



Society for the social history of medicine

Gazette

Number 8

August 1993

ISSN 0962-7839

NEWS

ESSAY PRIZE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW RESEARCHERS

The Executive Committee (EC) has established an annual essay competition for students and new researchers, with a prize of £100 for the winner and publication of the essay in Social History of Medicine. Full details of the competition are given on page 8. The first competition will be for 1993 and entries must be submitted by the end of this year. Entries are invited from members of the SSHM who are students (full and part-time undergraduates and postgraduates), or are new researchers who have not published in a refereed journal prior to the closing date for entries. It is hoped that this scheme will encourage new work by new scholars in the social history of medicine and stimulate interest in the Society. Further to this end the EC is pleased to announce that from 1994 a new reduced subscription rate for students will be introduced. Membership and receipt of SHM will be available to all undergraduates and post-graduate students in Britain and overseas at the following rates: £16 (UK and Europe) and \$30.00 (US and elsewhere). Details of other subscription changes for 1994 are given on page 2. Other new activities being planned by the EC include the production of a Membership Information List which will provide a listing of members and their interests and the appointment of an International Liaison Officer to look after our growing international membership.

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.

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR 1994

The recent AGM confirmed the following subscription rates for 1994. Membership and receipt of SHM: £24 (UK and Europe) and \$43 (USA and rest of world). This further increase in subscription levels should be the final step in putting the Society and the journal on a more secure and stable financial footing. It completes a process begun in 1992 of trying to offset deficits, covering true editorial costs and fully meeting the of running costs of the Society. In 1993 the projected rate of increase was reduced by the Society itself only taking £1 per member in subscription instead of £2 as previously (i.e. £1 SSHM and £20 journal = £21). However, having used reserves to support activities in the current year, in 1994 it is projected that full running costs will be covered by an SSHM component of £2.50. With £21.50 for the journal this gives the overall total of £24. The subscription for non-Society members and institutions in 1994 will be: £48 (UK and Europe) and \$90.00 (US and elsewhere).

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The ROCKEFELLER ARCHIVE CENTER, a division of The Rockefeller University, invites applications for its programme of Grants and Travel for Research at the Center for 1994. Deadline is 31 December 1993.

Further details from: Darwin H Stapleton, Rockefeller Archive Center, 15 Dayton Avenue, North Tarrytown, New York 10591-1598, USA.

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HISTORY OF THE SALTER'S COMPANY

Information and sources (primary or secondary) on the role of salt in medicine and pharmacy from the Middle Ages are sought for a 600th anniversary volume on the Salter's Company. Also, any details of 'famous' students who received Salter's Company Scholarships would welcomed. Contact: Hugh Barty-King, Holgate House, Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex, TN5 7AA

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New Perspectives on the Social History of Medicine

Moral treatment still insisted on the use of fear, but only in small doses.

[Bedside medicine] relied on the patient-doctor relationship. This was popular because it was not painful.

The medical profession..... came up with the 'uterus v brain' argument, a woman could have one or other but not both.

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 1994

The Body and Beyond

16 April 1994, Birkbeck College, London.

Speakers include: Helen King, Richard Evans, Theo van der Meer, Angus McLaren, Frank Dikötter, and Susan Squier.

Details from: Dr Dorothy Porter, History, Birkbeck College, London.

Summer Conference 1994

Family and Medicine

8-10 July 1994, Exeter.

See page 6 for further details or contact: Dr Jonathan Barry, History, Queen's Building, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4QH.

Autumn 1994

From Mental Illness to Mental Health: New Approaches in the Social History of Psychiatry

See page 7 for further details or contact Dr Mathew Thomson, History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN.

Summer Conference 1995

War, Medicine and Society

July 1995, London

Details from: Dr. Mark Harrison, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.

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Other Meetings

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

Symposia on the History of Medicine, 1993-4

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|---------------------|---|
| 15 October 1993 | History of Childbirth in the Twentieth Century |
| 12 November 1993 | The History of the History of Medicine |
| 10-11 December 1993 | Contagion: Perspectives From Pre-Modern Societies |
| 23 February 1994 | Animal Models In Health and Disease: Historical Perspectives |
| 25 March 1994 | The Body of Knowledge: The Physical Presentation of Intellectual Selves |
| 6 May 1994 | The History of Malaria and War |
| 10 June 1994 | Science and Medicine in the 1890s |

Research Seminar on 'Doctors and the State'

6 October, Dr S. Sturdy, *Preventive Medicine and the Reorganisation of Medical Practice in Britain, 1900-1920*.

20 October 1993, Dr R. Richardson, *Spurning the Gift, Presuming upon Consent or Bargain and Sale - which path for transplantation*.

3 November 1993, Dr P. Weindling, *The Divisions in Weimar Medicine: German public health and the League of Nations Health Organization*.

17 November 1993, Dr M. Harrison, *The Medical Profession and British Military Policy, 1889-1918*.

1 December 1993, Dr M. Jackson, *Doctors and Defects: The Politics of Ugliness in the Early Twentieth Century*.

15 December 1993, Dr A. Crowther, *Doctors and the Public Prosecution System: Forensic medicine in early nineteenth-century Scotland*.

12 January 1994, Dr C. Webster, *Doctors and Democracy: The Origins of the NHS 1974 Reorganisation*.

26 January 1994 Dr J. Stanton, *A Jaundiced View: Medical experts and hepatitis committees, 1943-93*.

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

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik

Medicine, Science, Technology and National Socialism

25-28 September 1993, Jena

Details from: Dr. med. Peter Voswinckel, Werbachstraße 17, D-W-2900 Oldenburg, Germany.

Place and Practice in the Health and Health Care of the Intermountain West

22-23 October 1993, University of Nevada, Reno Campus

Keynote speaker: Ron Numbers

Further details from: Bruce T. Moran (702) 784-6677, e-mail: moran@equinox.unr.edu; or Martha Hildreth (702) 684-1964, e-mail: marthah@equinox.unr.edu.

AIDS History: American Association for the History of Medicine AIDS and the Public Debate: Epidemics and Their Unforeseen Consequences

28-29 October 1993, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

Speakers include: Virginia Berridge, Allan M. Brandt, Victoria A. Harden, Maryinez Lyons, Anne Marie Moulin, Nancy Tomes and James Harvey Young.

Further information: AIDS and the Public Debate Conference, c/o NIH Historical Office, Building 31 Room 2B09, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD20892.

Humanities Research Centre Oxford Brookes University Gender, Health and Welfare in Britain, 1850-1950

6 November 1993, Oxford Brookes University

Details from: John Stewart, School of Humanities, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford OX3 0BP.

British Records Association

Archives of Sickness and Health: Sources in Medicine

Speakers include: Heather Creaton, Carole Rawcliffe, Anne Summers, Trevor Turner, Lesley Hall and Virginia Berridge.

Details from: Conference Organiser, BRA, 18 Padbury Court, London, E2 7EH.

Second Anglo-Dutch Wellcome Symposium

Life's Functions and Clinical Practices

10 December 1993, University of Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Speakers include: Richard Kremer, H. Snelders, Steve Sturdy, S. Jacyna, G. van Heteren, Harmke Kamminga, Tilli Tansey, A. de Knecht van Eekelen, G. Wackers and Lily Kay.

Further details from: Dr Godelieve van Heteren, Dept. of Ethics, Philosophy and History of Medicine, Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, Postbus 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

American Association for the History of Medicine

Annual Meeting 1994

28 April - 1 May 1994, New York.

Further details and offers of papers to: Dr Jaçalyn Duffin, Hannah Chair, History of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 3N6.

Auckland Medical Historical Society (in association with the Post-graduate Medical Committee of the University of Auckland) New Countries and Old Medicine: An international conference on the history of medicine and health

22-26 August 1994, University of Auckland, New Zealand, Submission of papers by 28 February 1994

Further details from: Linda Bryder, Department of History, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand.

Fax: (0064) 09 3737438; E-mail 1.bryder@aukuni.ac.nz.

34th International Congress on the History of Medicine

4-9 September 1994, Glasgow

The Congress is organised by the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine on behalf of the British Society for the History of Medicine.

Further details from: 34th International Congress on the History of Medicine, Conference Secretariat, Meeting Makers, 50 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1QE, Scotland.

University of Amsterdam

Healing, magic and belief in Europe, 15th-20th Centuries: New Perspectives

21-25 September 1994, University of Amsterdam

Call for papers and details from Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra, Department of History, University of Amsterdam, Spuistraat 134, 1012 VB Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

ADVANCED NOTICE OF SSHM CONFERENCES

Annual Conference, 8 - 10 July 1994

THE FAMILY AND MEDICINE

The 1994 Annual Conference of the Society for the Social History of Medicine will be held at Exeter in July 1994. Proposals for papers are called for and should be sent by the end of October 1993 to Jonathan Barry and Sandra Cavallo, Department of History and Archaeology, Exeter University, Queen's Building, The Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QH (tel. 0392-264319/264329). Postgraduate contributions are welcome and bursaries may be available. Although proposals on all aspects of the relationship between the family and medicine are encouraged, potential contributors are particularly invited to cluster discussion around three themes, around which it is hoped to organise conference sessions:

a) The family as a generator of medical knowledge and practice

The family is generally reckoned to have played a crucial role in the transmission of forms of empirical medicine (midwifery in particular) and of the 'mechanical' art of surgery. However the family could also be instrumental in the reproduction of 'learned' medicine, as is evidenced by the existence of medical dynasties. Family transmission concerned a pool of social relationships (with clients, with institutions, etc), and not just instruments and techniques. This session could also analyse the role of the family in the exchange between lay and professional medicine. Within these perspectives, some of the questions which might be addressed include: to what extent was the family responsible for the reproduction of medical practice? Along what lines of kinship did medical skill and knowledge circulate? Were these lines gender determined? What similarities existed between the patterns of transmission of medical practice and those of other trades?

b) The family as a patient

We tend to see medical practice as directed indiscriminately towards the preservation of all members of the family unit. However, the characteristics (in terms of age and sex) of all the clientele of early modern hospitals and of medical provision suggest that, before the establishment of the family GP, attitudes towards health might have been more selective and uneven. Aim of this section is to investigate how representations of the family varied in different contexts of medical care, asking questions such as: how were the perception of illness and the treatment dispensed affected by consideration of age, sex, marital status, etc? How were health complaints by children, the elderly and women dealt with before the growth of specialised care? How and why did the medical profession begin to stress the notion of 'the family doctor', and what images of the family (and of medicine) did this produce? Finally, in what ways did the status of the family and its role as agent of patronage affect the relationship between patient and practitioner?

c) The family as generator of disease

The session will examine hereditary explanations of disease both in lay beliefs and medical theories, as well as the association between mental or physical disorder and emotional malaise (often created by tensions in family relationships), frequent in popular interpretations of disease. To what extent was the family seen as a transmitter or trigger of disease (both organic and mental) before the emergence of eugenic theories and of the concept of the pathogenic family? What were the links between the family and contagious disease? How, for example, were contagious diseases such as the plague or smallpox dealt with within the family setting?

Autumn Conference 1994

'From Mental Illness to Mental Health': New Approaches in the Social History of Psychiatry

Two recent SSHM meetings have broken new ground in the social history of what may broadly be called the history of psychiatry. In the summer of 1992 the 'Communities, Caring, and Instructions' Conference stimulated a revision of institution-centred approaches to the history of caring, redirecting attention on the process of institutionalisation and the equally important spheres of family and community care. In October 1992 the Conference 'From Idiocy to Mental Deficiency: Historical Perspectives on People with Learning Difficulties' questioned the undifferentiated focus on mental illness which has dominated the history of psychiatry. The latter Conference also brought together and extended a group of historians and other scholars working on this area. 'From Mental Illness to Mental Health' aims to maintain this momentum and ask what is the social history of psychiatry? The conference will discuss the distinctiveness and remit of the social history of psychiatry, take stock of the fresh perspectives raised in earlier SSHM conferences and discuss new methodological and theoretical approaches. In particular, this meeting will investigate the value of a shift from study to mental illness to the construction, maintenance, and breakdown of mental health. Proposals of papers which provide a contribution to re-evaluating the disciplinary scope of the social history of psychiatry, discuss new methodological and theoretical approaches, and develop the social history of mental health would be welcome.

Enquiries and proposals to Dr Mathew Thomson, History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN

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. Membership in 1993 is £21 (UK and Europe) and \$37 elsewhere. Details of membership and of the Society's activities are available from the Hon. Secretary.

Society for the Social History of Medicine

FIRST ANNUAL PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION 1993

The Society for the Social History of Medicine announces the introduction of a prize essay competition to stimulate new research in the social history of medicine.

- 1) Eligible candidates: Members of the Society for the Social History of Medicine who are either:
 - (i) students (full or part-time undergraduate and postgraduate), or
 - (ii) new researchers who have not published in a refereed journal prior to the closing date for entries.

Candidates who are uncertain as to eligibility to enter should contact the convenor of the assessment panel prior to preparing their entry.

Membership of the Society may be obtained by subscribing to Social History of Medicine or by paying the associate membership fee of £2.50.

- 2) Criteria for assessment: The best original unpublished essay in the social history of medicine, written in English, submitted to the assessment panel (see below). The essay must conform to the bibliographic conventions of Social History of Medicine, and will be from 5,000 to 8,000 words in length.

- 3) Assessment panel: This will consist of the Chair of the Society for the Social History of Medicine (Convenor of the Panel), the Society's representative on the Editorial Board, and the Editors of Social History of Medicine.

- 4) Normally one prize of £100.00 will be awarded. The winning entry will be published in Social History of Medicine. More than one prize may be awarded.

- 5) Deadline: 31 December each year. The announcement of the prize-winner(s) will be made at the subsequent Annual General Meeting, normally the following summer.

NB. The Assessment Panel reserves the right not to award the prize if no essay is received which meets the criteria. The Editors of Social History of Medicine reserve the right to consider any of the entries for publication, after normal refereeing procedures

Members of the Executive Committee of the Social History of Medicine are precluded from submitting an essay for consideration, even though they may otherwise be eligible

Essays for the 1993 competition should be submitted to: Dr David Smith, Chair, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Glasgow University, 5 University Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QQ by 31 December 1993.

FILM SOURCES IN MEDICAL HISTORY

Since before the turn of the century film has been used in all areas of medicine as a tool for research, record, teaching and propaganda. For the past thirty years videotape has been used in the same way. Pockets of this production have survived in archives and collections and are consequently documented and cared for. It is very likely that the bulk of the surviving material is lying in long forgotten corners and cupboards. Much of it may have gathered, since its production, an historical interest or significance never originally conceived and not fully realised even now. Historians of medicine, medical science and public health are increasingly turning to film for evidence and realising the patchy survival of medical films in archives. Almost certainly film and videotape of importance to the history of medicine has been lost already. That which survives is in danger of being lost, either thrown away because its significance is not appreciated, or through decay as the film material deteriorates for want of suitable storage conditions and long term care. The danger of videotape is exacerbated by the increasing obsolescence of formats. Aware of this potential loss, a working party convened by the Wellcome Trust's History of Twentieth Century Medicine Group, and representing the National Film and Television Archive, the British Medical Association, the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, the Science Museum and the British Universities Film and Video Council have met to address the issue. At this stage none of these bodies have the capacity to undertake a systematic search for the relevant film and video material. We would, however, welcome assistance in the location of such collections. If you share our concern for this type of material, or are the custodian of such a collection and would like advice, please contact: Dr Tilli Tansey, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.

Executive Committee 1993

David Smith (Chair), Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ
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David Wright

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

DR B LEARY, DR M LORENTZON, MR A VICKERS, 74 Lascotts Road,
London, N22 4JN

Exploration of Primary Historical Sources, 1850-1923 at the London Homoeopathic Hospital (funded by the Wellcome Trust)

Documentary research is centred upon exploration of a selection, from 300 volumes of manuscript clinical records from 1889-1923, recently discovered at RLHH. Minutes from hospital committees (manuscripts and type-scripts) will also be consulted. Research is oriented towards 'painting a picture' of a specialised, London, voluntary hospital, regarding social historical details about patients and staff and clinical trends in both homoeopathic and allopathic medical practice. The researchers intend to write a book based on the research as a second phase, following submission of a research report in April 1994. The research is strongly supported by Miss S. Osborne, Chief Executive of the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3HR.

DR JOHN WELSHMAN, The Centre for Urban History, Leicester University, Leicester, LE1 7RH, England.

Public Health in Twentieth Century Leicester

This three year project which is funded by the Wellcome Trust focuses on public health in the City of Leicester, 1919-74, and it will shed light on public health provision and strategies of preventative care in 20th century Britain. The main aims are: (i) to document developments in public health provisions and strategies in Leicester before and after the advent of the NHS, with particular reference to a range of community based clinics; (ii) to evaluate local public health interventions and strategies in the context of changing patterns of disease, health care institutions and professional relationships; (iii) to identify public health issues perceived as salient by professional and lay groups within the City, relating these to changes in scientific knowledge, professional opinion and socio-political concerns; (iv) to evaluate the implications and effectiveness of professional responses to public health problems. The study will thus highlight the distinctive conjunction of local and national processes of change within one City. Recent research has demonstrated the value of locally-based studies of public health and Leicester is a particularly suitable location. Local medical figures were prominent in scientific, medical, administrative and political debates about the philosophy and practice of public health. These gave rise to a distinctive clinic-based approach which facilitated links between different institutions and professional personnel within the health care system. A number of important public health measures were pioneered within the City.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

THE STATE OF THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN THE 1990s 8-9 January 1993, University of Essex, Colchester

This was the sixth in a series of conferences sponsored by the ESRC at Essex University. On this occasion additional funding was supplied by the Wellcome Trust. The idea of the conference is to bring a small group of scholars together in an interdisciplinary setting to discuss methods and approaches for the future. Thus the conference aimed to look at 'Research and Innovation in the 1990s' and around thirty people were invited. These ranged from historians of medicine to anthropologists, philosophers to sociologists. The topics the conference ranged over were equally wide. Ludmilla Jordanova started off the proceedings by talking about 'The social construction of medical knowledge' with Alfons Labisch as discussant. The next paper was more empirical; Anders Brändström on 'Medical Professionalisation and its value as an explanatory tool: midwifery in nineteenth century Sweden' with Robert Dingwall as discussant. The last paper of the afternoon was Anne Digby on 'Some problems and perspectives in documenting and conceptualising patients and practitioners' discussed by Phil Strong. The discussants differed in how closely they tackled the issues raised in the speaker's papers and there was usually a fairly rapid move to a wider discussion.

On Saturday, the day started with Megan Vaughan on 'Issues in the medical anthropology and history of Africa' discussed by anthropologist, Murray Last. Mary Fissel was the next paper giver. 'Individuals, families, institutions, collectivities and the locus of care: some historiographic reflections' was a broad look at using cultural as well as social approaches to writing the history of medicine. The final paper was, again, a more empirical rendition, Simon Szreter on 'Urban and industrial growth in Britain: Health consequences and institutional/political responses'. Here we got double value as Steve Kunitz, his discussant, went on to, virtually, give a paper of his own. His comments were of such length that the chair, Richard Smith, was forced to apply rather a larger dose than usual of his tactful pressure to indicate that we should open out the topic to general discussion!

To summarise all the issues, approaches and concepts which were explored would be an enormous task. The general feeling was that this was a most worthwhile conference. The atmosphere was courteous and congenial, (even if drinks are not allowed into the council room at Essex), and the outworking of many ideas, whether theoretical or practical, was both productive and satisfying.

Pamela Sharpe, History, University of Essex

F.E. WHITEHART

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