

Book Reviews

objected to the operation being performed on him'. Hunt suggested that every surgeon committing dissection should give an undertaking to allow his body to be dissected after death." Without any reference to Richardson, Knott writes in 1985 that Hunt "spoke of the fear of dissection as one of the 'natural feelings of mankind', and cited the case of Dr William Hunter, the eminent eighteenth century anatomist, who although 'he had dissected so many himself, up to the very last moment of his life declared that he objected to the operation being performed on him'. Hunt suggested that all surgeons and anatomists should be made to donate their own bodies for dissection after death." There are dozens of similar "parallels". No matter how this may have come about, a handsome apology is due to Dr Richardson.

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PIETER SPIERENBURG (editor), *The emergence of carceral institutions: prisons, galleys and lunatic asylums 1550–1900*, (*Centrum voor Maatschappij Geschiedenis*, 12), Rotterdam, Erasmus Universiteit, 1984, 8vo, pp. 187, [no price stated] (paperback).

This twelfth volume in the irregular series published by the Department of the History of Society of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, presents five substantial essays on the theme of "carceral institutions"—the means by which society excludes, by depriving them of liberty, those elements it identifies as unassimilable, or unacceptable. Some general conclusions are drawn out and given a theoretical framework in the editor's introduction, where he takes issue with the "modernization" concept familiar from the works of Foucault, Ignatieff, and others, claiming that this does not stand the test of empirical analysis, in Europe at least, any more than does its historiographical precursor and mirror-image with its naively optimistic stress on reform and progress. Instead, he advocates a "process-oriented approach to the history of repression and control".

Clearly, this endeavour involves more than a simple account of the development of prisons, and historians of various specialities can find much of interest here. The tone is less relentlessly sociological than might be feared at first sight, and different types of sources are used, placing the information in a human as well as a socio-political context. A short-title contents list is probably the best way to indicate the scope of this slim but useful volume: from 'The sociogenesis of confinement' via 'Galley and hard labour convicts in France' to 'The birth and reforms of prisons in France', and finally 'The asylum in Germany before 1860' and 'Lunacy reform in the Netherlands'. Readers would do well to stray from familiar territory; there are unexpected bonuses in little-explored areas such as the fate of convicts sentenced to the galleys, and the part played by organized religion in the movement to reform mental health care. Continuity of the perceived problem—deviants, it would seem, are always with us—and complexity of human motivations interacting with political considerations—are recurring motifs, as is the ultimate failure of quite genuinely well-intentioned reformers. Each author supplies detailed notes and/or bibliography which add to the value of the work.

More research is needed, the editor tells us (as editors are wont to do) before we can reach more definite conclusions. But even without those elusive objects, this publication is a good beginning.

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S. E. D. SHORTT, *Victorian lunacy. Richard M. Bucke and the practice of late nineteenth-century psychiatry*, Cambridge University Press, 1986, 8vo, pp. xvi, 207, £25.00.

The Cambridge History of Medicine series is an admirable undertaking, and the title "Victorian lunacy" has a broad and exciting ring. Whether the life and work of Richard M.