

Book Reviews

VIRGINIA G. DRACHMAN, *Hospital with a heart. Women doctors and the paradox of separatism at the New England Hospital, 1862–1969*. Cornell University Press, 1984, 8vo, pp. 258, illus., \$19.95.

This book is the first full-length study of an all-women's hospital in America. It traces the history of the New England Hospital from its opening by Dr Marie Zakrewska in 1862 to its eventual closure in 1969. The author sets out to contextualize the hospital against a background of changing opportunities for women, as well as changes in medical science. Her approach enables us to see women doctors both as women in a male-dominated and initially sexually-segregated society, and as members of the medical profession.

The main thrust of Virginia Drachman's argument—that increasing acceptance of women doctors by the medical profession as a whole eroded the perceived need for a separatist hospital—is convincing. Her unravelling of the different strands of opinion, amongst feminists and non-feminists alike, which surrounded the opening of the hospital, and the turn-of-the-century debate on the continuing value of separatism, is rich and subtle. Friends were found in incongruous places—like Edward H. Clarke, professor of materia medica at Harvard Medical College, and author of *Sex in education; or, a fair chance for girls* (1873), who opposed co-education on the grounds that women's reproductive physiology would be endangered by strenuous intellectual activity, but joined the consulting staff of the New England Hospital in 1873.

Promotion of the hospital's "homelike environment", and director Ednah Dow Cheney's emphasis on the "natural sympathy" women doctors could extend to sick children, suggest an initially unproblematic sense of continuity between women's contemporary role in the family, and their professional role as physicians. The synchronous expansion of scientific medicine and of opportunities for women in the medical profession provided a double axis for change. Drachman's description of conflicts between the doctors and directors, and different generations of medical staff at the New England Hospital gives a textured and refreshing picture of tensions between women concerned to promote their interests within the profession as a whole, as well as to protect the hospital.

Focusing on the hospital's administrative history as evidence of the dilemmas confronting female physicians in the latter decades of the nineteenth century has consequences for the book as an institutional history. It is less than fully informative on the details of medical practice at the hospital, and how distinctive this was from other contemporary practice, particularly by male physicians. The children's hospital and its relation to the rest of the institution are only briefly described. This book is a rich resource, however, for anyone interested in the history of women doctors and their relation to the medical profession as a whole.

Charlotte MacKenzie
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OTTO BAUR and OTTO GLANDIEN (editors), *Zusammenhang. Festschrift für Marielene Putscher*, Cologne, Wienand Verlag, 1984, 2 vols., 8vo, pp. 1009, illus., [no price stated] (paperback).

The *raison d'être* of these volumes appears in twenty pages near the end, in which are listed Professor Marielene Putscher's manifold accomplishments in the field of medical history over the last thirty years. Her publications, from the first, a most efficient monograph on Raphael's Sistine Madonna in Dresden (1955), to her most recent on Leonardo da Vinci, have covered a remarkable range of subjects, from the history of dreams, of liquorice, and of the psychology of the senses, to the iconography of medical science and practice. Perhaps best known for her monograph on medical book-illustration from 1600 to the twentieth century, she has also piloted the international journal *Clio medica* and guided many theses on medical history. Many of these theses have been published in the series *Kölner medizinhistorische Beiträge*, which now represents an impressive body of well-organized data, often on neglected subjects.

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To celebrate her achievement, fifty-five scholars from West Germany, from other European countries, from Asia and the USA have contributed essays to the present volumes. It would be too much to expect either that all the contributors should manage to attain here the combination of adventurousness and precision which characterizes Professor Putscher's best writings, or that the reviewer should be given space to summarize all their papers, however interested by them he personally may have been. Their variety is in itself a tribute to the open interests of the *Jubilarin*, and if many of them focus on what looks like obscurity, it is because the paths which connect fields of light are often obscure for no good reason. Reinterpretation by illuminating connexions is one of the genres favoured by the contributors, and justifies one sense of the title of the volumes. One of the subjects discussed is the use, by Dutch microscopists in the seventeenth century, of very small glass balls as strongly enlarging microscopes: it is tempting to see this device as a physical counterpart to the *petites perceptions* which can unexpectedly serve to magnify the interest of a superficially minor theme, and which are abundant throughout these volumes. Neither are bold theoretical arguments eschewed, even in the small compass to which the contributors have had to be limited. Students of almost all kinds of medical history from ancient Assyria to within living memory will find here something pertaining to their interests, as well as a worthy tribute to a vigorous promoter of their subject.

William Schupbach
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WILLIAM LEFANU, *A bibliography of Edward Jenner*, 2nd ed., Winchester, St Paul's Bibliographies, 1985, 8vo, pp. xvi, 160, illus., £24,00.

Since its publication in 1951, William LeFanu's bio-bibliography has been an indispensable starting-point for Jenner studies. It is a standard work, and, after the passage of more than three decades, a second edition is welcome. LeFanu makes numerous additions to his list of publications. Mysteries of 1951, such as the whereabouts of one of Jenner's manuscript notebooks (the Hellman notebook) are now solved. In addition, we are now provided with a biographical introduction (though the "bio-bibliography" title of the first edition has been dropped), and fuller, more discursive introductions to the various chapters, giving a more complete outline of the development of Jenner's thought. The second edition, which also has new illustrations, thus emerges as a more elegant and readable book than its predecessor. Surprisingly, it is also slimmer. This has been achieved mainly by shedding the location list of Jenner letters. This is disappointing, though LeFanu's view that such information could now be better collected by an institute with a computer may be correct. The brief notes on correspondence which replace it are less satisfactory and tend to inaccuracy (the Wellcome collection, for instance, does not include much of Jenner's correspondence with L. Davids and James Moore as stated on p. 113). As before, the bibliography is strongest on Jenner's own writings. We should not expect to find in this invaluable little work a complete guide to publications relating to him or to the history of vaccination.

Richard Palmer
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Koroth, vol. 8, 11–12, summer 1985, volume commemorating the 90th anniversary of Joshua O. Leibowitz (part I), 8vo, pp. 256, illus., \$10.00.

This special anniversary volume of *Koroth*, the journal of the Israel Institute of Medical History, has been published on the occasion of the ninetieth birthday of Joshua Leibowitz, the internationally respected and loved Emeritus Professor of the History of Medicine at the Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem.

A biographical sketch by the guest editor, Samuel Kottek, is followed by a comprehensive bibliography of Professor Leibowitz' publications over a period of fifty years, amounting to