

physicians; *it was a matter of killing, and killing too, is a medical matter*'.<sup>3</sup>

The murderous techniques developed for these "medical matters" were to be the progenitors of the methods that were to be employed for larger-scale extermination during World War II.<sup>4</sup> How far they were accepted by the medical profession is a focal point of *Cleansing the Fatherland*, comprising principally a collage of edited translations from the German of four long articles published during the mid-1980s in the journal *Beiträge zur Nationalsozialistischen Gesundheits-und Sozialpolitik*. The three authors—a journalist, an historian and a physician—cover much of the same territory as Burleigh, though rather more superficially. The principal additions are the two chapters devoted to the diaries of the anatomist Herman Voss and the letters of the SS "euthanasia doctor", Friedrich Mennecke. Here, without frills, is Hannah Arendt's "banality of evil" in a medical context. As Pross observes, furthermore, it is now clear that a majority of German doctors were involved, directly or indirectly, in their government's policy. Although the full proceedings of the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial of 1946–1947 have still to be published, the charges are manifold. They include the propagation of the pseudo-scientific doctrines of racial hygiene; the abrogation of ethical standards to the point of active or passive participation in mass murder; the involvement in criminal experimentation; and the systematic concealment of misconduct during the post-war period.

Truly a subject for medical historians.

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<sup>1</sup> A Manzoni, *The betrothed*, New York, 1962 (first Italian edition: *I promessi sposi*, Milan, 1825).

<sup>2</sup> K Binding and A Hoche, *Die Freigabe der Vernichtung lebensunwerten Lebens. Ihre Mass und ihre Form*, Leipzig, 1920.

<sup>3</sup> H Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, London, 1994, p. 69.

<sup>4</sup> G Reitlinger, *The final solution*, New York, 1953.

**Jean Barclay**, *In good hands: the history of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy 1894–1994*, Oxford, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1994, pp. xvi, 367, illus., £19.95 (0-7506-1745-4).

This work was commissioned by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy in its centenary year, to update the previous history—*The growth of a profession*—which was written by one of its members, Jane Wicksteed, in 1948. Barclay's work is very much a celebratory history—giving a chronological run-through of the major events and developments as collated from the minutes of the Society's various committees and its annual reports and newsletters. Barclay could equally well have given the book the title she chose for the third chapter, 'No false steps', because she presents all developments as natural and inevitable, with no analysis of the wider context of their genesis or their effect. As a history for practising and retired physiotherapists, looking for an overview or an aid to reminiscence, the book works well—many individuals are mentioned by name and the photographs are well chosen—and it is physiotherapists whom Barclay identifies as her primary audience. However, in the introduction she claims that she also hopes the book will tackle five "keynotes"—including the development of physiotherapy as a profession, the role played by men, and the development of new techniques, but events are generally merely described rather than analysed or put into context, so that the "keynotes" are left unexplored.

For example, between 1974 and 1979 debates took place within the Society over registration as a trade union and affiliation to the TUC—a crucial decision affecting the Society's perception of the place of physiotherapy within the medical professions—but Barclay devotes only one page to these discussions, and glosses over the poor relations the Society had with the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, which represented many physiotherapists at the time and had "recently led them in a strike". Physiotherapy is never

placed fully in context either as a medical profession, or as one perceived, particularly in the early years, as suitable for women. Comparison with the rates of pay, conditions of service, training periods and so on in analogous professions would have been more useful than the mass of statistics which Barclay lifts straight from annual reports without analysis, so that they serve to obfuscate rather than illuminate, especially in the final chapters, where special interest groups multiply, the structure of the Society becomes more complex, and consequently there are more and more available statistics on prices, accounts, members, attendances and publications with which to bombard the reader.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy should be pleased with Barclay's book as celebrating the Society's and the profession's establishment and achievements, but for the non-physiotherapist interested in more general questions, including Barclay's five "keynotes", it is dissatisfying.

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**Arthur E Imhof and Rita Weinknecht** (eds), *Erfüllt leben—in Gelassenheit sterben. Geschichte und Gegenwart: Beiträge eines interdisziplinären Symposiums vom 23.–25. November 1993 an der Freien Universität Berlin*, Berliner Historische Studien, vol. 19, Berlin, Duncker & Humblot, 1994, pp. 507, DM 148.00 (3-428-07872-1).

Arthur E Imhof has been one of the pioneers in post-war historical demography in Germany. Not only has he launched and carried out a number of fundamental studies, he has also successfully integrated historical demography into broader areas of social history, and thus contributed substantially to the reinstatement of demographic research after its abuse in Nazi Germany. Incorporating cross-references to the present-day situation, he has also introduced the field to a wider audience of interested amateurs.

It is quite logical therefore that in recent years his research has increasingly focused on

the far-reaching implications that extended life-expectancy has upon present-day life. As life-expectancy has more than doubled within the last 400 years, one of his main concerns is how these additionally given years should be spent, and, even more, how they can be utilized to create a sensible and fulfilled existence. This is a problem not only for people who find themselves living longer, but even for those of a younger age. Life today requires a "life-plan" constructed by the individual in order to be able to live a fulfilled life. Only this enables him or her to die in quietude, since religious belief in a post-mortem existence is increasingly vanishing.

These were also the key aspects of the Berlin symposium, the results of which are presented in this volume. Under the auspices of Arthur E Imhof, a number of international experts from various areas of research, together with media and education representatives, assessed the subject in forty contributions.

Part one of the volume focuses on the "hard facts", the secular demographic and epidemiological trends over the past 400 years. Relying to a substantial extent on the excellent Swedish data, the western European path towards modern health conditions is reconstructed. Concerning the developments in recent decades, the analysis concentrates on the interesting differences between the former two German states. One major issue raised is the fact that these gained years are often accompanied by an increase in morbidity and ill-health. To take this into account, the use of a refined indicator, the "disability free life expectancy", is demonstrated. Contributions on methodological aspects, particularly where future developments are concerned, conclude this section.

The second part of the volume combines historical and present-day developments in western Europe with the experiences of cultures in the Asian area. Historians, sociologists, theologians, and historical demographers take part in the discussion on the title theme of the volume, and proffer various contributions of varying quality on the subject.

In the third part a number of concepts and proposals are introduced on how these ideas