 'An introductory guide to hospital records', Local Population Studies, 1990, 45, 57-65.
- G Savage '"The wilful communication of a loathsome disease": Marital conflict and venereal disease in Victorian England', Victorian Studies, 1990, 34, 35-54.
- RKJ Grant 'Merthyr Tidfil in the mid-nineteenth century: The struggle for public health', Welsh Historical Review, 1989, 14, 574-94.

Something a little more persuasive-



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The Annual Report of the Society for 1990

Delivered at the Annual General Meeting, December 1990

It is my privilege, as Chair of the Executive Committee, to present, for the third year, the annual report to the AGM of SSHM. As the members will be aware SSHM has developed from a society with the worthy objective of promoting 'a better understanding of the relationship between medicine and the social sciences' to being a society which has contributed to the development of an academic discipline with international recognition. This past year has seen considerable reflection on past efforts and the start of a new era. At the last AGM the elections to the EC produced a substantially new, and younger, membership. Proportionately this was one of the most substantial changes in EC membership in recent years. The new members have provided fresh insights and the longer standing members are encouraged to see that the society is capable of renewing itself and of not being left behind as the study of the social history of medicine advances.

As in previous years much of the work of the work of the society has been conducted by subcommittees of the E C. The EC reviewed the workings of the sub-committees at the beginning of the year and a substantial rationalization was agreed. It appeared that much of the work of the programmes, publicity and membership sub-committees overlapped and work was being duplicated. Thus, it was agreed to create a larger sub-committee to deal with these issues and to stand down the separate committees. The new programmes and promotions sub-committee, under the convenership of John Henderson, has proved its worth in the past year. Programmes remain its particular responsibility but, consequently, the publicity can be better organized by Catherine Crawford and the membership files and circulation list can be better co-ordinated. The programme in the past year has reflected the many interests of the membership. a day conference on the influence of Michel Foucault at the Institute of Historical Research attracted one of the largest numbers of participants ever seen at such a meeting. The attraction of having distinguished speakers from France added to the occasion. As part of the wider policy of the society, after the questionnaire survey of last year, it was decided that the annual conference would not have a specific theme. The conference, held in Liverpool, and organized by John Woodward with assistance from the Institute of European Population Studies and the Institute of Irish Studies of the University of Liverpool proved a great success academically with a series of very different sessions and, in particular, a most successful 'new researchers' session. In future non-thematic conferences will alternate with 'themed' conferences. The recent day meeting on 'Accidents and History', organized by Roger Cooter and Bill Luckin, provided yet another well attended and worthwhile meeting. An innovation this year has been the introduction of a regional seminar series in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, organized by Michael Worboys. It is hoped that other

regions will be covered in future years. Offers of assistance in this regard would be gratefully received.

The publications sub-committee has continued to be active, under the convenership of Margaret Pelling. The sub-committee has mainly been concerned with issues arising from manuscripts intended for the SSHM series with Routledge, and with discussions suggestions for the format of the series. Although there have been some regrettable delays, two volumes - Medicine and Charity and Life, Death and the Elderly - have now been submitted. It is expected that these two volumes together will launch the series. A third volume - In the Name of the Child - is complete and is being refereed. Other volumes are being planned to continue the series. The series will be given a consistent appearance, including the Society colours and the logo.

The records sub-committee had to undergo further reorganization as Virginia Berridge retired. SSHM was fortunate in securing the services of Janet Foster to take over this committee and she is pursuing a conference on the preservation of and access to health records aimed at health managers to be held at the Institute of Historical Research in 1991. An article is also being prepared for the journal.

The Journal is now in its third year of publication and all credit must go to the Editors and to the members of the Editorial Board for so quickly establishing a journal so perfectly exemplifying the wide-ranging but rigorously academic nature of the social history of medicine. The EC receives regular reports from the Editors and has reason to be pleased at the rising level of subscriptions, both in Britain and overseas.

The membership base of the Society continues to widen and to become more international. The academic reputation of the Journal and the ability to attract overseas participants to the meetings of the society have made a very positive contribution in this respect. The membership figures show an increase to near eight hundred with more than half now coming from overseas. The report of the Treasurer shows that the financial position of the Society is secure and, currently, steady. Members will be aware that, when the Journal was launched three years ago, there was a commitment not to raise subscriptions rates for this three year period. This stability, during a period of not insignificant inflation, has meant that, in real terms, members have been receiving excellent value for money. It is regretted that we now have to move to a higher figure, as announced in the August issue of the Journal, but because of the increased number of subscriptions the society itself has not had to ask for a larger sum to cover its activities and, thus, the overall figure has been kept down. The final subscription rate remains well below that of comparable societies and journals.

John Woodward, Chair

December 1990

ETHNICITY, RELIGION AND THE
HISTORY OF HEALTH CARE PROVISION

Autumn Day Conference 12 October 1991
Central London Polytechnic, Marylebone Road, London.
(Opposite Baker Street Underground)

Provisional Programme

- 9.30-10.00 Registration
- 10.00-11.15 'The interaction of Indian and Western
medicine', Mark Harrison
'Promiscuity, detribalisation and decay: V.D.
scars and African women in Durban in the
1940s', Karen Jochelson
- 11.15-11.30 Coffee
- 11.30-12.45 'The story of the London Jewish Hospital:
Lord Rothschild -v- The Barber, 1907-1919',
Gerry Black
'Ethnic communities and maternity provision
in East London: Historical and contemporary
perspectives', L Marks and L Hilder
- 12.45-13.45 Lunch
- 13.45-15.00 'Culture of Madness: Mental illness and the
Irish in Britain', Liam Greenslade
'Somali refugees and the New Public Health',
Ian Jones
- 15.00-15.15 Tea
- 15.15-16.00 Discussion, led by John Eade

Price: £8.00 SSHM members; £10.00 non-members; £5.00
students and unwaged. Includes coffee, buffet lunch and tea.

Name.....

Affiliation.....

Address.....
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Please return to: Michael Worboys, Department of Historical
and Critical Studies, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Psalter
Lane, Sheffield, S11 8UZ