

# Gazette

## 19

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Electronic News: SSHM Web Site !

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~ahzwww/homesshm.htm>

The Society for the Social History of Medicine is thrilled to announce the birth of its first Web site. The homepage is accessible through conventional Internet browsers, and contains information on all aspects of the society's activities, including: a regularly updated list of SSHM conferences and publications; extracts from the *Gazette*; current members of the Executive Committee and their responsibilities; overseas contact persons; information for contributions to *Social History of Medicine* (and links to OUPs *Social History of Medicine* page for abstracts of articles in recent numbers of the journal), as well as Society vacancies. By April, 1997, the Web site will also include the Web version of the *Guide to Members' Research and Interests* (for those members who agreed to have their information posted on the Internet).

The SSHM Web site has been created to service members, especially overseas members, of the Society. It has been designed to complement, rather than replace the *Gazette*, which will continue to be sent out to all members. The Webmaster is eager to receive information, suggestions or queries from Society members.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine is grateful to the University of Nottingham for free use of its Internet service.

*Webmaster* (a.k.a david.wright@nottingham.ac.uk)

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Correspondence about the content and circulation of the *Gazette* and material for inclusion should be sent to the editor, Helen Power, 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

## 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 1997 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. Tel: 44(0)1865 267907. Fax: 44(0)1865 267485.

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(Overseas members with news and views should contact Dr Cornelia Osborne).

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### Society and Journal News

Readers of the fine print will have noticed that that Dr Alfons Labisch will be SSHM President for 1997. His presidency strengthens the Society's commitment to developing its profile outside of the UK and we are delighted that he has accepted the invitation. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr Mark Jackson of the Wellcome Unit in Manchester as successor to Dr Greta Jones as Reviews Editor of SHM.

### Overseas News

Austria: In October 1996 the annual meeting of "Herbstgespräche zur Sozialgeschichte der Medizin" took place at the University of Graz (organiser Dr A Kernbauer) with speakers from Graz, Innsbruck, Salzburg and Vienna. The next meeting will take place in the autumn of 1997 in Innsbruck. In Klosterneuburg near Vienna there was an exhibition on "Bader, Wundarzt, Medicus - Heilkunde in Klosterneuburg" with an accompanying book with the same title, edited by H Flamm and K Mazakarini, Vienna 1996. In December the Vienna Seminar for the Social History of Medicine organised a conference on "Urban History and Medical History" at the town hall with speakers from the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. For further information Dr Sonja Horn, Arbeitsgruppe Wissenschaftsgeschichte - Institut für Geschichte der Universität Wien, Dr Karl Luegerring 1, A-1010 Wien. (In the meantime the proceedings of the 1994 Vienna Seminar have been published as H Grössig, S Horn T Aigner, *Wiener Gespräche zur Sozialgeschichte der Medizin*, Vienna 1996). From 7-8 March 1997 the 1st International Conference on Women in the Health Service, "Der kleine Unterschied" - It makes a difference" explored women's roles as patients and health professionals.

### Executive Committee: POSTAL BALLOT

There are now three vacancies on the Executive Committee to replace Kelly Boyd (London), Harriet Deacon (Oxford/South Africa) and David Smith (Aberdeen). Five nominations have been received and brief biographies of the candidates are appended.

You may vote for not more than three candidates. Please put a cross in the appropriate boxes on the voting slip. Voting papers should be posted to the Hon Secretary in a sealed envelope, to arrive not later than Friday 20 June 1997. Please sign the back of the envelope and print your name. The results will be published in the Summer issue of the Gazette.

-----Cut and send in-----

Candidate	Proposer	Seconder	VOTE
Stuart Anderson	Virginia Berridge	Jennifer Stanton	
David Cantor	Michael Worboys	Mark Harrison	
Edward Higgs	David Wright	Amanda Berry	
Joseph Melling	Jonathan Barry	Bernard Harris	
Oonagh Walsh	David Smith	David Wright	

Send voting papers to: Anne Borsay, Department of History, University of Wales, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED.

### Executive Committee Candidates - BIOGRAPHIES:

**Stuart Anderson** is a Research Fellow with the History Group at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His principal research interest is the history of pharmacy in Britain during the twentieth century. He has recently completed an oral history of community pharmacy, and is currently undertaking an oral history of hospital pharmacy. Stuart Anderson originally trained as a pharmacist, working in the NHS for 20 years, most recently as Director of Pharmacy at St. George's Hospital, London. He became an academic in 1993, originally as Lecturer at the School of Pharmacy, London. He joined the History Group at LSHTM in January 1995.

**David Cantor** is a senior lecturer in the Department of History, Sheffield Hallam University. His Lancaster University PhD thesis was on the history of radiobiology in interwar Britain. Subsequently, he worked on the histories of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council (Britain's largest arthritis charity), and of rheumatoid arthritis. In 1994/5, he was Scholar-in-Residence at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, researching the history of a neo-Hippocratic movement in early twentieth-century British medicine. He has written on the histories of cancer, the rheumatic diseases, and neo-Hippocratism. He has been a member of the SSHM for over ten years.

**Edward Higgs** worked for 15 years at the Public Record Office, London, specialising in census records and electronic information systems. From 1993 to 1996 he was a Wellcome Research Fellow at Oxford, studying medical and demographic statistics in the Victorian General Register Office. He is now a lecturer in the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Exeter, and is examining state medical statistics in the twentieth century. He has been on the executive committees of the Local Population Studies Society and the Association for History and Computing, and administrative editor of the journal *Gender and History*.

**Joseph Melling** lectures in social history at the University of Exeter and is the director of the Centre for Medical History there. He is presently working with Richard Adair and Bill Forsythe on a project on insanity and institutionalisation in Devon during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His current concern is to strengthen the links between the SSHM and the Social History Society, where he serves on the executive, and to widen the appeal of the social history of medicine amongst research students.

**Oonagh Walsh** is working on a doctorate (shortly to be submitted to Trinity College, Dublin) which concerns early twentieth century Protestant women's history in Dublin. Her next project relates to nineteenth century psychiatric history, mainly in the west of Ireland. She is particularly interested in gender issues as they relate to the establishment and practice of public mental health, and also in the impact which political developments in Ireland had upon the psychiatric service. One article on the Connaught District Lunatic Asylum will be published shortly, and another is in press. If elected, she would be very keen, amongst other things, to organise a conference in Dublin on Irish medical history, a growing field of research.

## 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.

**Annual Conference**  
**Health in the City: A History of Public Health**  
Liverpool, 4-7 September 1997.

The annual conference for 1997 will be a joint meeting with the International Network for the History of Public Health. The conference is linked informally to other activities in the history of public health in Liverpool in this year which marks the 150th anniversary of William Henry Duncan's appointment as MOH in Liverpool. A major new exhibition looking at the history of public health on Merseyside: Liverpool 1847-1997: A Healthy Place to Live? will now be housed in the Museum of Liverpool Life, one of the excellent waterfront galleries at the Albert Dock. This is also the venue for the conference reception on the Saturday evening before participants are set free to make the most of Liverpool's nightlife. Not too much revelling, however, as the final session of conference is on Sunday morning before a closing toast to Duncan. The conference venue will be the Atlantic Tower Hotel, which is situated in the city centre and offers stunning views of the Pier Head and river Mersey, encapsulating many of the themes of the conference.

As originally intended the meeting will explore urban public health from its origins to the present day. Following a very successful call for papers, the programme has an excellent interdisciplinary perspective reflected in sessions such as the Economics of Public Health, Pollution, and Health and Race, The Urban Rural Divide. There are several sessions with an emphasis on comparisons between the experience of urban public health in the developed and less developed countries, and the role of national and international organizations in urban health issues (Nationalism & Internationalism, Centres & Peripheries). London and Liverpool as cities of historic importance both receive detailed attention in dedicated sessions: don't worry the tone of the papers is far from parochial. Specific diseases with a crucial impact are also considered in their own sessions (Plague & Tuberculosis). The roles of health professions (Professionals of Public Health) and the people they deal come under scrutiny (Moving People, Moving Disease, Comprehending the Masses). The two breakfast sessions (Public Health Voices, Reinventing Public Health) and a poster session offer a variety of formats to keep the participants on their toes. There are also some planned optional visits to imbibe Liverpool's historic and current glories.

A booking form and poster accompany this Gazette. Enquiries for registration (closing date 30th June 1997) should be sent to Dr Sally Sheard, Dept of Economic and Social History or Dept of Public Health, University of Liverpool, P0 Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: +44 (0) 151 794 5593. Fax: +44 (0)151 794 5588. Or to Dr Helen Power, Email: hel@liv.ac.uk.

**Music and Medicine: The History of Music Therapy since Antiquity.**  
(In association with SSHM)

24-26 April 1997, Royal Holloway, University of London.

The aim of the conference will be to chart the history of the uses of music in the care or cure

of the sick from antiquity to the present day. The emphasis will be on Western Europe, but there will also be contributions dealing more broadly with Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Papers will be wide-ranging and pitched at the non-specialist, embracing both theory and practice, listeners and performers, the mentally and physically ill. Those who have expressed a willingness to read papers include: David Gentilcore, Penelope Gouk, Peter Jones, Cheryce Kramer, Jonathan Katz, Christopher Page, Paul Robertson, Amnon Shiloah, Anthony Storr, Angela Voss and Martin West.

Further details and registration: Peregrine Horden, C/o All Souls College, Oxford, OX1 4AL. Fax: 01865 279299. Email: peregrine.horden@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

**The Meanings of Practice: Historical and sociological perspectives on the practices of science, technology and medicine.** (Joint Meeting: British Society for the History of Science. 14 November 1997, Manchester.

In recent years, the term practice has been widely adopted by historians and sociologists of science, technology, and medicine to address a number of historiographical and sociological problems. These range from the importance of intellectual developments in the history of science, technology and medicine, to the relationship between social structures and human agency in social theory. The notions of "practice" deployed to solve them seem to vary widely from one context to the another, from the marxist, materialist notion of praxis implicit in much work of social historians to the notion of the "world in the making" articulated by ethnomethodologists. Although both historians and sociologists often borrow and combine these notions to solve their particular problems, it is not always clear that they can be combined so freely. In fact, some of these historians and sociologists are quite critical about some notions rather than others. The aim of the meeting is to highlight this diversity, without necessarily seeking, probably impossibly, to establish a single meaning of "practice". It might be more fruitful instead to consider the relations between the diverse meanings by bringing together historians and sociologists and asking them to reflect and comment upon this diversity and the reasons for divergence. Participants include Chris Lawrence, Michael Lynch, Harry Collins, Marc Berg, Joan Agar, John Pickstone, Andrew Warwick, Nick Hopwood, Steve Woolgar, Steven Turner.

For further information, contact Paolo Palladino, Dept History, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YG, tel: 01524-592793, email: p.palladino@lancaster.ac.uk.

**Medicine and the Public Sphere.**

Summer 1998, Edinburgh.

For further information contact: Steve Sturdy, Science Studies Unit, University of Edinburgh, 21 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9JT. Tel: 0131 650 4014. Fax: 0131 650 6886. Email: S.Sturdy@ed.ac.uk

### NON-SSHM MEETINGS

**History of Medicine I**

17 May 1997, Thackray Medical Museum, Beckett Street, Leeds 9.

This is the first of a planned series of day schools organised by the University of Leeds School of Continuing Education in association with the Thackray Medical Museum and held in their new conference centre. The lectures will cover a very broad range of topics from ancient history to up-to-date medical research and are aimed at a general audience. For further details and booking form contact Marliyn Moreland, School of Continuing Education,

University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT. TEL: 0113 233 3220.

#### **Annual Meeting of CHEIRON**

19-22 June 1997, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

Cheiron - The International Society for the History of Behavioural and Social Sciences gives notice of its 29th annual meeting. For further information contact John Carson, Cheiron Programme Chair, Dept of Science & Technology Studies, 632 Clark Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-2501. Tel: 607-255-6048. Fax: 607-255-6044. Email: jsc15@cornell.edu.

#### **'From Migration to Mining'**

7-11 July 1997, Northern Territory University, Australia.

This is the fifth Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine. Registration details can be obtained from Complete Conferences PO Box 40645 Casuarina NT Australia 0811 or e-mail: women@d130.aone.net.au.

#### **The Right to Health in Modern Society**

11-12 July 1997, Lady Margaret Hall, 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 on the British experience. 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.

Further details Edward Higgs, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE, email: eddy.higgs@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk, tel: 01865-74616, fax: 01865-274605.

#### **Music, Healing & Culture: Towards a Comparative Perspective**

20-21 August 1997, Royal College of Music & Warburg Institute, London.

This 2 day conference brings together scholars working on the borders between the history of medicine, literary studies, anthropology, musicology and music therapy. Its central focus is the therapeutic powers of music and how these have been used and understood at different times in both Western and non-Western cultures. The first session is part of the 16th International Congress of the International Musicology Society on "Musicology and Sister Disciplines". The 2nd session is a study day at the Warburg Institute. Speakers include Linda Austern, Leslie Bunt, Charles Burnett, Penelope Gouk, John Janzen, Michael Neve, George Rousseau, Lyn Schumaker, Henry Stobart.

For further details contact Dr Penelope Gouk, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Manchester. Tel: 0161-275-5910, fax: 0161-275-5699, email: gouk@fs4.ma.man.ac.uk.

#### **'Family' and 'Household' - Revisiting Concepts and Experience - Call for papers**

2-4 January 1998, Nottingham.

The annual conference of the Social History Society of the UK will be held at the city site of Nottingham Trent University, with accommodation in the nearby Stakis Hotel.

Offers of papers are invited from historians and others, and postgraduate students are also encouraged to submit offers of discussion papers, relating to work in progress, to be included in proposed workshop sessions. The following list of themes and topics is offered as guidance, but contributions outside these areas are welcome; there are no limits to period or place. It is also hoped that offers will be forthcoming from those seeking to challenge, as well as those seeking to explore, traditional understandings and usages of the terms 'Family' and 'Household'; drawing on theoretical concepts and on investigations of past experience, as well as on methodological issues: Kith, Kin, Clans and 'Castes' and their workings; The Economics of Families and Households; Creation of 'Family' and 'Household' culture and reputation and their wider implications; Power Structures and Procedures (including gender issues). All enquiries and offers of papers (send a 1 page summary by 16 May 1997) to Mrs Linda Persson, Admin Secretary, Social History Society of the UK, Centre for Social History, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YG. Tel: 44 (0)1524 59605. Email: L.Persson@lancaster.ac.uk.

### **OTHER NEWS**

#### **NEW Network Announcement: International Network for the History of Hospitals.**

A successful meeting of the Network's Advisory Committee was held at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London on 8 January 1997. The committee agreed to continue the drive for membership to add to the already impressive data-base of researchers in hospital history which had been compiled by the Secretariat at the European University at Florence. It was agreed that a particular aim of the Network should be to provide encouragement and support for new researchers in the field. The Advisory Committee would also make changes to its membership in order further to internationalise its activities. The committee then discussed arrangements for the first newsletter and set in process the organization of the Network's first conference to be held in 1998 or more probably 1999. A working title for the conference would be "The Hospital as Community: New Perspectives in Hospital History". Membership registration is free. Anybody interested in joining the Network should please contact the Secretariat: Hospital Project, Department of History and Civilization, Villa Schifanoia, European University Institute, Via Boccaccio 12 1-50133 Firenze, Italy. FAX: 0039-55-468-5203; email: hosproj@datacomm.IUI.It.

#### **NEW MA in Social History of Medicine.**

The Centre for Social History & Dept History, University of Warwick announce a new masters course intended for students who wish to specialize in the social history of medicine, and acquire the skills to carry out research in the field. The MA programme consists of 2 core courses (Outlines of Medical History & Texts and Contexts in the History of Medicine), one course in historical methods and an option course, drawn from a list which includes: Discourse & Practice in Ancient Medicine: Hippocrates to Galen & Beyond; Science, Medicine & Nature in the French Enlightenment; Disease, Medicine & Poverty: the Making of the English Patient in the 18th Century; Medicine & Society: the Medical Treatment of Women & Children 1870-1939; Women, Health & Literature, The Body in Feminism, Culture & Biology; The Sociology of the Health Service. The MA is taught by Dr Hilary Marland, Professor Colin Jones, Dr Joan Lane, Dr Emma Spary of the Centre for Social History and the Department of History. For further details contact Dr Hilary Marland, Centre for Social History, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, email: hilary.marland@warwick.ac.uk or R.M.Lucas@warwick.ac.uk.

#### Latest News from the ESRC Qualitative Data Archival Resource Centre: OUALIDATA

The QUALIDATA Resource Centre located in the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex has now been in existence for almost 2 years. Its aims are: locating, assessing and documenting qualitative data and arranging for their deposit in suitable public archive repositories; disseminating information about such data; and raising archival consciousness among the social science research community. Ultimately, the Centre aims to implement a policy ensuring that qualitative data produced by future ESRC and other funded projects are offered for archiving. Those applying to ESRC for research grants over the past few months will have noticed the inclusion of questions relating to plans for archiving any qualitative data they produce. Principal investigators must therefore now be extra thoughtful in their plans for "processing" materials they generate in the course of their research, for example, ensuring that interviews are fully transcribed and, that tape recordings are of good sound quality. A major function of the Centre is to maintain an information database about the extent and availability of qualitative research material in general whether deposited in public repositories or remaining with the researcher. The data we are concerned with is from the broad spectrum of social research, from academic, policy and governmental, trust and charity funded research and includes in-depth interviews, fieldnotes, anthropological materials, unstructured diaries, observational recordings, audio or video tapes, photographs and so on. The Centre has surveyed almost 1500 identifiable ESRC funded qualitative social research projects dating back to 1970, by contacting principal investigators, is tracing the data arising from classic post-war sociological studies and monitors current ESRC projects. The QUALIDATA database is available via the INTERNET address: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/qualidata>. This information is also available in hard copy.

Deposits: A number of sets of qualitative material have been deposited in repositories around the UK, and there are a further 200 projects for which data will be deposited, pending negotiation with the investigator or on completion of writing up the research. Data deposited includes: (i) Professor Paul Thompson: Interviews generated by three major studies using in-depth life-histories have been deposited with the National Sound Archive in London. Comprising nearly 2,000 tapes (750 interviews) this will make available in the country's major public sound archive all the taped interviews from the seminal projects (a) Family Life and Work Experience before 1918 (b) Middle and Upper Class Families (c) Families, Social Mobility and Ageing: an inter-generational approach. Additional studies: On the Edge of Later Life and Fishing Communities and Industry in East Anglia and N.E. Scotland are also available. All located at the National Sound Archive (NSA), British Library and at the Oral History Archive at Essex University. (ii) Professor Fred Lindop's Unofficial Union Militancy in British Docks (1981 and 1983) concerned with the ideas and activities of shop-stewards and trade union activists in the dock industry in Britain. Located at Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick. (iii) Professor Ray Pahl's Isle of Sheppey Study focusing on industry and training in the 1980's and his 1961 study of three Hertfordshire villages. (iii) Professor Robert Dingwall's Protection of Children Study concerning agency decision making in child protection in the early 1980's. The project is based on an ethnographic study of agency work using case studies, observation and interviews. Location: Wellcome Contemporary Medical Archives Centre. (iv) Paul Thompson and Professor Ray Pahl's, Families, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial values: Britain and Russia a comparative investigation of family and cultural sources of entrepreneurial values and activity in Britain and Russia. Located at the NSA, BL and The School of Eastern European and Slavonic Studies, University of Leeds.

Please see QUALIDATA's WWW site or contact the Centre for further details of deposits, including those deposited with the ESRC Data Archive.

#### The National Social Policy and Social Change Archive at Essex

The Centre has recently received a two year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to create a National Social Policy and Social Change Archive to be based at the University of Essex. The period since 1945 has certainly been the most important ever in the development of both public policy and research on almost all issues relating to the scope of social policy, structure and welfare. The following datasets have recently been acquired and are available to use at Essex. Consultation is by appointment only and anyone wishing to consult the collections should contact QUALIDATA staff. The material is paper based but it is possible to obtain scanned machine-readable copies. Copyright is retained by depositor and authorised copies are permitted.

Professor Peter Townsend's research collection. Professor Peter Townsend was Professor of Sociology at the University between 1967 and 1981 and has pioneered research on poverty in Britain. The materials included in this deposit represent his extensive work over this period. Jacqueline Burgoyne's and David Clark's interviews for the first serious study of stepfamilies in Britain. Annette Lawson's 1980's study of "Adultery: An analysis of Love and betrayal".

Forthcoming collections at Essex include: Charles Critcher's research of stress, coping and support networks in the context of pit closures and unemployment; and more. **And finally: A note to potential depositors.**

Researchers are asked to contact QUALIDATA as early as possible to discuss the archival potential of their data, preferably before any qualitative research has begun, and to consider depositing as soon as the first piece of substantive analysis has been written. The Centre organises twice-yearly workshops to provide social science researchers with a forum for advice and exchange of experience on issues relating to archiving and re-analysis of qualitative research data. These workshops are intended to encourage the re-use of existing data and to address questions associated with archiving and preserving qualitative data. QUALIDATA staff also give talks to researchers and post-graduate students and in the future will be offering advice on the use of archives in research and training. Finally, the Centre hosts open days on demand to enable researchers to visit and discuss issues in relation to archiving.

Louise Corti and Paul Thompson, QUALIDATA, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, tel 01206 873058, e-mail [cortl@essex.ac.uk](mailto:cortl@essex.ac.uk).

#### The Historical Medical Equipment Society

This new society was formed in September 1996 at a meeting of collectors and museum curators, and a steering group elected under the chairmanship of John Kirkup FRCS. The broad objectives of this new group include providing opportunities for meetings to discuss medical instruments and equipment; promoting the study of medical equipment from ancient times to the present; facilitating discussion groups; publishing a newsletter and/or journal; visits to museums and private collections. Membership is open to all and those interested should contact Dr David Warren (Secretary), 77 Carmarthen Avenue, Portsmouth PO6 2AG. Fax: 01705 201479. Email: [101767.2756@compuserve.com](mailto:101767.2756@compuserve.com).

#### Disease in history: medical profiles of illustrious persons

An exhibition on Disease in history: medical profiles of illustrious persons was on view from April to December 1995; and a 53 page illustrated catalogue of the exhibition is now available. In order to help defray production expenses, a donation of \$7.50 is suggested. Please address your request and donation to: Mrs Mary Simon, Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, 3655 Drummond Street, Montreal, Québec, H3G 1Y6, Canada.

#### **Help wanted!**

#### Missing Minutes.

The archives of Social History of Medicine are missing the following minutes of an editorial board meeting of the 21st April 1990. Does anyone have a copy of these minutes, essential to complete the journal's records. Thanks to Linda Bryder's good offices, she was able to let us have an otherwise complete set of minutes and papers relating to the early years of the journal. These will be deposited at the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre at the Wellcome Institute along with the SSHM's other archives.

Contact Paul Weindling, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE. Tel: 01865 274603. Fax: 01865 274605. Email: p.weindling@vax.ox.ac.uk.

#### British Women Humanitarians - do you know any?

Sybil Oldfield (Reader in English & Women's studies, School of Culture & Community Studies, University of Sussex, Essex House, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QQN) is looking for suggestions for a planned Biographical Dictionary of British Women Humanitarians. 1900-1950. The working definition of "Humanitarian" for this project includes (a) International rescue workers/nurses in famine or disaster areas, both in war zones and during the aftermath of war, many of whom risked their own health and lives (b) Women medical missionaries, nurses, doctors and medical researchers working to combat disease and premature mortality worldwide. Contact as above or tel: 01273 606755, fax: 01273 678644.

### CONFERENCE REPORT

History of the US Left "Revealed" at "Give 'em Health!" Conference,

17 November 1996, Institute of Social Medicine and Community Health, Philadelphia, USA.

Over 125 Radical Historians and health activists met in New York City, to launch a network of those working on or interested in the history of the US health left, to identify and prioritize relevant topics for scholarly research, and to brainstorm how to make this history more useful to contemporary health activism. The conference was sponsored by the Philadelphia-based Institute of Social Medicine and Community Health (ISMCH) and nine other organizations. The morning explored the intersection of health left history and labour studies, women's studies, African-American Studies and socialist/communist studies. The afternoon explored the connections between the scholarship discussed in the morning and the experience of participants in various kinds of health activism. At a final session, five radical historians and health activists highlighted lessons of US health left history and tasks which would help realize the conference goals. The conference participants expressed their enthusiasm for subsequent conferences focused on single health left history topics, for a statement on research needs and for a directory of those engaged in relevant scholarly work. To obtain a conference report and information on its follow-up contact the ISMCH at 206N 35th Street Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA. Tel/fax: 215-386-5327.