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politicians, poets, and medical reformers, the author has given us a rich and nuanced account of a medicalizing world in which the redefinition of the hospital as a healing space remained at best ambiguous.

The work is divided into ten chapters. At the outset, Stevenson engages in a discussion of the traditional outer splendour and ostentation displayed by hospital buildings as houses of God. While such luxury had been an important measure of hospitality and charitable commitment for earlier donors and patrons, it seemed increasingly at odds with a new medical agenda that sought to envision institutions as places for brief stints of rehabilitation. A clash of religious values posited a Catholic propensity to blind and dominate their flocks with extravagant monuments against a mythical, spartan Protestant bent for individual freedom and voluntary collaboration. The ensuing tension created between the vanity of founders and the professional needs of medical men came to shape British hospital design.

Subsequent chapters offer a comparative view between palaces and hospitals, the control of spaces within them and need for discipline, especially in asylums. The gradual process of planning and raising funds for a voluntary hospital is chronicled in great detail for the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Here Stevenson illuminates the collective effort to erect such an institution, pointing out the convergence of public good with private profit within the context of a perceived spirit of Protestant benevolence that even enlisted the builders and suppliers to contribute their labour and materials to this charitable quest. Not to be ignored were the wishes of hospital subscribers who expected the rapid recovery of their sick workforce and the commercial expansion of the former capital of Scotland through an influx of medical students from England and the colonies who would walk its wards.

The remaining chapters deal with the growing problem of institutional cross-infection that converted hospitals into

“gateways to death”. Stagnant and hot air, corrupted by the febrile exhalations of the sick, seemed the culprit, prompting numerous design changes, including the elimination of quadrangles, the expansion of windows to facilitate ventilation, and the break up of large wards to segregate potentially contagious individuals. Cubic air space and flow became important criteria to avoid sick buildings. Here Stevenson points out how innovations in the construction of textile mills during the early Industrial Revolution—including fireproofing, roof ventilation, paved floors, plastered beams and cast iron columns—were adopted by the builders of hospitals. Although Lister’s antiseptic method seemed to make all such architectural details irrelevant, the ensuing efforts to create aseptic facilities demanded further design changes as well as technological improvements such as the sterilization of water and instruments. This beautifully produced and generously illustrated book has extensive notes, a list of manuscript sources and full bibliography. We are greatly indebted to the support of the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies of British Art and Yale University Press for getting it into print.

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Eric J Engstrom, Matthias M Weber, Paul Hoff (eds), *Knowledge and power: perspectives in the history of psychiatry. Selected papers from the Third Triennial Conference of the European Association for the History of Psychiatry (EAHP), 11–14 September 1996, Munich, Germany*, Berlin, Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 1999, pp. 231, illus., DM 68.00 (hardback 3-86135-770-4).

This is a collection of twenty papers originally presented at the 1996 conference

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of the European Association for the History of Psychiatry. The papers vary markedly in length, from four to eighteen pages. They also vary considerably in style. Some are well-developed; others read almost as a transcript of what I take to have been the oral presentation at the conference. While the calibre of the papers is mixed, there are some strong contributions which warrant serious consideration.

The editors have selected the interplay between knowledge and power as the theme of the book, with the conflicting views of Foucault and his legacy as their inspiration. In this, the collection is at best partially successful. A few papers do refer directly to Foucault's work. Wolfgang Schäffner considers Foucault's transition from asylum practitioner to theorist. The debate on the relation between these aspects of Foucault's work has been lively on the continent, but not so much in the English-speaking world, and this paper thus provides a welcome fresh insight for that audience. Armin Schäfer's contribution on psychiatry and homosexuality under the Nazi régime similarly provides a good analysis of biopolitics. It is also refreshingly readable, and thus a good entry point for neophytes into this rather technical Foucauldian universe.

By and large, however, issues of power in general and the work of Foucault in particular are not expressly articulated in the papers, although there is, sometimes, material of relevance to those themes. Jacob Belzen provides an interesting account of intersections between Calvinism, psychiatry, and the state in the Netherlands, for example. There is also an interesting analysis of professional change, technology, and electrotherapeutic treatment of neuroses in nineteenth-century Germany by Andreas Killen, and a good series of papers on psychiatry and National Socialism. Some papers fairly directly, albeit implicitly, challenge the Foucauldian model. Michael Kutzer's paper on the sixteenth-century is a salient reminder that the modern history of medical treatment of insanity does not

begin with the great confinement, and Avierzer Tucker's view of psychoanalysis in the first half of the twentieth century challenges the scientific paradigm at the heart of much Foucault's analysis. Foucault's name is barely mentioned in these papers, however, and for the knowledge/power theme to have worked successfully, the collection does cry out for a long introduction or concluding chapter to draw the pieces together. That is sadly lacking.

The six papers on psychiatry under the Nazis deserve special mention. The framework for these is established by Geoffrey Cocks, writing about the Göring Institute, and Armin Schäfer about homosexuality. These papers demonstrate the conditions under which the psychiatric professions were able to flourish under Nazi ideology. Three short papers follow on the treatment of mental disability, homelessness, and forensic psychiatry. These are of more mixed quality from the perspective of academic history of psychiatry, but they reinforce in a chilling way the pervasiveness of the practical and theoretical alliance between Nazism and therapeutic professionals.

With the exception of Klaus Doerner's contribution, the papers are published in English, although most of the contributors are from continental Europe. The volume thus has the strength of making some of the continental debates accessible to an English-speaking audience. The Belzen piece on the Netherlands, and pieces by José Lázaro on Spain, and Jacques Gasser and Geneviève Heller on criteria for psychiatric hospitalization in the Suisse Romande are obvious examples. This European perspective is not without its limitations, however. Kutzer's paper on sixteenth-century treatment provides a good survey and superb footnotes, but it does seem to assume a homogeneity of approach across Europe. While it is not my period, I do rather suspect that local practices were much more significant than he suggests in

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that century. Lázaro's piece is the only one dealing with psychiatry outside the Anglo-Franco-Germanic world, and it also makes clear that Spanish history operates on a very different time line from the north-west of Europe. A cursory view of the remainder of the south and east of Europe calls into question whether the traditional history of psychiatry, focusing on the north-west, applies outside that region. This is surely an appropriate question for consideration at the European Association for the History of Psychiatry. This is a somewhat different theme than that of the current volume, and not meant as a criticism. It is instead intended as a challenge to social historians in the relevant countries.

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Bill Yule, *Matrons, medics and maladies: inside Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in the 1840s*, drawings by John Johnstone, East Linton, Tuckwell Press, 1999, pp. xiv, 236, illus., £12.99 (1-86232-091-8).

James A Gray, *The Edinburgh City Hospital*, East Linton, Tuckwell Press, 1999, pp. xviii, 468, illus., £20.00 (hardback 1-86232-096-9).

At first sight Bill Yule's quirky little book with its populist title, modern caricature drawings, paucity of references to the secondary literature and lack of footnotes has nothing to offer academia. However, the banal observation that appearances are deceptive has rarely been so well illustrated in medical historical studies. Bill Yule has combed the wonderfully rich archives of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary to produce what he sees as a "fly on the wall" account of daily life in the hospital in the 1840s. The book does not pretend to be a major contribution to historical scholarship (and it is not), more likely it aspires to sit on the shelves of Edinburgh bookshops among

accounts of Holyrood Palace, the Tolbooth and Greyfriars' Bobby. It merits its place there but it also deserves more than a first glance from historians. Yule writes well and has stuck impressively close to his researches. A mountainous part of this book is composed of quotations from primary sources that have been deftly hidden in an engrossing narrative. All the things one might expect are here: wicked and wonderful matrons, haughty surgeons, anguished boards of management, high-spirited medical students and lots of case histories. Yule for the most part eschews analysis, which is a great virtue, for when he does not he slips into anachronisms and mistakes (how on earth did James Syme get to be Robert?); but these are few. The historian of hospitals will find no surprises here but that is no reason for ignoring this book. Its combination of style and historical detail will make it a splendid teaching text. Almost any of the chapters could be assigned as reading for discussion in an introductory class on medical history in the early nineteenth century. Students will love it. I did.

James A Gray's study of the Edinburgh City Hospital is a different kettle of fish but equally admirable in its way. This is an "in house" history by one of the hospital's former consultants. Gray like Yule has stuck close to his sources but Gray has gone for meticulous chronicling of every detail which, with the impeccable footnoting, makes this a most praiseworthy book. It is, perhaps, rather more likely to be used as a work of reference than read as a continuous narrative. None the less, its long-term narrative is very important for it illustrates the changing use of hospitals in response to epidemiological, political, social and economic factors. The first quarter of this fairly hefty book is devoted to Edinburgh's public health and fever hospital provision before the City Hospital, Edinburgh's third fever hospital, was founded in the wake of a smallpox epidemic in the 1890s. It was opened in 1903. If not