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discursive fields in which a text can be placed and from whence it stems must be considered; ideas which derive from Michel Foucault—are sound and to be highly commended. It deserves to become a standard reference work when considering the fantastic life and work of Otto Weininger.

Ivan Crozier,
The Wellcome Trust Centre for the
History of Medicine at UCL

Robert Richardson, *Larrey: surgeon to Napoleon's Imperial Guard*, revised edition, London, Quiller Press, 2000 (first published 1974), pp. x, 269, illus., £16.95 (hardback 1-899163-60-3).

Dominique Jean Larrey (1766–1842) was the chief surgeon in Napoleon's Imperial Guard, a dedicated doctor and soldier, a loyal subject in awe of his nation at the most ambitious moment in its imperialistic history, a devoted husband and father, and—to the end of his life—a sworn devotee of his emperor, Napoleon. If Larrey was not particularly distinguished for surgical invention or theoretical medical writing, he nevertheless served his country as loyally as any other doctor in France's history. Especially in the great Russian military campaigns he continually placed his own life on the line. He is remembered as a soldier in the service of other soldiers, for his healing treatment through daily reliability, flying ambulances and other types of inventive make-shift hospitals. His treks through the snow across northern Europe, and the letters he wrote from outposts to his beloved wife Charlotte, document a dominant theme about East European wasteland based on the frozen tundra around Eylau, south of the Vistula in Poland. Larrey's military memoirs are no dramatic pieces of writing (he was no Tolstoy in miniature), but they provide a

sense of the soldier's life on the battlefield, the plagues and conditions to which he was exposed in appalling conditions removed from his family and region. Larrey knew well that most soldiers never return home; that the memory of love in the battlefield is one of the few sustaining emotions in the face of constant death.

Robert Richardson's biography, revised here, was first published in 1974 and has now been augmented. Even in 1974 Richardson, a medical practitioner with a flair for writing medical history pitched for the layman, had the use of the French biographer André Soubiran's more thorough analysis of 1966. But Soubiran had not seen the Larrey Collection in the Wellcome Library: a manuscript archive of unpublished material comprising Larrey's letters to his family and campaign journals, which Richardson has incorporated in this revised edition. The Wellcome Collection of Larrey, together with the significantly larger companion archive in the Bibliothèque Nationale, forms the largest repository of extant unpublished Larreyana. It constitutes a significant research tool for French military health and imperial history in the first half of the nineteenth century. If Richardson's revised life attracts students to consult the Wellcome Collection's rich and mostly untapped French archive, it will have served a second useful purpose.

G S Rousseau,
De Montfort University

David A Gerber (ed.), *Disabled veterans in history*, Corporealities: Discourses of Disability, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press, 2000, pp. viii, 348, £31.00, \$49.50 (hardback 0-472-11033-0).

A good deal has been written recently about the pity of war, but its victims have seldom figured prominently in historical scholarship. There are, of course, some

important exceptions but those working on war disablement have lacked a central point of reference: something that has now been provided by David A Gerber's collection: *Disabled veterans in history*. The book comprises some thirteen essays on various aspects of war disablement, as well as a substantial introduction by the editor. The essays are grouped into three sections: the first dealing with issues of representation; the second with public policy towards disabled ex-servicemen; and the third with the experience of disability and readjustment to civilian life.

The essays in the first section span an enormous chronological range, from ancient Greece to Vietnam, but demonstrate an almost timeless ambivalence towards disabled veterans: a mixture of pity, fear and revulsion. Through her contextual analysis of the mythic figure of Philoctetes, Martha Edwards shows how the repulsive nature of the hero's wound turns him into an outcast, who is simultaneously pitied and reviled. However, unlike the disabled veterans of the Second World War and Vietnam, whose cinematic representations are insightfully analysed by David A Gerber and Martin F Norden, there was no administrative or social category of the "disabled veteran" in ancient Greece. That is very much a modern phenomenon. Rather, the prospect of divine cure and the lack of state provision for those wounded in battle meant that the lines between the able-bodied and the disabled were blurred.

State provisions for the war disabled—and the emergence of the category of the disabled serviceman—are considered in the seven essays that comprise section two. The first of these is a strong piece by Geoffrey L Hudson, who explores the development of Europe's first national pension scheme for disabled veterans (in Elizabethan England) and its gradual transition from a system of county-based relief to one that was more centralized and typified by the Chelsea and Greenwich hospitals. These new provisions for disabled

veterans were modelled on the *Hôtel des Invalides* in France, which promised more visible, central control over ex-servicemen. As Isser Woloch points out in his chapter on veterans and the state in revolutionary and Napoleonic France, such aid was not seen in terms of an entitlement but as an expression of paternalism intended to consolidate royal authority. However, as Woloch demonstrates, modern notions of entitlement did flourish briefly during the period of Jacobin rule, only to give way to more traditional and inadequate forms of relief under Napoleon.

From the comparative disarray of veteran's aid in Napoleonic France we turn to the systematic documentation of battlefield injuries and the use of such records to evaluate pension claims during and after the US Civil War: the subject of Robert I Goler and Michael G Rhode's chapter. Then, from pensions, we turn to rehabilitation, an area of enquiry that is opened up here by Jeffrey S Reznick in an illuminating essay on work therapy amongst disabled British veterans of the Great War. Reznick demonstrates the failure of voluntary rehabilitation schemes to secure the absorption of disabled ex-servicemen into the workforce. State aid was also slow to appear in the former Confederacy after the US Civil War, although voluntary relief agencies helped remedy deficiencies in provisions for the war disabled until most states were in a position to provide pensions in the 1880s. As R B Rosenberg shows in his essay on Confederate veterans, the war disabled were held in great esteem in the southern states, although many veterans themselves were averse to relying on either charitable or state provisions.

The situation that obtained in the southern states of America after the Civil War contrasts markedly with that of disabled veterans in Austria after the Second World War, which is the subject of Gregory Weeks's essay. Rather than being objects of public admiration, war veterans were an unpleasant reminder of Austria's

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Nazi past, and government assistance was often inadequate as a result. Similar uneasiness is still evident in Russia towards veterans of the war in Afghanistan (1979–89), as Ethel Dunn reminds us. Dunn shows that the shift to a market economy led to the virtual collapse of state assistance for all disabled veterans in Russia: retrenchment has left the welfare system unable to pay for benefits established during the Soviet era.

The remaining three essays deal with various aspects of the experience of war disability. James Marten focuses on the prevalence of alcohol abuse in the National Homes established for veterans of the US Civil War. He shows that the lack of a traditional masculine role and the experience of living in pain and discomfort led many veterans to alcoholism: a problem that was treated humanely by those who managed the homes. In her essay, Deborah Cohen asks the important question of why German veterans of the Great War turned against the state, despite a generous system of state assistance, whereas British veterans, who received much less from their government, did not. She concludes that German veterans were alienated by the resentment of the public towards their privileges, whereas British veterans, who were forced to rely far more on voluntary aid, were more effectively integrated into society. The final essay, by Mary Tremblay, considers the experiences of Canadian veterans of the Second World War who suffered spinal cord injuries. She shows that Canada was one of the first countries to develop an effective programme for the rehabilitation of veterans suffering from such injuries: the result of more active forms of therapy pioneered immediately before and during the war, and the establishment of organizations run by and for those suffering from spinal cord injuries.

The wide thematic and chronological range of this collection, and the thorough introductory essay, make it invaluable to anyone with an interest in the history of

war and medicine, the history of social policy, or of disability in general. The individual essays are mostly of high quality and some very high indeed. It is a great shame that such a valuable work has been marred by the lack of an index, the absence of which is becoming regrettably common in collections of essays.

Mark Harrison,

Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine,
Oxford University

A M G Rutten, *Dutch transatlantic medicine trade in the eighteenth century under the cover of the West Indies Company*, Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 2000, pp. 168, illus., Hfl. 59.50 (paperback 90-5235-148-1).

This study is the result of enormous labour. Rutten has searched the records of the Dutch New West India Company (founded in 1674 after the first had failed financially), trying to find information about medicines that were sent from Amsterdam to the settlements along the coast of Africa, South America and the Caribbean, and the drugs sent back in turn as commodities. Although many local plants and minerals could be used medicinally, Dutch employees of the WIC and settlers preferred being dosed with drugs brought from their home country. Few medical products of Africa and the New World came into wide use in the Old World apart from sugar, tobacco, cocoa, and sarsaparilla. As a result, Rutten has chased after the proverbial needles in haystacks, and found quite a few assorted bits of evidence. The result is a book rich with information, including lists and tables, although not a wholly satisfying historical interpretation. Partly this is because the information is sparse, partly because it is intractable. As a further problem, Rutten approaches the history from the documents