VIRGINIA BERRIDGE, *The Society for the Study of Addiction 1884–1988*, special issue of *British Journal of Addiction*, August 1990, **85** (8): 983–1087, illus., £21.50 (ISSN 0952–1481).

Virginia Berridge notes that, "the history of institutions and organizations has, by and large, had a bad press." Consequently, revisionist social historians have either given up writing about institutions or turned to writing chronicles of "total institutions". Well aware of the hazards of the enterprise, Berridge has taken up the challenge of writing a balanced and judicious history of the Society for the Study of Addiction. She has succeeded masterfully.

Using manuscripts and interviews she presents a series of sketches focused on successive periods of the Society's existence. In each she weaves together details about the day-to-day operation of the Society, biographical portraits of its leaders, and synopses of important articles in its journal. The Society, as Berridge portrays it, has been a loose grouping of individuals from many backgrounds, though generally including a large number of doctors. Throughout much of its history it has had large and poorly-focused ambitions. Characteristically its ambitions greatly exceeded its accomplishments, which have been quite modest. Indeed the Society was often so fragile that simply maintaining its existence was a considerable achievement. This was accomplished through the efforts of a succession of strong leaders, whose views tended to dominate the society's agenda.

What gives this work its greatest value for the general reader is Berridge's ability to draw on her thorough knowledge of the history of addiction in order to relate the history of the Society to changing attitudes and government policies. By showing how the society reacted to these trends and struggled (usually unsuccessfully) to influence them, Berridge has managed to give us not merely another institutional history but a social history of addiction from a particular angle of vision.

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STEVE WEBB, *From the watching of shadows: the origins of radiological tomography*, Bristol, Adam Hilger, 1990, 8vo, pp. xvii, 347, illus., £29.50.

This book starts off well. The contents list is interesting and along the lines of a Jules Verne novel—"Part 1 In which we discover. . .". The Preface poses the many questions which enter one's mind when one stops to think about the origins of tomography. But are they all truthfully answered in the book? Many of them are, but not all.

The early history from 1914 to 1940 is beautifully done and collected together and the interested reader will find this fascinating, with portraits of the really early pioneers, as well as diagrams showing their methods. Europe and Britain seem to be well reported here. The years of consolidation of classical tomography, 1940–1950, seem less well done: Watson of U.K. seems to be casually treated, relative to the accolade given to Takahashi of Japan, but the very tortuous commercial trade names for classical X-ray tomography of the 1950s and 60s are well sorted out.

The modern history of computed tomography begins on page 167 and it gives great pleasure to the reviewer to see the work of Oldendorf, with that of Kuhl and Edwards in particular, given prominence. These workers were "pioneers in the history of emission tomography": they used an optical integrator to give "back projection" 9 years before X-ray tomography blazed onto the scene (p. 179). Kuhl should publish his account of this work (referred to here as Kuhl 1989, private communication—letter to S. Webb) to set the record straight. Also, the development of tomography for radioastronomy and electron microscopy before 1972 is highlighted (pp. 184-7). The conclusion on page 190 that "The award of the Nobel Prize, whilst justly acknowledging those who finally solved the practical difficulties, inevitably diminished the collective achievements of these other workers"—has a ring of truth about it.

The book is confusing to read around the critical period, because the author first deals with X-ray tomography in its entirety (including within this Kuhl's work on emission tomography), and he does not begin the history of emission tomography until page 223. An historical

sequence of two parallel threads would have been much better. This quirk inevitably holds back, until after the EMI scanner, all the work of those who had CT in use clinically, albeit with radionuclides, before the prototype X-ray EMI scanner began to be used. It is thoroughly disappointing to see the UK work played down as "also rans", for example the work in Aberdeen is given only half a page, and is relegated to a later date—1972—than when it actually occurred. Their home-built machine, digital from the outset, was working in the autumn of 1970, a year before the very first clinical X-ray CT scan with the EMI scanner in October 1971. The Aberdeen scanner was providing a clinical service from January 1971 onwards: indeed, Aberdeen had emission tomography 7 years before X-ray CT arrived there. There is no excuse for the author not getting the record straight here, because correspondence and conversations with pioneering workers are quoted virtually verbatim throughout this book; but no communication with the Aberdeen team is reported, in spite of the fact that Steve Webb is co-author of a paper reporting a detailed performance assessment of the Aberdeen machine in 1981. It compared very favourably with the best that U.S. Industry could produce 7 to 8 years afterwards! Where is there a mention of the British Company, J. & P. Ltd of Reading, who bravely produced a version based on the Aberdeen machine and sold twenty of them, but, through lack of support from the City financiers, went under? A familiar tale. This national tendency to play down anything British makes the work of British scientific historians suspect; the reader has to ask the questions: has anyone British of note in this story been missed out? Has their true role been properly acknowledged?

In the PET section I could find no mention of the Swedish developments leading to the Scanditronix commercial machine—nor of the M.R.C. attempts at Hammersmith Hospital to use a home-made positron gamma camera.

In summary, this book is a fascinating and very good comprehensive account of the early days of tomography, but it is less than comprehensive, particularly in European and British work in the field in the later period. Nevertheless, it is a good start and maybe a second edition will put it right. All those using tomography, or interested in it, should have a good look at it.

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GUY SAUDAN, *La médecine à Lausanne du XVI^e au XX^e siècle*, Dengues, Éditions du Verseau, Roth & Sauter, 1991, pp. 273, illus. (2–88075–015–6).

This bulky volume has been published for the celebration of the Centenary of the University of Lausanne's Faculty of Medicine. The main town of the Canton de Vaud has always been the smallest of the five principal Swiss towns (Zurich, Basle, Bern and Geneva), though it experienced a very impressive development through the second half of the nineteenth century, which justified the opening of a university in 1890–91. The town however still remained relatively small, with a population of some 35,000 inhabitants. Several periods were especially noteworthy in the medical history of Lausanne. In the sixteenth century, names like Pierre Franco, the *chirurgien herniaire* whose fame was eclipsed by that of Ambroise Paré—both were Huguenots—Jean Griffon and Fabricius of Hilden, attest to the fame of Lausanne in Renaissance and Baroque surgery. Later, the eighteenth century saw the flourishing of two famous authors, first the *accoucheur* and orthopaedist Jean-André Venel, then the rather prolix author Tissot. It is worth noting that in most sources his first name is given as Simon-André, but in this book he is (correctly) called Auguste. (His complete name was: Samuel-Auguste-André-David Tissot.) Incidentally, Tissot refused a position at the Polish Court, to which he had been recommended by A. von Haller; it was accepted by the Lyon practitioner E. Gilibert—on the same recommendation.

Tissot's *Avis au peuple sur sa santé* was a best-seller of the so-called Domestic Medicine literature, illustrated in England by Buchan and in Germany by Hufeland, all of which were translated into most European languages. His even more famous *L'Onanisme* (69 editions) has been criticized by later scholars; it was however quite in tune with contemporary beliefs, lay as well as medical. The modern period again attests to the prominence of the Lausanne Faculty,