



Gazette

NEWS

SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

All those associated with the journal would like to apologise for the late circulation of the last issue of SHM (Vol 5/2). This delay was due to the theft of computer equipment from our printers. Unfortunately it was not possible to give subscribers any advance warning of the delay, or to carry an apology in the journal or accompanying Gazette.

You will also have noted in the subscription renewal invoice that you have received recently, that SSHM membership (with the journal) in 1993 will be £21.00 in the UK and Europe and \$37.00 in the rest of the world. This increase was explained by the Chair in the last issue of the Gazette and should be seen in the context of an artificial rate of £16 in 1992, when OUP failed to implement an agreed rise to £18. Also, we hope members will appreciate that the subscription rate had increased relatively little since the inception of SHM in 1988 and that even the new rate is low compared to other journals in the history of medicine. Where else can you buy 550 pages of academic material for such a price?

This Gazette accompanies the last issue of the journal to be edited by Richard Smith. Richard was a founder editor and over the last five years has been the key figure in the establishment and maintenance of the journal's high academic standards and reputation. On behalf of the Society and the

All correspondence about the content and circulation of the Gazette should be sent to the editor, Michael Worboys, History, Sheffield Hallam University, Psalter Lane, Sheffield, S11 8UZ, Great Britain. Tel. 0742 532686/5 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.

readership of SHM, may I offer our appreciation and thanks for his work, especially in recent months when he has borne the editorship single-handed. We are also losing Richard from the Executive Committee, where he been a very active member.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Seven nominations have been received for the five vacancies on the Executive Committee, so for the first time in three years a ballot is to held. The ballot paper and brief biographical details of the candidates are enclosed as a centrefold in this issue. Voting papers have to be returned to the Hon. Secretary by 30 January 1993.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

This Museum, which opened in 1989, has recently started a Newsletter which contains details of their lunch-time lecture series and other activities. The Museum 'illustrates the history of Florence Nightingale and her enormous impact on health care'. Opening times are 10.00-16.00, Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays. Admission: £2.50 adults and £1.50 children, OAPs and students. The Museum is located at St Thomas's Hospital, near Westminster Bridge. Further details of the Museum and Newsletter can be obtained from: Kate Pinsley, Curator, Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EW.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH

The European Association for the History of Medicine and Health (EAHMH), formed just over one year ago, is flourishing and already has over one hundred and thirty members. The planning of the first Congress, to be held in early September 1993 in Göttingen, is well in hand. The general theme is 'Coping with Sickness: Science, Culture, Professions and the State'. Of particular interest is the invitation to younger researchers to submit a 'poster' (i.e. a presentation in the form of a résumé which can be displayed) on any of the four sub-themes. Abstracts of 'posters', no longer than two-double A4 pages, should be sent to the Secretary of EAHMH, no later than 15 January 1993. The final selection of poster contributions will be made by the members of the Scientific Board and successful contributors will be invited to the first Congress. The researcher with the best poster will be awarded a certificate and a prize of 500FF for the purchase of books.

The second major area of activity for the Scientific Board has been the support for a number of proposed networks: 1) public health (convener: Prof. Jan Sundin, Linköping), 2) malaria (convener: Prof. Bernardino Fantini, Geneva), 3) international sanitary cooperation (convener: Prof. Bernardino Fantini, Geneva), 4) homoeopathy (convener: Prof. Robert Jütte, Stuttgart) and 5) physiology (convener: Prof. Claude Denru, Strasbourg). The aim of the networks is to develop research and promote cooperation. Information about all of these activities can be obtained from: Dr John Woodward, Chair, Scientific Board, EAHMH, Department of History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, or Prof. Claude Debru, Secretary, EAHMH, Centre Européen d'Histoire de la Médecine, Université Louis Pasteur, Faculté de Médecine, 4 rue Kirschleger, F-60785 Strasbourg Cedex, France.

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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. Notices of conferences and other events 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.

Spring Conference 1993

History of Nutrition in Twentieth Century Britain

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Friday and Saturday, 2-3 April 1993. Please note the dates given in the last issue were wrong.

Speakers include: Margaret Barnett, Mark Weatherall, Sally Horrocks, Nancy Blakstad, Robert Bud, David Smith, Tim Boon, Susan Williams, Francis McKee, George Davey-Smith, Charles Webster, Tim Lang, Roger Whitbread.

A flyer for this meeting is included with this mailing of the journal. If you return the slip or ring the number given, you will receive full details and an application form.

Further information from: Dr David Smith, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 5 University Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

Annual Summer Conference 1993

Computers and the Social History of Medicine

9-11 July 1993, University of Southampton, Southampton.

Offers of papers, software and workshop sessions welcome.

Contact: Dr Bernard Harris, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton, SO9 5NH.

Meg Arnot

Meg Arnot graduated B.A (Hons) 1984 and M.A 1987 from the University of Melbourne. She had a Commonwealth Scholarship for the first three years of her PhD at the University of Essex. Since then she has been a full-time lecturer in history at Roehampton Institute while completing the thesis. Her PhD on infanticide in nineteenth century England has taken her deep into the field of medical history. Those areas directly relevant to her current work include medical jurisprudence; medical reform activities; conceptions of infant life and the maternal body; and embryology. Her next major research project will be a study of the development of the science and medical practice of immunology and allergology, c. 1850-present.

Tim Boon

Tim Boon studied history of science at Leeds University, 1979-82 and history of medicine at the Wellcome Institute, London, 1984-86. He is currently engaged in a part-time PhD on documentary film and public health in the 1930s and 1940s. He has been a member of the Science Museum staff since 1985. He is now a curator of public health in the collections division at the Science Museum. He has been a member of the SSHM for over three years and have spoken at two conferences.

Anne Borsay

Anne Borsay is a relative newcomer to medical history, having spent more than a decade as a social scientist researching contemporary community care for people with physical and mental disabilities. Following redeployment in 1988, she began to develop a longstanding interest in the history of social policy and she is currently working on the eighteenth century voluntary hospital, with particular reference to the Bath General Infirmary c.1739-1830. Between 1987 and 1990, she served on the National Executive Committee of the British Society of Gerontology and edited its bulletin, Generations. She has recently been appointed an Executive Editor of the journal, Disability, Handicap and Society.

Kelly Louchlin

Since graduating from Aberdeen in 1990 with an M.A. in Cultural History, Kelly has been engaged in post-graduate work at the University of Essex. Her area of research concerns the relations between gender and schizophrenia in British psychiatry c.1890-1930. Kelly's work seeks to explore concepts of masculinity in relation to the formation of disease concepts and has involved a detailed examination of the changing nature of psychiatric practice and professional identity. She feels a strong commitment to interdisciplinary work and since 1991 she has organised the

ADVANCE NOTICES

Spring Conference 1994

The Body and Beyond
April 1994, London.

Further details from: Dr Dorothy Porter, History, Birkbeck College, London.

Summer Conference 1994

Family and Medicine
July 1994

Further details from: Dr Jonathan Barry, History, Queen's Building, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4QH.

Other Meetings

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine
Symposia on the History of Medicine, 1993

- 15 January 1993 Medicine and Architecture
- 19 February 1993 Medical Radicals
- 3 March 1993 The Health of Prisoners
- 25-26 March 1993 Medicine and Empire
- 20-22 May 1993 Contagion: Perspectives from Pre-Modern Societies

Details from: The Secretary, Academic Unit, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE

Nottingham School of Public Health
Continuity and Change in Public Health

Postgraduate Centre, City Hospital, Nottingham, 29 January 1993.

Speakers include: Charles Webster, Dorothy Porter, David Armstrong, Ben Mephram, Anne McClelland, Helen Meller.

Details from: Anne Marie Rafferty, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, NG7 2UH

American Association for the History of Medicine

Annual Meeting

Louisville, Kentucky, 13-16 May 1993.

Further details from: Professor Nancy J. Tomes, Dept. of History, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-4348, USA.

Imperial War Museum

Wartime Food Films

Imperial War Museum, London, 19 June 1993.

Speakers include: Kay Gladstone, David Smith, Ina Zweinger-Bargelowska and Tim Boon.

Details from: Kay Gladstone, Imperial War Museum, London, SE1 or telephone 071 416 5289.

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

POSTAL BALLOT

Seven nominations have been received for the five places on the Executive Committee.

Your may vote for not more than 5 candidates. Please put a cross in appropriate boxes on the voting slip below. Voting papers should be posted to the Hon. Secretary in a sealed envelope, to arrive not later than January 30th 1993. Please sign the back of envelope and print your name.

The results will be published in the Spring issue of the Gazette.

Send voting papers to: Lara Marks
 Geography Department,
 Queen Mary and Westfield College,
 Mile End Road,
 London, E1 4NS

Brief biographies of the candidates are given overleaf.

Candidate	Proposer	Seconder	Vote
Meg Arnot	Ludmilla Jordanova	Cathy Crawford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tim Boon	David Smith	Michael Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anne Borsay	Jonathan Barry	Colin Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kelly Lochlin	Cathy Crawford	Ann Daly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anne-Marie Rafferty	Lara Marks	Margaret Pelling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mathew Thomson	Paul Weindling	Michael Worboys	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Wright	Anne Digby	Richard Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nursing, women's history and the politics of welfare
East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham,
England, 21-24 July 1993.
Further details from Sarah Smith, Conference Secretary,
Department of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, University of
Nottingham, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham
NG7 2UH.

European Association for the History of Psychiatry
Triennial Meeting
Metropole Hotel, London, August 1993.
Details from: Roy Porter, Wellcome Institute for the History
of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.

University of Amsterdam
Healing, magic and belief in Europe, 15th-20th Centuries: New
Perspectives
University of Amsterdam, 21-25 September 1994
Call for papers and details from Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra,
Department of History, University of Amsterdam, Spuistraat
134, 1012 VB Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

SSHM Autumn Conference
"From 'Idiocy' to 'Mental Deficiency': Historical Perspectives
on People with Learning Disabilities"
17 October 1992, Institute of Historical Research, London.

The Society held its annual autumn day conference at the
Institute of Historical Research (IHR) on Saturday, 17th of
October. The conference sought to explore a wide range of
issues relating to the history of 'idiocy' (in
contradistinction to the history of 'madness'). Thus it was
extremely helpful to have Peter Rushton begin the day by
examining the medieval and early modern distinction between
those who were fools a nativitate (idiots) and those who lost
their reason and became *non compos mentis* (lunatics). Using
petitions to quarter sessions by poor families who were
seeking aid in handling or caring for 'idiot' children or
relatives, Rushton emphasized the 'extraordinary uniformity'
in the process of the identification of 'idiocy' (which
involved questions of economic sufficiency, speech and basic
knowledge), the continuity of labels (the innocent child and
idiot child) and the responses by communities to the problem
of mental disability in the early modern period.

Familial concerns over deficits of speech, social skills and
economic self-sufficiency of relatives were also prevalent in
the labelling and classification of 'idiocy' in Victorian
England, as detailed in David Wright's paper. Here, two-
hundred Certificates of Insanity were used as sources for
attitudes towards 'idiocy' during the process of certification
(a legal requirement for admission to an asylum after 1845).
However, unlike in the early modern period, the labelling of
idiocy through certification in the Victorian period was

interdisciplinary seminars at Essex. Other interests include the history of photography and legal history.

Anne-Marie Rafferty

Anne-Marie Rafferty graduated from Edinburgh University with an integrated degree (B.Sc) in Nursing Studies in 1982. While working as a staff nurse on vascular and gastro-intestinal surgical wards between 1982-85, she completed an MPhil thesis at the Queen's Medical Centre, University of Nottingham on 'Backpain in Hospital In-Patients'. The research won joint first-prize in the 3M/Nursing Times, National Nursing Awards in 1987. In 1992 she completed a DPhil on 'The Politics of Nurse Education' at the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford. While in Oxford Anne-Marie also taught Diploma Nursing students and Open University students, and worked as a nurse teacher. Since 1991 she has been a full-time lecturer in the Department of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, University of Nottingham. She has also recently completed a study of nursing leadership for the King's Fund Centre for Health Services Development in London, and continues to collaborate with a team of historians working on the centennial history of the International Council of Nurses.

Mathew Thomson

Mathew Thomson's first degree was BA (Hons) in Medieval and Modern History (First-Class), University College, London University. Between 1988-1992 he studied at Linacre College and the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine in Oxford, funded by the ESRC for three years and a Wellcome Research Scholarship from 1991-2. In 1992 Mathew completed his DPhil thesis on 'The Problem of Mental Deficiency in England and Wales, c. 1913-1946'. He was awarded a British Academy Post-doctoral Fellowship based at the Wellcome Unit, Oxford for 1992-5 to study mental hygiene in Europe and the United States, c. 1900-50. Mathew also currently teaches the History of Social Policy at Royal Holloway College, London University, and European and British History in Oxford. He has also presented a number of papers at recent SSHM conferences. His forthcoming publications include journal articles and reviews.

David Wright

David Wright received his BA and MA from McGill University, Montreal. Currently he is reading for a DPhil at Oxford University. For the last eight summers he has worked as a research assistant in the Children's Psychiatric Research Institute, London, Canada, on various projects involving developmentally handicapped adolescents. His thesis work centres on National Asylum for Idiots, Earlwood from 1847 to 1891. Since November 1992 he has been a co-opted member of the Executive Committee of the SSHM and organised the successful SSHM conference on 'Mental Deficiency' in October 1992.

inextricably linked with the rising medical profession, and later, with norms of academic achievement which were not dominant in the pre- and early-industrial societies.

In contrast to the previous two papers, which dealt with, respectively, petitions under the poor law and families of the lower middle class, Hilary Dickinson discussed the social identification of 'idiocy' with reference to a boy of the local aristocracy - that of Augustus Lamb, the son of the second Viscount Melbourne. Through private letters and doctors notes, Dickinson presented a rare insight into the familial ties of parent and child in the context of an early nineteenth-century aristocratic family, including failed attempts at tutoring and a variety of medical treatments. Rather than an outcast member of the family hidden away in the confines of a large estate, Dickinson stressed the strong family ties and the attempts to keep 'Augustus' a part of his local elite.

David Gladstone commenced the afternoon session with a paper on the Western Counties Asylum for Idiots, Starcross, and, in doing so, bridged the Victorian and inter-war periods. His paper reminded us of the importance of voluntary (charitable) hospitals in the recognition, identification and changing attitudes towards those labelled as 'idiot' and 'imbecile' and he underlined the changes the asylum underwent as it evolved from a philanthropic asylum to one which, because of financial reasons, took increasing numbers of rate-aided clients. Lastly, Gladstone emphasized the important role of the local community in the founding, staffing and applications to the charitable institution.

Mathew Thomson finished the day's papers with a discussion on 'mental deficiency' in the inter-war period. Detailing the importance of the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913, he argued that the history of mental deficiency in the twentieth century has tended to ebb and flow with the wider historical debate over the eugenics movement and the debate over voluntary sterilization in the 1930s. Consequently, we know very little about the workings of the Act and its impact in social terms. Thomson argued that the Act, if seen within the wider context of the 'specialisation' of the burgeoning welfare system and the interrelation of medical, educational and social security sectors, cannot be said to be a categorical failure. Rather, if seen in terms of the number of 'mental defectives' under local control it was a modest 'success'. Ironically, whilst the Board of Control, with its eugenic-inspired origins, has had a bad press, Thomson made a persuasive argument that, with all its faults, the Board of Control (and the parallel voluntary bodies) were at least a distinct voice for the cause of mental deficiency, while, under the National Health Service, the separate cause of mental deficiency was lost in the wider concerns of universal medicare.

Anne Digby chaired the final 'round-table' discussion and managed to channel disparate themes into a spirited interchange of ideas between the floor and speakers on a few key issues - namely, the importance of gender in the

construction of mental deficiency, the origins and consequences of labelling, and the current policy of de-institutionalisation. Of these, the participants seemed most interested in the role of lay and professional bodies in negotiating the meaning of disability. Indeed, one participant questioned the ability of writing a 'history of idiocy' at all, due to the problematic nature of the 'condition' and the changing nomenclature which seems, rather than settled, to have become increasingly fragmented and complex.

While the number of topics capable of being discussed in a day conference was necessarily limited, all participants and the audience seemed genuinely enthusiastic about the discussion and about the prospect of continued, informal correspondence. There also seemed wide support for some sort of publication deriving from the days proceedings. Many thanks to Anne Digby for her help in organising the conference, Lara Marks, Margaret Pelling and Richard Smith for chairing the sections, David Smith for manning the reception desk, Vanessa King and Bridget Taylor of the IHR for a wonderful catering job, and the other members of the SSHM Executive for their support in the day's proceedings.

David Wright, Linacre College, Oxford

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 1992 is £16 (UK and Europe) and \$28 elsewhere. In 1993 it will be £21 (UK and Europe) and \$44 elsewhere. Details of membership and of the Society's activities are available from the Hon. Secretary.

Executive Committee 1992

John Woodward (Chair), Department of History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN
Lara Marks (Honorary Secretary), Department of Geography, Queen Mary and Westfield College, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS
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