



Society for the social history of medicine

Gazette

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NEWS

Studies in the Social History of Medicine



The first two volumes in the Society's monograph series are due to be published in November 1991 by Routledge. The titles are: Jonathan Barry and Colin Jones eds, Medicine and Charity before the Welfare State, and Margaret Pelling and Richard Smith eds, Life, Death and the Elderly: Historical Perspectives. A volume edited by Roger Cooter on Child Health is in press and will appear next year. Margaret Pelling, the Series Editor, and the volume editors have worked extremely hard to bring this initiative to fruition. The three volumes with to date all derive from Society conferences, but the Series Editor would welcome ideas for other volumes.

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.

COMMUNITIES, "CARING" AND INSTITUTIONS

Much recent debate surrounding policy initiatives which have promoted community care rather than residential care for a range of disabled, infirm and elderly persons has been undertaken within a time-frame that rarely extends back before World War II. The Society's Annual Conference in the summer of 1992 will explore the extent to which current concerns are in any sense novel by focussing on longer-term perspectives to do with the distinction between 'formal' and 'informal' care, changing levels of, and the ideologies underpinning, familial and non-familial care, and in particular, the gender dimension within the historical record relating to the locus of caring. Conference sessions will include the following: community as a sociological and historical concept; formal, informal, familial and non-familial support in European societies before 1800; families, communities and institutionalisation in nineteenth century Europe with particular reference to the work of Andrew Scull; families, communities and institutionalisation in early twentieth century Europe; Community care and welfare states since 1945; welfare and family care in developing societies since World War II; gender and the historian's approach to the community-institutional care debate. Those interested in offering papers for this meeting should contact: Richard Smith, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Paul Weindling has been appointed as one of the editors of Social History of Medicine. It is hoped to appoint the second new editor in the near future and until an appointment is made Richard Smith will be continuing as editor. Roger Cooter has resigned as Book Reviews Editor following an Editorial Board decision not to publish in its present form a controversial essay review on contract history previously accepted for publication. Mary Fissell, the Society's Honorary Secretary, and Bill Luckin have left the Executive Committee over the same issue. Roger has played a central role in the development of the journal in what is probably the most onerous editorial role. Roger's enthusiasm and vision has ensured that such a wide range of material has been covered by a commendably wide range of reviewers; he will be a difficult act to follow. So too will be Mary who has been Secretary for over four years and has played a very active role in the Society's activities at every level. We thank them both for their efforts on behalf of the Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SHELL SHOCK

The President, Paul Slack, gave his Address at the Summer meeting in July so there is a different attraction at the AGM on 6 December 1991 at the Institute for Historical Research, London. The meeting will be preceded by a showing of a contemporary film record of 'shell shock' and its treatment in two British military hospitals (War Neuroses: Netley and Seal

Hayne Military Hospitals, 1917-18). Dr Michael Clark will introduce the film with a lecture on 'Class, Gender and Nervous Shock: Shell shock, traumatic neurasthenia and British psychological medicine, c 1900-1925'. The film and lecture begin at 5.30 pm, the AGM follows at 6.30 pm.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN 1992

The Executive Committee is recommending that the subscription for 1992 should be £18. This rise of £2 is primarily due to increase in costs of production and circulation of the journal which are beyond our control and also reflects wider inflationary pressures. The Society itself still only takes £2 per annum per member to support all other activities. The Executive Committee regrets any increase, but is confident that the journal and other Society activities is gives excellent value for money.

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New perspectives on the social history of mental health

Admissions to the asylum were frequently due to the influence of Justices of the Peace. These people may not have been mad but were alcoholics, criminals and merely a menace to society.

William Tuke ... was the quacker who started the York Retreat.

The ideas of Tuke were espoused in the newly constructed public houses after 1808....

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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.

Autumn Conference 1991

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.

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

Spring Conference 1992

Joint SSHM-British Society for the History of Science
Popular Science and Medicine since 1700

28 March 1992, Manchester

Themes will include: processes of popularisation; the construction of popular discourses; the role of publishing. Details from: Dr S Pumphrey, Department of History, University of Lancaster, Bailrigg, Lancaster, or Dr S Sturdy, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Maths Tower, University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL.

Summer Conference 1992

Communities, "Caring" and Institutions

3-5 July 1992, St Edmund Hall and All Souls College, Oxford.

Details from: Richard Smith, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE. Offers of papers welcome.

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Other Meetings

Health and Society in Merseyside

6 November 1991, Department of Geography, University of Liverpool

Details from: Sally Sheard, Department of Geography, Roxby Building, PO Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3BX. Offers of papers are still welcome.

American Association for the History of Medicine: Annual Meeting

30 April- 2 May 1992, Seattle, Washington.

Any person interested in presenting a paper at this meeting is invited to submit an abstract (one original and six copies) to Dr Steven J Peitzman, Medical College of Pennsylvania, 3300 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19129

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London
Symposia 1991-2

27 September 1991, Doctors, Politics and Society

10 January 1992, History of Medical Education in Britain, 1200-1800

10-11 April 1992, J.B.S. Haldane - Centenary Conference

24 April 1992, History of Medical Education in Britain, 1800- the present.

4 July 1992, History of Microcirculation

Recent Historical Perspectives on Tropical and Colonial Medicine

September 1992, Francis C Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, College of Physicians, Philadelphia.

Details from: Dr Warwick Anderson or Dr Caroline Hannaway, Francis C Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, College of Physicians of Philadelphia. 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Nursing, women's history and the politics of the welfare
21-24 July 1993, Florence Nightingale Hall, University of Nottingham.

Details from: Anne-Marie Rafferty, Department of Nursing Studies, Faculty of Medicine, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2UH

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

The development of Geriatrics as a Medical Specialty in Britain

Provision of consultant posts in geriatric medicine began in Britain in the 1950s. It proceeded unevenly, much appeared to depend on the strength of the initiatives taken by the converts among general physicians in the different regions to convince their peers and win the support of others. Besides examining documentary sources, the work involves interviewing some of the survivors who were prominent in the promotion of a speciality as well as some who opposed it on various grounds. The research is intended to throw light on the factors involved in structural developments in the medical profession and health services. One concern is the extent to which the perception of the need for change was led by the demographic shift in the age of the population, by altering patterns of health and disease, by new medical knowledge and related technologies, and by intra- and inter- professional competition to possess an expanding field which nevertheless had unattractive features. The project is supported until April 1992 by The Wellcome Trust. The National Life Story Collection of the British Sound Archive will ultimately hold the recorded interviews.

Margot Jeffrys, 32 Bisham Gardens, London, N6 6DD

The development of Sick Children's Nursing, 1919-1939

This research, which is towards a higher degree at the University of Bath, is a critical examination of the recruitment, training and post-registration careers and opportunities of sick children's nurses in selected children's hospitals during the inter-war years. When completed the study will add to the debate on child protection and increase our knowledge of the nurses' view of sick children and the meaning of childhood.

Michael Arton, 122 Sunningfields Road, London, NW4 4RE

The social and administrative response to venereal disease in twentieth century Scotland

This project seeks to explore the social politics surrounding the regulation of venereal disease in Scotland during the period 1914-1960. Currently the focus of research is on the campaign for notification and compulsory treatment in the

1920s, culminating in the Edinburgh Corporation Bill of 1928. The study examines the interplay between the various interest groups in Scottish health politics, including the medical profession, public health administrators, local authorities, and women's organizations, and charts the cause and course of tensions between Scottish and English strategies towards venereal disease. Perceptions of venereal disease held by the Scottish Board/Department of Health and local Public Health Departments will be used to locate the social construction of the disease within twentieth century Scottish bureaucracy. Roger Davidson, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Edinburgh, 55 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9JY

QUERIES, REQUESTS AND INFORMATION

Dissappointingly nothing came in for this section. It still seems a good idea to me, so I will hold it open for at least one more issue.

CONFERENCE REPORT

HEALTH CARE RECORDS: SELECTION, PRESERVATION AND USE

SSHM Spring Conference held in London on 13 April 1991

Recently, the Victoria and Albert Museum advertised itself as a cafeteria with a decent museum attached. By a similar logic, perhaps the SSHM one-day conference on "Health Care Records: Selection, Preservation and Use" might have listed its agenda as a sandwich lunch with the added attraction of an interesting topic, some good papers and thoughtful discussion.

The 'body count' certainly showed that the subject is one of topical interest: no less than 60 participants attended. Archivists were in the majority, and most of the papers presented originated from the archival side; but historians were a substantial minority, constituting around a third of those present; while the potential for discussion was widened by the presence of a few Health Authority professionals. It was a useful mix, since discussion revealed that each of the three aspects of health care records which the conference title identified - selection, preservation and use - tends to be the province of a different group. Each has its own distinct professional agenda.

Sir Christopher Booth, in his opening remarks, pointed to a theme subsequently taken up from several perspectives. This was the problem of access to records held by government departments and Health Authorities, classified by these authorities as confidential and closed to historians for 30, or in some cases 100, years. Subsequent discussion during the day brought out a related issue of very great importance: that contemporary material, largely created by Health Authorities, is in serious danger of being destroyed or overlooked in the selection and formation of archives. Moreover, the wisdom of

recent official guidance on the destruction of various classes of material was questioned, and anxiety expressed that sources valuable to future historians, such as those relating to litigation, are being lost.

Alfred Knightbridge, Liaison Officer at the Public Record Office, reminded (or in some cases informed) listeners of the broad framework of current legal provisions regarding Health Service records. In a useful survey, he pointed out that Health Authority records were public records, and that Health Authorities were required to appoint an officer to select, preserve and maintain records. Nevertheless, one fact which participants took to, or away from, the conference was that survival of these records is often somewhat haphazard.

Not only do Health Authorities in many cases determine questions of confidentiality and access to records. They also play an important part in the second stage of the formation of health care archives. Papers by Dorothy Johnston and John Evans, as well as comments following the papers, and informal discussion during breaks, made it clear that, notwithstanding legal provisions regarding public records, the satisfactory transition of Health Authority documents to archives essentially depends on close working relationships between relevant Health Authority officers and archivists. These are made difficult by frequent changes of personnel which the apparently continuous revolution in health service administration has engendered, and by differences in perception about what archives are. Health Authorities are not primarily interested in ensuring that they leave adequate and informative historical records. Understandably, they are far more concerned with freeing the space which frequently bulky records occupy for other uses, and archivists often find that the material which they are offered has in fact already been through a process of 'selection' and unrecorded destruction.

Archivists inevitably face precisely the same problem of finite resources in deciding which records should be preserved, and rigorous selection is necessary. For example, medical records are frequently too bulky to be considered. The prolonged period of confidentiality to which they are subject also militates against their acceptance in archives - if they survive to be considered. A stimulating presentation by Julian Tudor-Hart was timely in reminding listeners that the physical format of medical records, and conditions in which they are created, is basic to their chance of survival as well as their interpretation. But what is, and what should be, selected for long-term preservation? Since it is archivists who largely make these decisions, sometimes under conditions of considerable pressure, the issue turns on what they perceive their role to be. Participants gathered from Katherine Webb's paper that archivists are anxious not to be considered as second-rate historians, and that this is increasingly a matter of professional discussion. Archivists stressed that they were concerned to preserve a range of relevant material, rather than edited highlights, such as the first time an event happened in a hospital.

However, there was some concern on the part of the user group represented - historians - about relevance criteria. The author presented a paper which raised these questions. Did archivists classify as irrelevant material which was of some interest to the historian? Was the significance of material lost when the context in which it was found destroyed; should this be recorded with some precision, in a way analogous to archaeologists? The technology which might achieve this was demonstrated by Janet Foster, who gave hands-on access to the Wellcome Institute database on medical archives and manuscripts, and an explanation of how it worked, to an interested group during the lunch break.

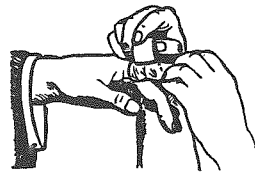
The conference started by being able to name, metaphorically, the guilty men: a lack of resources devoted to the identification and maintenance of health care record deposits. It demonstrated that diverse groups are concerned with health care records, and that their purposes are not identical, even when they come together to create and use archives. It ended by suggesting that more space and money would resolve only some of the difficulties in the selection, preservation and use of records. This, ultimately, was its most valuable contribution.

Gillian Cronje
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

The Society would like to thank Cathy Crawford, Lara Marks and Janet Foster for organizing such a successful event.

Executive Committee 1990-91

John Woodward (Chair), Department of History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN
Paul Slack (President)
Jonathan Barry (Treasurer)
Catherine Crawford (Publicity)
Bernard Harris
John Henderson (Programme)
Gerry Kearns
Lara Marks
Margaret Pelling (Publications)
Richard Smith (Journal Editor)
Michael Worboys (Gazette)



**KEEP ZAM-BUK
ALWAYS HANDY.**

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. General enquiries about the Society should be sent to the Chair at the address above.

BUSINESS SUPPLEMENT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.30pm 6 December 1991

Institute of Historical Research, University of London

PLEASE NOTE THE AGM WILL BE PRECEDED AT 5.30 pm AT THE SAME

VENUE BY A LECTURE AND FILM ON 'SHELLSHOCK'

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (see overleaf)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Annual Report
5. Treasurer's Report and determination of the Annual Subscription.
6. Election of auditors
7. Report of elections to the Executive Committee
8. Report of the Editorial Board
9. Amendments to the Constitution (see below)
10. Additional reports
11. Any other business

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Executive Committee wishes to recommend an amendment to the Constitution. Attendance at the AGM held in December each year has been disappointing and, thus, it recommended that the AGM, together with the Presidential Address, be moved to the Annual Conference following the end of the calendar year. This would allow more members to participate in the decision making of the Society and allow more 'feedback' from members.

To effect this change the following will be proposed, that paragraph 9(1) be amended to read:

'The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the Annual Conference following the end of the calendar year.'

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE, HELD ON FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 1990 AT THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH, LONDON.

Present: John Woodward (Chair of Executive Committee), Sir Christopher Booth (President) and over two dozen members.

The members were welcomed by the Chair.

Apologies were received from W Johnson, J Loudon and J Lewis.

1. THE MINUTES of the previous meeting, held on 1 December 1989, having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The auditors for 1990 are Gerry Kearns and Adrian Allen.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

John Woodward presented the Annual Report. He noted the Committee had reorganized its subcommittees, rationalizing the overlap among Programmes, Publicity and Membership by amalgamating them. This committee, convened by John Henderson, has presented a very successful series of programmes in the past year. A day conference on the influence of Michel Foucault drew one of the largest audiences ever at a Society one day meeting. Michael Worboys has been organizing a new regional seminar series in Yorkshire and the east Midlands.

The Society's series with Routledge has seen its first two volumes submitted for publication and a third volume is being refereed.

The Society's journal continues to thrive, attracting high quality articles and an international audience. The Chair thanked the Editors for their work on the Journal. The subscription rate for membership and the Journal had been kept constant for the first three years, but it was now regretted that an increase had to be sought.

The Chair expressed his gratitude to the three retiring member of the Committee - Gillian Clark, Robert Woods and Roger Cooter, and thanked the Committee for their work during the past year.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer Jonathan Barry had presented his accounts saying that the Society was in good financial health. However, he cautioned the Society against any excess expenditure. He thanked conference organisers for their efforts to make conferences self-supporting. The Society should be able to meet its administrative costs with the current £2 share of the membership fee. The Treasurer was thanked by the Chair.

5. ELECTION OF AUDITORS FOR 1990

The auditors remain to be elected.

6. DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Executive Committee recommended that the following membership costs be approved: £16 for U.K. and E.C. members; \$28 for overseas members. This was proposed and seconded by Ben Davis and Richard Smith, and approved by acclamation.

7. REPORT OF ELECTION

Lara Marks and Gerry Kearns were elected to the two vacancies on the Executive Committee.

8. REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The Editors responded to questions after Richard Smith noted the current circulation figures. As of the 30 November 1990, there were 517 members and 235 institutional subscriptions. This represented the biggest growth rate since the Journal's inception. The chair thanked the Editors and the Editorial Board for all their work on the Journal.

9. ADDITIONAL REPORTS

Three amendments to the Constitution were recommended by the Executive Committee for the better organisation of the Journal.

1. Section 5 item ii (c) 'an Editor of the Journal ex officio.'
Proposer: Ben Davis; Seconder: Margaret Pelling - CARRIED.

2. Section 7, item iii (c) 'at least two Joint Editors and a Reviews Editor.'
item v 'The Editors shall be elected by the Executive Committee.'
item viii 'The Editorial Board shall meet at least once a year.'
Proposer: John Henderson; Seconder: Margaret Pelling - CARRIED.

3. Section 9 item iii (b) 'The reception of the Treasurer's Report and the Annual Subscriptions.' delete item iii (g).
Proposer: Ben Davis; Seconder Richard Smith - CARRIED.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

John Woodward, May 1991

The meeting was preceded by the Presidential Address by Sir Christopher Booth.

NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nominations are invited from members of the Society for five vacancies on the Executive Committee to serve from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1994. Candidates must have been members of the Society for at least one year. Each nomination should include the name and signatures of the proposer, seconder, and the nominee. A form is provided overleaf. All must be members of the Society. The candidate is requested to supply a concise biography of up to 100 words with their nomination. Ballots will be sent to all members in October.

Nominations should be sent to Dr J.H. Woodward, Department of History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN and must be received by 30 September 1991.

Nominee (please print)
Signature of nominee
Proposer (please print)
Signature of proposer
Secunder (please print)
Signature of secunder

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