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neuroses as weakness of will and lack of commitment to the community, and by Susanne Hahn, who identifies an increase of social-Darwinist interpretations of suicide as a consequence of constitutional inferiority. The emphasis on constitutional characteristics in German “war pathology”, examined by Cay-Rüdiger Prüll, reflects the same tendency. Lerner’s and Prüll’s papers further make clear that the professional status of psychiatrists and pathological anatomists was at stake here as well.

“Professional gains” through the war can be noted for the German Red Cross, which according to Dieter Riesenberger established its leading role in voluntary (non-denominational) nursing, and for the young discipline of orthopaedic surgery, which was able to prove its importance by providing treatment and rehabilitation facilities for wounded soldiers in the German Reich’s institutions for disabled children (as shown by Klaus-Dieter Thomann). Moreover, doctors became accepted as experts in questions of sexuality, as Lutz Sauerteig argues from his discussion of preventive strategies against venereal diseases among the troops.

That the challenges to medicine could lead to different responses among the belligerent nations is illustrated, in addition to Weindling’s paper, by a study on blood transfusion by Thomas Schlich, who contrasts Anglo-American leadership in this field with German-Austrian scepticism towards the method. And Christoph Gradmann shows in a paper on chemical warfare how Germany lost its technological superiority in this area in 1916/17 and was forced to concentrate more on gas protection and therapy of gas injuries.

On the whole, this volume demonstrates that the old simplistic notion of medical progress through war must be regarded as obsolete. Medicine was transformed by World War I, but neither were these changes unequivocally beneficial nor can they be described as uniform and general developments. Apart from this, the scope of this book points to desiderata for further research, such as international comparisons of the organizational structures of

military medicine, of problems in the acute surgical treatment of the wounded, and (in view of the mass quinine use and poison gases) of the role of the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

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Manfred Berg and Geoffrey Cocks (eds), *Medicine and modernity: public health and medical care in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Germany*, Washington, DC, German Historical Institute; Cambridge University Press, 1997, pp. vii, 242, £40.00, \$59.95 (0-521-56411-5).

Based in part on a conference sponsored by the German Historical Institute, this collection of essays seeks to examine particular aspects of German medicine before and after the Third Reich. As one of the editors admits, the Hitler era is still a “black hole” in German history, its gravitational pull extending as far back as Wilhelmine Germany and forward into our own time, shaping much of the discussion and interpretation of events. Unlike for America and even Britain, there is not a historical treatment of medicine in the German lands that attempts to submerge its individual characteristics within a more comparative, universal framework. The stated task of the conference, therefore, was to “place the medical crimes of the Nazis and collaborations of the National Socialist era into their larger German and Western contexts”.

The book is only partially successful in accomplishing this goal, although readers interested in the topic will find most of the individual contributions quite useful. Some authors set out to cover a particular subject or issue but eventually neglected to place it within broader horizons. This applies, for example, to Johanna Bleker’s insightful treatment of the German hospital from 1820 to 1870. Her analysis clearly shows the dual nature of hospital care as part of the local poor relief system as well as a new proving ground for

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physicians to hone their clinical skills. However, German doctors seemingly felt that hospital training was a worthless preparation for private practice, since the individuality of the sick vanished in the wards and the hapless inmates were reduced to their diseases. This development stood in sharp contrast to conditions in France and readers might have expected a brief explanation concerning these differences in approach.

Another paper by Alfons Labisch discusses the roots of Germany's 1883 sickness insurance law designed to prevent labourers and their families being adversely affected by illness and thus becoming paupers. The author stresses that, more than a health policy, this legislation should be seen as Bismarck's attempts to regulate welfare and labour. Although in the beginning medical services were infrequent, the intrusion of a third party payer ruled by trade unions in the patient/physician relationship cast the latter into the role of employees, eventually triggering the organization of vigorous professional associations and tribunals. Labisch tells us that by 1900, nearly 20 per cent of German physicians faced lawsuits, instituted by the tribunals against nonconformist members practising alternative medicine. Similarities with conditions in the US beg for further analysis.

Other valuable papers follow, arranged in a somewhat chronological form. Rather than considering it simply an inevitable ingredient for Hitler's ideology, Richard Evans' historiographical essay concerning the multifaceted aspects of Social Darwinism tries to show their development, especially in the context of World War I and its aftermath. Charles McClelland, in turn, examines the professionalization process of German physicians during the first decades of the twentieth century, opting for a set of economic and political reasons to explain its "arrest" and susceptibility to National Socialism. There are also two contributions about psychiatry, an essay on sterilization, and another on the politics of abortion from the Weimar Republic to the postwar period. Finally, Geoffrey Cocks

eloquently discusses the background to the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial, noting the growing corporatism of German medical professionals from the early 1900s onward, their authority bolstered by the medicalization of society and perceived needs of the state.

The collection concludes with the near-contemporary story of a former Nazi physician, Hans Sewering, who in 1992 became the president elect of the World Medical Association. The events, lucidly narrated by a participant, the historian Michael H Kater, trace back Sewering's membership in the party and the SS, as well as his participation in the Third Reich's euthanasia programme. Following postwar "denazification" hearings, this physician became politically involved in German medical affairs, reaching the presidency of the German Medical Association in 1973. Kater's chronicle recounts the growing opposition to Sewering's candidacy and his eventual withdrawal, while exposing the inherent political conservatism still prevailing in the highest circles of organized German medicine. As with another recent volume on institutions of confinement, the German Historical Institute is to be congratulated for its publication series and efforts to stimulate discussion about health related topics.

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Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra, Hilary Marland and Hans de Waardt (eds), *Illness and healing alternatives in western Europe*, Studies in the Social History of Medicine, London and New York, Routledge, 1997, pp. xi, 272, £50.00 (0-415-13581-8).

This collaboration among social and medical historians, with one anthropologist thrown in for good measure, has resulted in a stimulating collection of essays which profitably comments on the connections between healing, magic and religious belief in Europe from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. A central issue is to what