
NEWS

New Editor for *Social History of Medicine*: Dr Hilary Marland has agreed to replace Anne Cowther as journal editor alongside Paul Weindling. The Society thanks Anne for her excellent work and looks forward to the new partnership. Hilary has been a long term and active member of the Society. The breadth of her expertise will be a great boon to the journal: her interests span the early modern and modern periods, cover both England and the Netherlands, and recently include the social history of midwifery and puerperal insanity. Hilary has recently returned from working in the Netherlands to take up an appointment at the University of Warwick. The main office of the journal will move from Oxford to Warwick to join her. In light of the increasing volume of articles considered by the journal and the Society's ambitions to become truly international in scope, it seems likely that a third editor, based overseas, will be added to the team in the near future.

Gazette: Helen Power is to take over as Editor of the Gazette. Her first issue will be volume 18 (December 1996). Any correspondence or material for the Gazette should be sent to Helen at Department of Economic and Social history, University of Liverpool, 11 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 3BX. Tel: 0151 794 2410. Fax: 0151 794 2423. Email: hel@liv.ac.uk

World Wide Web Site: David Wright is currently setting up a SSHM home page on the Web. Hopefully this will be in operation by August 1996. It will provide a noticeboard for information on the Society's activities and also a forum for members' views. The site can be accessed through the Department of History, University of Nottingham (<http://www.nott.ac.uk/depts.html#arts>).

Science Medicine and Empire: this special interest group is open to all SSHM members. It has produced a bibliographic review of material in the field which will shortly be available on web site: <http://info.ox.ac.uk/1inc0140/index.html> For further information contact: Harriet Deacon, The Queen's College, Oxford OX1 4AW (email: harriet.deacon@queens.oxford.ac.uk).

Prize Essay Competition: the essays submitted were of a high standard. The prize was awarded to Luke Davidson and his '*Identities Ascertained*': *British Ophthalmology in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century*. This essay will be published in *Social History of Medicine*. New researchers are encouraged to enter the next competition which has a deadline of 31st December. An entry form is included in the Gazette.

INFORMATION

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.

Membership of the Society for the Social History of Medicine includes a subscription to the journal and is paid through: Journal Subscription Department, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP. Membership rates for 1996 are: £26 or £16.50 for students (UK and Europe), and \$46/\$32 for the rest of the world. Send subscriptions to: Journal Subscriptions Department, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP (44(0)1865 267907).

Executive Committee:

President (1995): Professor Shula Marks

Chairman: Ann-Marie Rafferty, Centre for Policy in Nursing Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1A 7HT. Tel: 0171 636 8636.

Secretary: Anne Borsay, Dept. History, University of Wales, Lampeter, Dyfed, SA48 7ED. Tel: 01570 422351, Ext. 307. Fax: 01570 432885; Email: borsay@lampeter.ac.uk

Membership Secretary: Harriet Deacon, Queen's College, Oxford, OX1 4AW. Tel: 01865 279186. EMAIL: hdeacon@vax.ox.ac.uk. Fax: 01865 790819).

Treasurer: David Wright, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Rd., Oxford OX2 6PE. Tel: 01865 274618. Fax: 01865 274605. Email: djw@vax.ox.ac.uk

Programmes coordinator: Tim Boon, Science Museum, London SW7 2DD. Tel: 0171 938 8069. E-mail: t.boon@ic.ac.uk.

Publicity: Steve Sturdy, Science Studies Unit, University of Edinburgh, 21 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9JT. Tel: 0131 650 4014. Email: S.Sturdy@ed.ac.uk

Journal Editors: Paul Weindling, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE. Tel: 01865 274603. Fax: 01865 274605. Email: Weindling@Oxford.vax

Hilary Marland, Department of History, University of Warwick,

Gazette Editor: Helen Power, Dept. Economic & Social History, University of Liverpool.

Publications: Bernard Harris (Series Editor), Department of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, Tel: 01703 592567. Email: B.J.Harris@soton.ac.uk

Overseas members secretary: Cornelia Osborne, Dept. History, Roehampton Institute, Digby Stuart College, London SW15 5PH, fax: 0181 392 3231, e-mail:

C.Usborne@roehampton.ac.uk

Other Executive members:

Kelly Boyd, Goldsmith's College, University of London. Email: kkboyd@sas.ac.uk

Hera Cook, Birkbeck College, University of London. Email: H.Cook@LSHTM.ac.uk

Jacqueline Jenkinson, Department of History, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA. Tel: 01786 467582. Email: jjj@uk.ac.stirling.forth

Peter King, (coopted) University of Cambridge.

David Smith, Dept. of Economic & Social History, University of Aberdeen, Taylor Building, Old Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2UB. Tel: 01224 273676. E-mail: d.f.smith@abdn.ac.uk.

Molly Sutphen, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. Tel: 0171 611 8668. Email: m.sutphen@ucl.ac.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE, HELD AT RHODES HOUSE, OXFORD, 20 JULY 1996

1. Apologies. There were none.

2. Minutes of the last AGM. Under Item 5, the Treasurer noted that the assets of the Society were approximately £16,800 on 31 December 1994. With that amendment the minutes were agreed.

3. Annual Report. The Annual Report of the Executive Committee was presented by the chair, Anne Marie Rafferty. She began by thanking all those who had contributed to the running of the Society: her predecessor David Smith, for his productive leadership; Anne Crowther, who was stepping down as Editor of *SHM*, having led the journal through a fruitful phase in its history; Mathew Thomson, who was retiring as editor of the Gazette; and Jonathon Barry, who was retiring as editor of the Society's book series with Routledge. It was reported that Hilary Marland was the new joint editor of the journal; Bernard Harris had taken over as series editor; and Steve Sturdy had become publicity officer. The Society had been active on the conference front during the year thanks to the catalytic influence of programmes convenor, Tim Boon. In September, Anne Borsay organized a meeting on Medicine and Industrial Society in Swansea and in April Michael Clark, with Tim Boon, organized a conference on Film and Medical History in London. Forthcoming events included: an SSHM session convened by Steve Sturdy at the SHOT conference in London next month; a conference on Race, Science and Medicine at Southampton, organized by Bernard Harris and Waltraud Ernst in September; a conference on Madness, Law and Institutions, organized by Jo Melling at Exeter in April 1997; and the Annual Conference for 1997 which was a joint meeting in Liverpool with the International Network for the History of Public Health that was being organized by Helen Power and Sally Sheard. Helen had been co-opted to the EC and had kindly agreed to assume responsibility for the Gazette. The Society was privileged to have Shula Marks as its President for 1996 and congratulated her on the award of an OBE, a British Academy Fellowship and two honorary doctorates. As well as his prudent management of the accounts, David Wright was developing an SSHM web site which should be ready by 1 August; and Harriet Deacon, Molly Sutphen and Richard Drayton were creating an intellectual community within the Society through the Science, Medicine and Empire Special Interest Group. The Chair concluded her Annual Report by thanking all other members of the EC: Anne Borsay (secretary), Kelly Boyd, Hera Cook, Harriet Deacon (membership secretary), Jacqueline Jenkinson, Roger King, Molly Sutphen, and Cornelia Osborne (overseas membership).

4. Report of the Journal Editors. Paul Weindling spoke to the Report. He noted that the Journal was thriving with a growing throughput of articles of high quality. The editors would like more material pre-1800, non-British (any period) and shorter discussion points and reports from overseas. Putting together the Silver Jubilee issue had been a great pleasure, as had publishing the Society's prize essay. The main change was the much lamented departure of Anne Crowther as co-editor; her energy and good sense would be greatly missed. She is replaced by Hilary Marland from Warwick. It is proposed to appoint a third editor based in the United States for a trial period three years. Thanks were due to Greta Jones for keeping the reviews section buoyant and lively, and to the referees for their prompt and constructive reports. The editorial board had met in July 1995, March 1996 and at the 1996 Annual Conference. Retiring members were thanked for their contributions: Virginia Berridge, Ruth Harris, Ian Levitt and (overseas members) Hilary Marland, Thomas Lacqueur, Marie-France Morel, Brent Shaw and Nancy Siraisi. New members were welcomed: Roger Davidson (Edinburgh),

Helen King (Reading), Emilie Savage-Smith (Oxford), Maros Cueto (Lima), Angus Maclaren (Vancouver), Michael McVaugh (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), and Elizabeth van Heyningen (Cape Town). Current subscribers were as follows: 476 members, 297 institutions, 14 personal, and c. 20 students. The financial position of the journal had improved and in 1995 a profit of £9,000 had been made which went towards paying off the cumulative debt with Oxford University Press. These modest profits would support further development of the Journal and the Society. In response to questions from the floor, Paul Weindling indicated that the format of discussion points was elastic, but the main considerations were historical and academic criteria and the spacing of papers by individual contributors. He argued strongly against a proposal for open refereeing on the grounds that the existing system worked well, referees were very carefully chosen, and the academic reputation of the Journal depended upon the 'blind' assessment of articles.

5. Treasurer's Report. David Wright spoke to his Report on the unaudited accounts for the calendar year 1995 which showed that gross assets stood at £18,285.35 and that income exceeded expenditure by £1,634.54. It was noted that *Social History of Medicine* now ran at an annual surplus of approximately £4,000. The meeting was informed that, given the increasing internationalization of the membership, the EC was considering a revised policy for travel expenses which took into account EC members and journal editors who resided outside the UK. The treasurer confirmed that that overseas correspondents were entitled to apply for the reimbursement of costs which they incurred on behalf of the Society. Finally, although the Society was no longer required by law to have its accounts audited each year, the EC had decided to continue this practice, and Shouler and Company of Nottingham were therefore approved as auditors.

6. Future of the Gazette. It was agreed to make no immediate change in the position of the Gazette, but to ask readers to comment on its value and keep the matter under review. While abandoning the Gazette when the web site became operational would disadvantage members without access to the internet, a printout might be an acceptable substitute.

7. Services for Overseas Members. Corelie Osborne explained that since assuming responsibility for overseas members she had tried to fill the gaps identified by her predecessor's survey. It was agreed to encourage overseas correspondents to write discussion points about medical history in their countries for submission to the Journal; this strategy would also reveal the scope for international conferences and collaboration. A list of members and their research interests could not be placed on the new web site until the members' guide had been revised and permission sought. Corelie Osborne agreed to send to overseas correspondents details of members in their countries.

8. Teaching the History of Medicine: Medical Curricula Reform. The proposal to hold a workshop on this subject was welcomed.

9. Elections to the Executive Committee. The three vacancies on the EC had been filled by Tim Boon, Corelie Osborne and Molly Sutphen. Helen Power had become a co-opted member.

10. Prize Essay Competition. The prize would be presented at dinner on 20 July. Members were urged to encourage entries. The closing date was 31 December 1996.

11. Any other business. There was none.

STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

As members of the Society will be well aware, the Society supports the publication of a series of books of collected essays under the general title of 'Studies in the Social History of Medicine'. Jonathan Barry has been General Editor of the Series since 1991, and is now stepping down. My first obligation (and pleasure) is to thank Jonathan on behalf of the Society for all his efforts, both as Series Editor, and, previously, as the Society's Treasurer. He has been a great servant of the Society, and his presence on the Executive Committee will be sadly missed.

During the last year of Jonathan's tenure of office, a number of volumes have been submitted to the publishers and are awaiting publication. These include:-
David Wright & Anne Digby, eds., *From idiocy to mental deficiency: historical perspectives on people with learning disabilities*.

David Smith, ed., *Nutrition in Britain: science, scientists and politics in the twentieth century*.

Mick Worboys & Lara Marks, eds., *Ethnicity and health*.

Hilary Marland and Anne-Marie Rafferty, eds., *Midwives, society and childbirth: debates and controversies 1850-1995*.

Ole Grell and Andrew Cunningham, eds., *Health care provision and poor relief in early-modern northern Protestant Europe*.

Hilary Marland, Marijka Gijswijt-Hofstra & Hans de Waardt, eds., *Demons, diagnoses and disenchantment: conceptions of illness and curing in western Europe from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries*.

In addition to these volumes, a number of other proposals are currently under active consideration. These include proposals from Bernard Harris and Waltraud Ernst for a book on the themes of race, science and medicine; from Paul Weindling for a book on the influence of medical emigres (and emigrees) on the development of medical science in Britain in the twentieth century; and from Eireann Marshall and Valerie Hope on pollution and the ancient city.

The Society's book series is intended to provide an outlet for collections of essays on all aspects of the social history of medicine from ancient times onwards. The series was originally conceived as a way of bringing to publication collections of essays arising directly out of the Society's conferences, but we should be more than happy to consider proposals from elsewhere. The main emphasis of existing and forthcoming volumes has been on the early-modern and modern periods, with a particular emphasis on Britain and continental Europe, but it would be nice to see proposals relating to the social history of medicine in other periods and other parts of the world.

If you would like to put forward a proposal for a new volume, please contact Bernard Harris, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO18 1BJ. My email address is: <bjh2@soton.ac.uk>.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Reports on the social history of medicine

The SSHM and the Journal would welcome reports on the state of the field in the countries represented by our overseas members. It would be most interesting to hear about new trends in research, conceptual approaches, historiographical debates and new publications, What sources of funding are available and how does this influence research interests and publications? What specialist libraries and archives are available for the history of medicine? Is research carried out as an individual or a collaborative enterprise? Are there strong international links or is the research agenda shaped by national developments? And what role do local and national groups and conferences play in generating research? By publishing such contributions the Society hopes to promote international debate about the state of the social history of medicine and

encourage international cooperation, perhaps leading to our first international conferences. Please forward your contributions to Cornelia Osborne. The Journal may accept pieces of up to 15 pages. Shorter or more informal pieces may be placed in the Gazette.

Contact Members:-

Australia: Prof. Roy Macleod, Dept. History, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006; Dr Ian Stewart, PO Box 976, Wagga Wagga, NSW 7650, fax: (61 69) 218464, tel: (61 69) 211655; Peter Short, Faculty of Nursing, University of Technology, Sydney, Broadway, NSW 2007, tel: 61 (02) 3304313, fax: (612) 330 4317.

Austria: Dr Sonia Horn, Institut für Geschichte, Universität Wien, Dr Karl Luegerring 1, a-1010 Wien.

Belgium: Dr R. Rubens, Scheldevelacstr. 28, B 9840 De Pinte.

Canada: Prof. Jacques Bernier, Dept. D'Histoire, Université Laval, Québec City, Québec, G1K 7P4; Carla Paterson, 13960 66 Ave, Surrey BC, V3W 9B1.

Denmark: Dr Signild Vallgarda, Dept. Social Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 3, DK 2200 Copenhagen, tel: (45) 3532 7999, fax: (45) 3135 1181, e-mail: siva@kubism.ku.dk

Finland: Dr Riitta Oittinen, Department of Economic and Social history, university of Helsinki, PO Box 54 (snellmaninkatu 14), 00014 University of Helsinki, Finland. tel: +358-0-191 8947 fax: +358-0-191 8924 email: Riitta.oittinen@helsinki.fi

Germany: Lutz Sauerteig, Institut fuer Geschichte der Medizin, Universitaet Freiburg, Stefan-Meier-str. 26, d-79104 Freiburg. Phone: +49/761/203 5038. Fax: +49/761/203 5039. Email: sauertei@ruf.uni-freiburg.de

Flurin Condrau, Seminar for Social and Economic History, University of Munich, Ludwigstr. 33/III, d-80539 Munchen. tel 0049 89 2180/2229; fax 2180/3168; email f.condrau@swg.vwl.uni-muenchen.de

Netherlands: Dr Frank Huisman, University of Groningen, Department of History, P.O.Box 716, 9700 AS Groningen, Tel. +31 503636117, Fax: +31 503637253, e-mail: f.g.huisman@let.rug.nl

New Zealand: Dr L. Bryder, History Dept., University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland.

Peru: Dr Marcos Cueto, Roca Bologna 633, Lima 18, tel: (5114) 323070, fax: (5114) 324981, e-mail: mcueto@iep.org.pe

Poland: Dr med. Krzysztof G. Jeziorski, Chemotherapy Clinic, The Maria Sklodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology, ul Wawelska 00-973, Warszawa, tel: 48-22-230277, fax: 48-22-24-29

Spain: Dr Oriol Ramis-Juan, Duquesa d'Orleans 24, 08034 Barcelona, tel: (34) 3 2111400, fax: (34) 34189866

Sweden: Ingrid Olsen, Dept. Health & Sociology, Linköping University, S-58183 Linköping

Switzerland: Dr Lazare Benaroyo, Avenue des Bergières 47, 1004 Lausanne, fax: (4121) 648 7243, tel: 4121-646-7444

USA: Dr Peter McCandless, History Dept., College of Charleston, Charleston SC 29424, e-mail: mccandless@cofc.edu; Prof. Howard Kushner, Dept. History, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182, e-mail: hkushner@ucsd.edu; Prof. Benjamin Harris, Dept. Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, WI 53402, e-mail: harris@it.uwp.edu, fax: 414-595-2630; Cherilyn Lacy, University of Chicago, Dept. history 1126 East 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637; John Cooper, 4 South Idaho St, Seattle, WA 98134

Overseas members with news and views should contact Dr Cornelia Osborne, Dept. History, Roehampton Institute, Digby Stuart College, London SW15 5PH, fax: 0181 392 3231, e-mail: C.Usborne@roehampton.ac.uk

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.)

SSHM CONFERENCES.

Race, Science and Medicine: "Racial" Categories and the Reproduction of Medical Knowledge

University of Southampton, 18-19 September, 1996

This conference aims at bringing together those historians and researchers with a historical perspective who focus on the nexus of "race", science and medicine. A variety of themes and perspectives will be presented, ranging from accounts of how particular categories of "race" emerged concomitant with European colonial expansion and the new developments in Western science (in particular anatomy, natural history, zoology) from the late eighteenth century onwards; to in-depth case studies of "race" in relation to particular medical disease and disorder categories (such as TB, typhus, mental illness); to cultural perspectives; to issues of gender; to colonial and post-colonial contexts; and to specific issues during the heyday of "scientific racism" (such as genetics, eugenics, and anthropometric measurements).

Speakers include: Nancy Leys Stepan, David Arnold, Norris Saakwa Mante, Lyn Shumaker, Harriet Deacon, Waltraud Ernst, Akihito Suzuki, Mark Jackson, Michael Clark, Cora Kaplan, Jonathon Sawday, Michael Worboys, Paul Weindling, Hanna Augstein, Mathew Thomson, Deborah Thom, and Bernard Harris.

Booking forms and full details about speakers are available from Waltraud Ernst or Bernard Harris, Department of Sociology and Social policy, university of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ. Email: wer@socsci.soton.ac.uk, or bjh2@socsci.soton.ac.uk

Institutions and Insanity: New Research Directions

Exeter, 18-20 April 1997.

Call for papers. Themes may include overviews of recent research; the post-Foucault generation of researchers and their findings; the poor law and treatment of puer lunatics; gender and institutionalisation; demographic and social patterns behind admissions; familial support; problems in comparative history; archives and ethics.

Further details and proposals (deadline 10 October 1996) to Dr Joseph Melling, Exminster Asylum Project, Medical Archives Project, Department of Economic history, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4RJ.

The History of Public Health

Liverpool, 4-7 September (Annual Conference) 1997.

Joint meeting with the International Network for the History of Public Health, tied to the 150th anniversary of British public health.

The meeting will explore the history of public health from its origins to the present day. There will be an emphasis on comparisons between the experience of urban public health in the developed and less developed countries. The conference will coincide with a major new exhibition at the Merseyside Maritime Museum which looks at the history of public health on the 150th anniversary of the appointment of Dr William Henry Duncan in Liverpool as Britain's first Medical Officer of Health.

Sessions will include: 1. The urban/rural divide: changing patterns of demography and public health. 2. Origins of urban public health. 3. Moving people, moving disease - covering port health, ethnicity, the lodging house culture. 4. Comprehending the masses - ordering the public for the public health. 5. Centres and peripheries - looking at the role of colonial agencies and international health organizations in urban health.

Offers of contributions by 30th September 1996 (including a 1 page abstract and email address) or enquiries for registration should be sent to Sally Sheard, Depts of Economic and Social History and Public Health, University of Liverpool, Po Box 147, L69 3 BX. Tel: +44 (0) 151-794-5593; fax: +44 (0)151-794-5588. Or to Helen Power, email: hel@liv.ac.uk

'Practice'. A Joint Meeting with the British Society for the History of Science, Manchester, 14 November 1997, Organizer Paolo Palladino.

Medicine and the Public Sphere, Edinburgh, Summer 1998, Organizer Steve Sturdy.

NON-SSHM MEETINGS

Knowledge and Power: Perspectives in the History of Psychiatry European Association for the History of Psychiatry (EAHP)

The 3rd Triennial Conference will be held 11-14 September 1996 in Wurzburg, Germany. Suggestions for appropriate section topics and speakers are welcome and should be directed to: Dr Paul Hoff, Psychiatric Hospital, University of Munich, Nußbaumstr. 7, D-80336 Munich.

Medicine in Hellenized Jewish Lore and in Early Christian Literature

Israel Society of the History of Medicine and Science

Jerusalem, Israel, September 9-11, 1996

Details: Conference Unit, Division for Development and Public Relations, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905, Israel. Fax: 972-2-322556.

The normal and the pathological: life, Disease, Cure: a Conference in honour and Memory of Georges Canguilhem.

SOAS, University of Oxford, 14 September 1996

Speakers include: Nikolas Rose, Ian Hacking, Colin Gordon, Paul Rabinow, Mike Gane, Graham Burchell and Francois Delaporte.

Inquiries to Dr Thomas Osborne, Department of Sociology, University of Bristol (Tel: 0117 928 7507; email thomal.osborne@bris.ac.uk).

Women's History Network Conference

14-15 September 1996, Conway hall, London

Call for papers on all themes and periods of women's history, abstracts of 200 words to Alison Oram, Dept. History, Sheffield Hallam University, 32 Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield S102BP, by 30 April.

Nursing, Women's History and the Politics of Welfare

University of Nottingham, 18-20 September 1996

Including papers on: education and training; gender and caring; internationalism, colonialism and care; nursing and space; occupational regulation; religion, philanthropy and social policy; the globalisation of welfare; women, health, illness, and healing; feminism and nursing, historiography; midwifery, maternal and child welfare; nursing the body; race, ethnicity, migration and welfare; representing nursing and midwifery; and waged and unwaged caring.

Details: Conference Secretary, Dept. Nursing and midwifery Studies, University of Nottingham, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, NG7 2UH. Tel: 0115 970 9724; fax: 0115 970 9955; e-mail: MNZSS@mn1.nursing.nottingham.ac.uk

Symposium on Alternative Medicine in Modern Europe

Wellcome Institute, London, 18 October 1996

Organisers: Willem de Blécourt (Erasmus University of Rotterdam), Anne Hardy (Wellcome Institute, London), Cornelia Osborne (Roehampton Institute, London).

The symposium aims to redress the neglect of the social history of alternative medicine in the modern period. It hopes to arrive at a number of theoretical and practical solutions for the definition and study of a topic which is usually defined only by difference and in opposition to the mainstream of academic medicine. For this purpose gender, geographical distribution, communication, religion and ritual will all be considered.

For further information contact: Dr Cornelia Osborne, Dept. History, Roehampton Institute, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5PH, Fax: 44 181 392 3231. Email: C.Usborne@Roehampton.ac.uk

Pathologies of Travel

Oxford Brookes University, 26th October 1996

Themes to include: travel as illness; wanderlust and its discontents; travel for health, medication for travel.

Enquiries and registration: Catriona Smith, School of Humanities, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane Campus, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP.

Workshop on Ancient Medicine

Mainz, Germany, 22 June 1997

Enquiries and offers of papers to: Medizinhistorisches Institut, Uni-Klinikum, d-55101 Mainz.

New Methodologies in the History of Psychiatry

Lausanne and Geneva 28 February-1st March 1997

Institut Romand d'histoire de la Medecine et de la sante

Themes: patient files as sources; treatments; classifications and syndromes; construction of the psychiatric case.

Further information and registration: Institut d'histoire de la medecine, chemin des Falaises 1, 1000 Lausanne 4. Tel: 021/314 70 50. Fax: 021/314 70 55. Email: Hist.Med@inst.hospvd.ch

Medicine, Law and Human Rights: Historical Perspectives

3rd of the European Research Conference series of the European Science Foundation on 'Coping with Sickness'

22-7 March, Castelvecchio Pascoli, Italy

Themes will include: health and human rights; regulations concerning life and death; regulation of medicine; and law and medical expertise.

Details: Dr John Woodward, Department of History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN.

Death and Life

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference

University of California, Berkeley, 4-6 April, 1997.

Suggested topics include: ceremonies and technologies of birth and death; disease and epidemic; the concept of population; labor, midwifery, male birthing; pathos, sentimentality, mourning; elegies and other writing about the dead; anatomical illustration and picturing the dead.

200 word abstracts and papers (15 pages max). Special consideration to panels drawing on at least three disciplines. Deadline 15 October 1996. Correspondence to: INCS-Berkeley, English Department, 322 Wheeler hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-1030.

Childhood in Question

18-20 April 1997, University of Essex

Themes include: representations of childhood, parents and children, children and the state, children and fantasy.

Proposals for papers or workshops (Title and Synopsis c. 500 words) should be sent to convenors, Anthony Fletcher and Steve Hussey by 1 November 1996. Further details and registration from Mrs Belinda Waterman, Dept. History, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

The Right to Health in Modern Society

11-12 July 1997, Oxford

The Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford, is organising a conference on the evolution of the relationship between health, illness, and concepts of citizenship in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The conference will concentrate mainly on the British experience but there will also be contributions from Western Europe. We hope to discuss some central issues in both the history of modern health care and the sociology/philosophy of citizenship. Papers will examine the meaning of the right to health in terms of health status, and the right to health care services; the meaning of the obligation to promote health on the part of the individual, the family, the voluntary sector, employers and the state; and the boundaries of the concepts of citizens' rights and duties - situations of conflict between ethical imperatives; the treatment of non-citizens (ethics of experiments on the insane, dead, persecuted minorities); and whether rights to health can be abrogated by the citizen (euthanasia).

Further details from Edward Higgs by May 31. Postal address: Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE. E-mail: eddy.higgs@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk. Telephone: 01865-74616. Fax: 01865-274605.

OTHER NEWS

Recent Dissertations in the Social History of Medicine: Stephanie J Snow, *John Snow MD, 1813-1858: the emergence of the medical profession* University of Keele PhD, 1996.

University of Toronto: Institute of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology and the Faculty of Medicine invite applications for a tenure stream position at the rank of Associate or Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine, beginning July 1 1997, preferably not in Canadian history of medicine. Further details: Chair, Search Committee, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Room 316, Victoria College, 73 Queen's park Crescent East, university of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1KY. Closing date 30 September 1996.

Women in Economic and Social History Research Directory: now updated this directory lists over 300 scholars working in the field. It offers a unique networking tool, including members of many different academic specialities, plus independent scholars and postgraduates. Contact addresses, research interests and publications are provided, invaluable for establishing links with others in related fields, for creating reading lists and for organizing seminars and conferences. Details from E. Garrett, CAMPOP, 27 Trumpington St., Cambridge CB2 1QA.

International Network for the History of Hospitals. The intention of this network is to promote studies relating to the history of the hospital from its beginnings to the present by providing an international forum for communication and discussion. The Network would like to support collaborative research by acting as a clearing house for scholarly information, and also to facilitate the organisation of conferences. The aim in the first place is to build up membership. Membership is free and a membership list will shortly be compiled and will be distributed regularly along with a newsletter. Forthcoming events include a workshop on patient records in Autumn 1996 and a conference in November 1997 on 'Hospitals in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: Function and Form'.

For further information contact: Dr John Henderson, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Dept. History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RD.

The History of the Office of the Coroner in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Gordon H.H. Glasgow is engaged in research on coroners and their relationship with the medical profession. He is particularly interested in railway construction and mining deaths before workmen's compensation. He would welcome contact with any other scholars interested in this or related subjects and can be contacted at: 25a Alexandra Road, Southport, Merseyside.

Medicine and the Colonies,

Annual Summer Conference

St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 19-21 July 1996

Over a suitably hot and sticky weekend in mid-July, 120 delegates from 12 countries met in Oxford to hear 54 papers on the history of medicine and the colonies. This meeting was amongst the largest and certainly the most international of all SSHM gatherings and Harriet Deacon, Molly Sutphen and Richard Drayton deserve our admiration and thanks for setting up such a meeting and then running it so smoothly. The contrast with the last SSHM meeting on 'Medicine and Empire' in 1986, when some thirty people came to hear five papers, indicates the enormous growth in the study of medicine in and for the colonies in the past decade. The SSHM has played a vital role in this change. The 1986 meeting was the basis for David Arnold's influential volume on *Imperial Medicine and Indigenous Societies*, and the Society's journal has encouraged publications on medicine and the colonies. Colonial and imperial themes have been a feature of other SSHM meetings, for example at last year's War and Militarism Conference. The scale of this year's meeting, with three parallel sessions running virtually the whole time, means that it is impossible to write the usual type of conference report. Instead I will concentrate on the main changes in the subject that have occurred over the past decade and in so doing I will pick up some of the issues that Professor Shula Marks raised in her Presidential Address.

The most encouraging change evident at Teddy Hall was the number of young researchers now working in the area, the volume of work in progress and the vigour which this is being pursued. A second feature was the number of countries from which speakers were drawn. Both promise a bright future for the history of medicine in the colonies and the strength of the area is evident in that the first Special Interest Group and email discussion group of the SSHM are to be in *Science, Medicine and Empire*.

While the majority of papers continued to focus on medicine in the European colonies in the period of high imperialism, there is a growing interest in other empires and other periods. Thus, the meeting heard papers on Japanese imperial medicine in Taiwan, on the Spanish American empire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and on settler colonies in all continents except Europe, where work on Russian imperial medicine remains relatively uncharted territory. There was acknowledgement in discussion of the opportunities the proliferation of work creates for comparative studies across space and time. However, this was tempered by a recognition of the difficulties this presents with sources and contextualisation. It would obviously be a shame and waste if we had to wait until studies of particular empires and colonies are completed before making comparisons and generalisations, but there are special features of medicine that facilitate comparative historical studies. These are the number of constants across periods and geography: common diseases, imperial institutions, and the transnational role of agencies like the Rockefeller Foundation and more recently the World Health Organisation. This potential was clear in the fruitful comparisons drawn at the sessions on yellow fever, and maternal and child welfare. It is to be hoped that conferences, electronic discussion groups and the personal contacts will facilitate the sharing of research questions, approaches and collaborative work.

Every paper I heard at the meeting, including those outside of the two sessions dedicated specifically to the topic, was aware of the need to consider the interaction between Western medicine and indigenous ideas and practices. Indeed, the question of sensitivity to medical pluralism extended outside of the modern-traditional opposition to the requirement to consider varieties of Western medicine (e.g. private, state,

foundation, mission, lay, clinical, laboratory) and different forms of indigenous healing. Many studies are now using oral history to explore 'traditional' beliefs and many innovative ways of using sources to explore practices and the operation of institutions remains were described. Awareness of the unevenness of the spread and influence of medicine in colonial situations across time and space was a recurring theme throughout the weekend. What colonial medical agencies often presented as a major research or medical projects to metropolitan authorities and audiences, were often barely visible on the ground in the colonies. Also, there was no linear path in the development of modern medical and health services, for example, disease control programmes in yellow fever rose and fell away, as they did for malaria.

Speaking with Cecil Rhodes looking over her left shoulder, Professor Marks, while noting the quality and breadth of scholarship, challenged the meeting with a number of questions about the content and balance of papers at the meeting. Were people happy at the emphasis on medicine *per se* and the relative neglect of research on the impact of colonialism, including migration that came in its wake, on patterns of disease and health? Was there too much emphasis on particular types of difference, notably race and gender, to the detriment of studies on the impact of economic inequalities and social class on health and access to medical services? Was there anything really distinctive about colonial medicine, or more particularly, was medicine in colonial situations always so different from healing and care systems at the metropole or in non-colonial settings? In many instances colonial medical personnel and services were part of the metropolitan or imperial medical system, hence notions of centre and periphery are problematic. For example, in the inter-war period the overseas Pasteur Institutes were arguably more important centres of medical research than those in France. Historians of medicine in and for colonies, especially those working on the period of high imperialism, mostly argue that colonial medicine and its institutions were directly shaped by political and economic forces. Medicine in other settings may have enjoyed greater relative autonomy but any difference was of degree rather than kind. That said, we should not underestimate the degree of freedom that colonial doctors often negotiated for themselves and often very local pressures they faced. Research on the latter question will soon be much easier with the publication of Alistair Tough's guide to the personal papers of colonial doctors, nurses and other practitioners held at Rhodes House, on which he spoke at the plenary session.

The widening of the subject over many centuries and many continents does raise the further question of what historians across such a wide subject have in common? Should someone working on the medical profession in colonial Ghana look for peers to other historians of colonial medicine, or to social, economic and political historians of Africa and Ghana? The obvious answer to say they should be able to speak to all of these, but this is not always easy, especially for young scholars seeking to develop academic careers who have choices to make on where to seek positions and outlets for their work. However, it is an ideal that is well worth pursuing as historians of colonial medicine have interesting things to say to many areas of history as well as to other disciplines, and more often than not on new and exciting topics.

Michael Worboys
Sheffield Hallam University