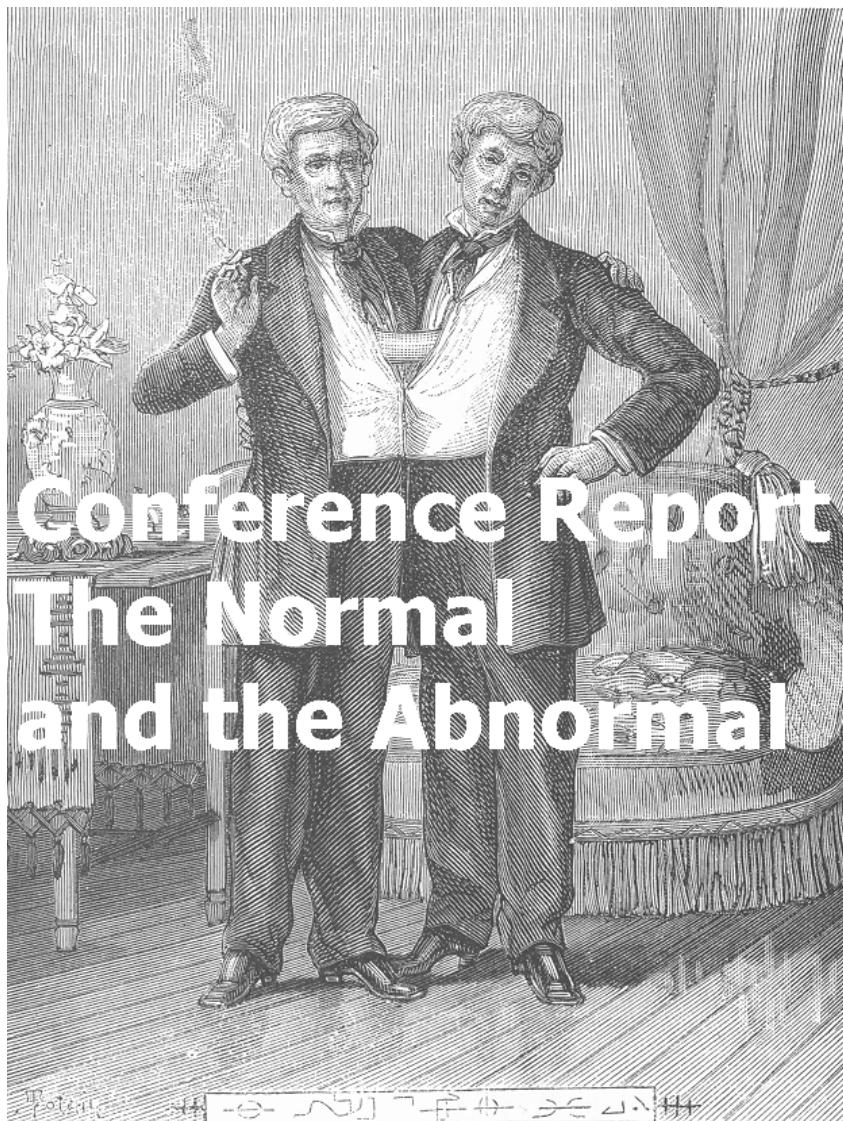




The Gazette



Conference Report The Normal and the Abnormal

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SSHM Annual General Meeting**London, September 27, 2002**

The meeting was opened at 5.30pm by the Society's chair Stuart Anderson. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved and it was noted that the numbers present this year were superior to the preceding two years despite the absence of society members who were not also members of the executive committee.

The chair commented on the continued health of the Society over the year 2001 which had seen the resurrection of the *Gazette* and the development of a new editorial team for *Social History of Medicine* with Roger Davidson replacing the outgoing co-editor Hilary Marland.

The chair thanked all members of the EC for their contributions throughout the past year. Oonagh Walsh's decision to stand down from the EC after having served as secretary for three years was noted with regret. The chair especially thanked Oonagh for all her hard work during her period of office.

The membership secretary noted with concern a decline in membership over the past five years but added that the figures for the first portion of 2002 reflect that this trend may be turning.

The treasurer presented the account audit for the calendar year 2001 to the AGM and was pleased to show the sound financial position of the Society.

The journal editor's report noted the successful publication of three issues in 2001 under the new editorial team. The journal continues to maintain a strong position and to receive submissions from international scholars covering a wide chronological and geographical range of topics.

The Series Editor and Monograph Editor's reports were received and again demonstrated the healthy situation of both ventures with several projects in the pipeline.

A verbal report was received from the assistant *Gazette* editor who noted the successful publication of two issues of the *Gazette* in August and December 2001. The resurrection of the Society's *Gazette* seems to have aroused great interest and both the editor and assistant editor have received numerous submissions from society members concerning past and future conferences as well as any society business.

The conference, publicity and webmaster's reports were received as read at the preceding EC meeting.

The final objective of the meeting concerned the elections of four members to the Executive Committee. Four nominations were received for four vacancies and the following members were re-elected unopposed for three years, David Cantor, Jonathan Reinarz, Stuart Anderson and Kelly Loughlin.

No changes to the Society's constitution were noted for the year 2001.

The AGM was formally adjourned by the chair at 6.30pm.

Cathy McClive
University of Warwick

SSHM CONFERENCE REPORT

**The Normal and the Abnormal:
Historical and cultural perspectives
on norms and deviations**

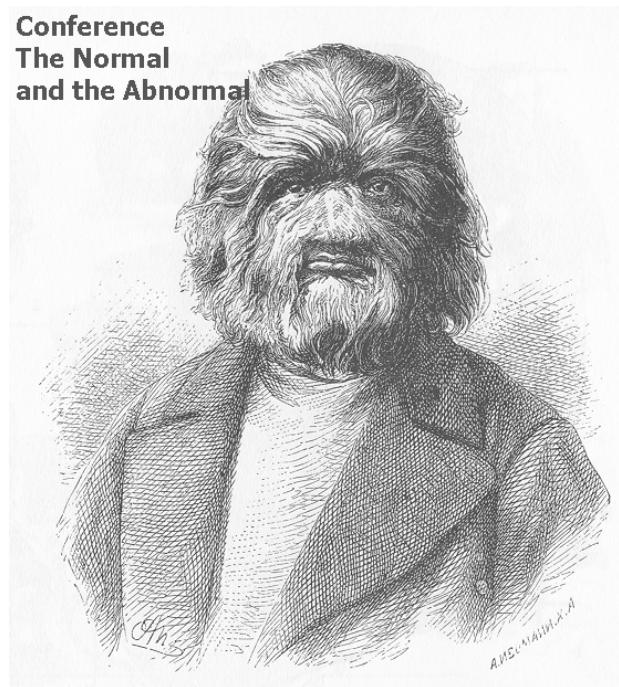
**University of Manchester,
July 10-11, 2002**

In July 2002 not only did Manchester host the Commonwealth Games but also attracted a small group of international scholars for an innovative two day research symposium on

The Normal and the Abnormal: Historical and cultural perspectives on norms and deviations between 10-11 July at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM), Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Manchester. The centre's new director, Michael Worboys, welcomed the participants.

The papers were diverse in terms of time, place, culture and methodology, thus reiterating the divergent assessments and framing of abnormality. An important issue was how such assessments are dependent upon 'expertise'; whether medical, scientific or from the 'lay' community. Constructions of normality/abnormality are shifting and contiguous, and symposium papers particularly emphasised this with respect to time, place and culture. All papers stressed how normality and abnormality are entwined; how constructions of the abnormal are based upon constructions of a normal population and equally how so-called deviant roles define normal roles.

Conference
The Normal and the Abnormal



We were reminded that scientific knowledge accrues through dynamic processes in which human prejudices remain significant in demarcating measurements of normality/abnormality, as in Lucy Hartley's

paper on physiognomy and (pseudo) science. She traced the relevance of early anthropological and travellers' accounts in framing knowledge about normal/abnormal bodies, for example through facial silhouettes and suggested that the messiness of this pseudo science may be indicative of the state of 'hard core' science during the first half of the 19th century. 'Normality' and science was also addressed by Carsten Timmerman, when he examined the Platt-Pickering controversy and the epidemiology of heart disease, 1945-1970. John Carson addressed psychological measurements of abnormal intelligence, where identifying the pathological helped to make the normal meaningful in American psychology.

Several papers considered the gendering of constructions of normality; notably Alexandra Minna Stern's paper on the use of tests and quantitative data to provide 'normal' constructions of sex and marriage in the USA from 1930-1960, where male was the normative and female the aberration. This paper also linked normality with discourses of modernisation and constructions of national identity. Similar themes were explored in Aya Homei's research on 'normal' and 'abnormal' childbirth in Meiji Japan.

Homei's paper also fell within another focus of the symposium; medical power/expertise and the pathologizing of the abnormal. Medical and clinical assessments of normality/abnormality were also addressed by Ortneil Dror, Nafsika Thalassis and Ilpo Helen. Dror discussed the history of emotions and the encounter with modern biomedicine, specifically with the confusion generated through discourses of the normal and pathological (such as 'nervous bodies'). Thalassis examined how the psychiatric normality of British soldiers during World War II was assessed and concluded that the individual's personality and intelligence were the criteria rather than environment or symptoms. Ellen Herman linked clinical assessment with the community and national

discourses of the 'normal family' in her paper on child adoption and 'designed' kinship in the USA from World War I to the 1960s. The medical theme continued with Sarah Mitchell's paper on 'Siamese twins' and medical men in the nineteenth century. She asked why conjoined twins became a medical rather than a social or religious phenomenon.

Deviance was a theme of several papers. Sara Bergstresser, Gudrun Hopf and Kirsten Weiss examined this within specific locales. Bergstresser explained "why every piazza needs its own 'madman' in contemporary Northern Italy". Hopf emphasised the role of local communities in assigning normality or abnormality to people with mental disabilities. This was from research on rural Austrian society during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Weiss considered how Islam has become cast as a deviant religion under German law. Dennis Bryson discussed the pathological with respect to technical normalisation and standardisation through the programmes of the Rockefeller foundations, 1923-1936. Ragna Zeiss asked the intriguing question of how the environment, specifically water, becomes labelled as deviant. Even logic did not escape an association with deviance, as argued in a theoretical paper by Andrew Aberdein.

Finally, two papers focused on normality/abnormality and representation. Towards the end of the conference when energies were flagging, Janet Ravenscroft awoke us with a visual presentation where she deconstructed the 'dwarf' in paintings from Spain's Golden Age. Volker Barth concluded with the representation of modernity, state normalisation and the staging of grand exhibitions in a paper on normality and Paris's World Fair of 1867.

A refreshing aspect of this symposium was the space for postgraduate students to share their research with established academics. This, and indeed the symposium, was made possible through the organisational skills of Waltraud Ernst (History Department,

University of Southampton) and Chandak Sengoopta (CHSTM/Welcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Manchester), with sponsorship from CHSTM/Wellcome Unit and the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

Jacqueline Leckie
Anthropology Department
University of Otago
New Zealand

SHM CONFERENCE REPORT

Symposium on Occupational Medicine

**University of Exeter
September 12-13, 2002**

Occupational health is increasingly receiving historians' attention, while being entwined with labour, social and economic history. The Centre for Medical History at the University of Exeter hosted a symposium on its research specialty, occupational medicine, at the St. Luke's campus in September 2002 that brought together scholars working on a broad range of industries, illnesses and health professionals in several countries. Despite variations in approach and focus, there were several unifying themes. These included the importance of different economies, regional and national, in influencing workplace practices; the visibility of the patients' perspective, despite the workers' voice sometimes being overshadowed by medical or political viewpoints; and the common reluctance of the state to interfere at the point of production, but demonstrating a willingness to intervene in the domestic environment.

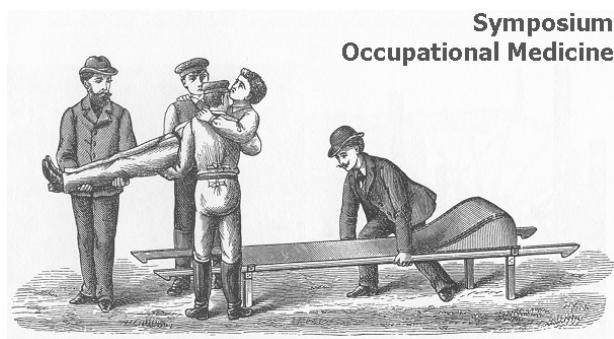
After a brief welcome, the symposium began with one of the organizers, Mark Bufton (Exeter), discussing the issue of compensation for silicosis and coal miners' pneumoconiosis in the British extractive industries during the 1930s. He argued how

this decade was pivotal towards the recognition of and compensation for the disease, due to the peaking of the dispute between employers and trade unions over the causes and diagnoses of these illnesses and the ensuing consequences. The focus then shifted to the United States, with Chris Sellers (State University of New York, Stony Brook) discussing how the workers' voice has been frequently omitted in histories of occupational health, particularly with respect to their opinions about the medical and engineering strategies associated with the workers. He emphasised the importance of language and how the language of health care professionals, the state, the patient and others involved with occupational illnesses can illuminate contrasting beliefs and perspectives.

Paul Weindling (Oxford Brookes) focussed on the issue of German refugee occupational health professionals during the period 1930-1950. He argued that the lack of British support for these refugees was reflective of the contemporary lack of respect for occupational health as a discipline. This was despite the 1930s being a period of widespread concern about unemployment and health, which increased during the war as industrial production intensified. The German health experts could have made valuable contributions to improving British workers' health. These professionals' experience contrasted with that of the occupational and public health experts who fled to America, where they fared much better in terms of jobs and recognition. Shula Marks (School of Oriental and African Studies) then shifted the discussion to the politics of health in twentieth century South Africa, demonstrating how tuberculosis overshadowed the diagnosis of silicosis in black gold-miners. Mine owners avoided both the responsibility for the death and diseases of black miners and compensation payments. Many black miners did not become ill until after they had returned to their rural homes, so the long-term costs of occupational illnesses were born by the ex-

miners' households and regional governments. The first day concluded with Tim Carter (Birmingham) emphasising the importance of disease processes to historical studies. Biological and medical features of a disease are vital for determining agreements for action and prevention between the different groups of actors. This first day highlighted the different actors in any study of an occupational illness, including governments (local and national), workers, medical professionals, and the different understandings of a particular occupational illness. The lively discussions following each paper clearly reflected the interest in different perspectives and methodologies.

After an enjoyable dinner, Michael Clark (Wellcome Library), talked about some of the archive films about occupational health held in the Wellcome library and introduced three short films, including pneumoconiosis research in South Wales between 1949 and 1968, Asbestosis on Clydebank, and French heavy industry. The discussion at the end clearly suggested the potential of the films held by the library, both for teaching and research.



The second day was as stimulating as the first. Arthur McIvor (Strathclyde) and Ronnie Johnston (Glasgow Caledonian) presented two papers that examined the workers' voice, using oral testimony to explore the economic, social and cultural impact on Western Scotland, of dust related diseases in the heavy industries of Clydeside since the 1930s. They explained that while workers were victims of disease, they were also agents in the process due to a machismo

ethos associated with the jobs. Workers' masculinity was undermined when they were no longer able to be the primary family breadwinner. Andy Higgison (Strathclyde) continued the discussion of dust-related illnesses, arguing that the asbestos regulation of 1931 failed because of its construction. It gave false reassurances to workers with the presence of regular medical exams, rather than directly dealing with the problems.

Pamela Dale (Exeter) shifted the focus away from workers' health problems to the health of health care workers, a subject frequently overlooked by historians. She argued that burnout is too simplistic a model for the stress attributed to working in the health care fields. The relationship between health and work in this field is more complex, including many types of stress, the meaning of work, job satisfaction, the potential for violence and issues of hours and pay, among others.

The remaining papers returned to Exeter's current emphasis on respiratory diseases. Robert Turner (Exeter) explored the relationship between TB and silicosis amongst British miners, with specific reference to admissions into a pulmonary hospital near Cardiff between 1937 and 1945. The miners' illnesses and recovery rates at Sully Hospital were compared with those of other patients. Interestingly, the treatment results of miners/colliers and patients from other occupations were extremely similar; however, the proportion of miners/colliers discharged, either by the hospital or against advice, was greater than that for patients of other occupations. The ensuing discussion drew out previously mentioned themes of machismo attitudes, the role and health of health care workers, disease processes and government priorities. The final paper by organizer, Jo Melling (Exeter), who examined bargaining issues in the U.K. and how prior to World War II, compensation claims for silicosis were few amongst North Wales miners, with workers trading safety for a wage premium. Key issues included the

costs of prevention versus compensation and the difference in medical knowledge and power relationships between laboratory scientists, doctors and Medical Officers of Health.

The symposium showcased much stimulating research in the history of occupational health and the concluding round table discussion drew out some of the key issues and themes of the symposium and highlighted the potential for further research. A key issue for the symposium was the importance and value of comparative approaches to occupational health for drawing out similarities and differences between countries and industries. Regional stories, or micro-histories, dominated the symposium, but with the recognition that they need to be tied to national economies. The different papers also demonstrated the ever-widening scope of the history of occupational health; how the workplace is broadening to include the home and hospital; and how these experiences, as well as folk traditions, influence events within the workplace. Future research possibilities include a greater use of workers' voices, the concept of agency, and gender, in an attempt to get beyond the scientific and legislative discourses that currently dominate occupational health, as well as the dominance of the practitioners' voice. These approaches could help test bargaining models and help to analyse the importance of insurance as the connecting link between industry and health and for exploring the languages of the different actors, particularly with respect to illness and medicine. All testimonies are learned, but the different participants are learning different testimonies and languages. These need to be intertwined to avoid simply compiling a set of interesting anecdotes. There is also the potential for combining testimonies with statistics to provide a more complete picture of the history of occupational health in a particular situation. But perhaps the key theme for the symposium was the different strands and perspectives that, combined, constitute a

history of occupational health, many of which require further exploration and integration with social, economic, cultural and political histories. The important work showcased at this symposium revealed promising new directions in occupational health that is clearly a rich area for future research, as well as the enthusiasm of those working in the field.

The Centre for Medical History at Exeter plans to further the debates about occupational health with a larger, international, conference on occupational health in the spring of 2004.

Janet Greenlees
Centre for the History of Science, Technology
and Medicine
University of Manchester

SSHM CONFERENCE REPORT

Birthing and Bureaucracy: The history of childbirth and midwifery

University of Sheffield
October 11-12, 2002

The conference was sponsored by the Women's Informed Childbearing and Health (WICH) Research Group of the University of Sheffield, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the Wellcome Unit at the University of Manchester, and the UK Centre for the History of Nursing. The organisers were Mavis Kirkham, Penny Curtis and Flurin Condrau, and the event was supported by SSHM and the Wellcome Trust.

A full programme of papers was packed into two days. The conference was divided into six themes, the initial theme was Birth and Midwifery in the Early Modern Period. Elaine Hobby (Loughborough) opened the conference with a lively discussion on Jane Sharp's educational publication *The Midwives Book or the whole ART of Midwifry Discovered*

(1671). Delegates were provided a useful handout that gave more than one of them the opportunity to contemplate his navel! Sonia Horn (Vienna) followed with an informative history of Midwives in Early Modern Vienna. The third speaker of the day was Janette Allotey (Manchester) who discussed the place of anatomical knowledge in Early Modern England; her research for this paper was primarily concerned with the aforementioned Jane Sharp Sarah Stone (1737) and Elizabeth Nihell (1760).



The second panel of the day was entitled Controversy and Compromise: Birth and Midwifery in the Nineteenth Century. Christine Hallett (Manchester) spoke on the roles of physicians, 'man-midwives', and midwives and the debates surrounding puerperal fever during the Enlightenment. This period was a time when the role of the midwife during delivery and post-natal care changed. This paper brought up the notion of enclosed birthing chambers and the contentious issue of the reality of this. Edwin van Teijlingen (Aberdeen) followed Christine with an interesting biography of Francijntje de Kadt, the first chair of the Dutch Association of Midwives and a key figure in the raising of the profile of the profession. Alison Nuttall rounded off this panel with a paper taken from her doctoral thesis on the development in the training of

midwives in Edinburgh 1850-1912; this research is based on the analysis of casebooks written before the 1915 Midwives (Scotland) Act.

The next theme was 'Doing the work': Birth attendants in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century. Barbara Mortimer (Edinburgh, UK Centre for the History of Nursing) used biographies of midwives in mid nineteenth century Edinburgh to give delegates a fascinating and vivid picture of the career patterns of community midwives. The final paper of the day was an interesting interpretation of statistics by Alice Reid (Cambridge) whose data was taken from birth registers from Derbyshire between 1917 and 1922, and the official midwives' roll, thus looking at the impact of the Midwives Act of 1902. In the evening delegates enjoyed Michael Clark's presentation of *Special Delivery*, many delegates who have not been practising midwives found this film particularly interesting and informative.

Day two began with a panel on Representations and Narrative Constructions of Birth, the first speaker was Lynne Fallwell (Pennsylvania State USA) who impressed delegates with an analysis of German midwifery textbooks. Her paper exemplified the powerful status of the midwife in Nazi controlled Germany and mapped the changes in text books through three eras, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich and the early years of the Cold War. 'The slow death of birth' was the apt title of the second paper of the day, given by Libby Bogdan-Lovis (Michigan State, USA). This paper analysed the work of second wave, mid-twentieth century US feminists concerned with the medicalisation of childbirth. It also raised a lively discussion about the fact that 'choice' could be perceived as manufactured and overrated. Bringing the panel to an end was Holly Tucker (Vanderbilt, Nashville, USA) with a wonderful paper on fairies, fairytales and the role of midwifery. In her own words, the early modern fairy tales were 'not Disney'! A

large number of them were written by women who used this medium as an outlet for talking about child bearing, in/fertility and childbirth.

After a break for coffee, the panel changed tack to that of Birth and Place. Alison Macfarlane (City) and Sachlav Stoler-Liss ((Ben Gurion, Israel) gave talks on the same theme, where and when not to be born, but from very different perspectives. Alison looked at this subject from the statistician's viewpoint and took her research from mortality figures from the 1860s. Sachlav gave an interesting talk about the experiences of Israeli nurses entitled 'One foot on the steering wheel – the other on the window'. To round off this session Denis Walsh a midwife and PhD student (Central Lancashire) spoke of the struggle for the continuation of midwifery-led 'stand-alone' maternity units since the 1970s.



The final round of papers highlighted the conference title, Birth and Bureaucracy. Jean Donnison, author of 'Midwives and Medical Men' (Heinemann 1977) talked of the

regulation and governance of the midwife from the 16th century to the present day. Lindsay Reid (Glasgow) brought to light the reasons why Scotland and Northern Ireland were not included in the Midwives Act of 1902, but had to wait for thirteen years for their own Act to appear. The penultimate paper of the day was given by Ulrike Linder (Bundeswehr, Munich). This paper discussed antenatal care in both England and West Germany after 1948 and highlighted the developments of both countries concerning health services for pregnant women. The conference was brought to a poignant end by Helen Mathers (Sheffield). She has been working on the 'Born in Sheffield' project, which started out as a project on the history of the Jessop Hospital in the city. Her presentation included some very moving oral accounts from nurses, midwives and mothers who have been in contact with the hospital.

The conference brought together practicing health workers and historians with an agenda of multidisciplinary approaches to the history of childbirth. The academic programme and the surrounding socialising showed that multidisciplinary conferences can yield substantial benefits to both historians and health workers.

Polly Harte
University of Reading

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Teaching the History of Medicine to Medical Students

**University of Birmingham
Medical School
Wednesday, February 26, 2003**

Since the major changes to the undergraduate medical curriculum were introduced in the 1990s, the teaching of the history of medicine to medical students has expanded quite significantly. There are now three intercalated degree programmes (UCL, Manchester and Birmingham) and these and

many others now teach the subject through Special Study Modules.

This Workshop is organised jointly by the Centre for the History of Medicine of the University of Birmingham Medical School and the Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN) (Philosophical and Religious Studies Subject Centre – History of Science Technology and Medicine) based at the University of Leeds. It aims to bring together those involved in the teaching of the history of medicine to medical undergraduates in order to:

1. better understand how medical students learn the history of medicine and can be helped to assist students be more effective learners.
2. share experiences of relative successes of different teaching strategies, especially those which are innovative.
3. identify useful resources for learning and teaching (e.g. www).
4. support long-term networks that help develop the teaching medical history to medical students (e.g. HMEWP).
5. develop a better understanding of how the eventual employers of medical students see the value of the subject.

The workshop will also examine a number of areas of common interest. These include teaching resources, assessment, starting-up intercalated degrees and organising special study modules. A number of medical students currently studying or who have recently studied the history of medicine will be invited and there will be in attendance those who manage the curriculum in medical schools and are involved in the employment of medical students once they qualify. Both will have a view on the value of the history of medicine in the curriculum. Speakers include Dr Mark Jackson (Exeter), Dr Colin Stolkin (GKT), Dr Graeme Gooday (LTSN), Dr

Michael Neve (UCL), Dr Penelope Gouk (Manchester) and Mr Robert Arnott (Birmingham).

If you are involved in teaching the history of medicine to medical undergraduates or are about to embark on the process (perhaps from one of the new Medical Schools), or perhaps are just thinking about doing so, this workshop may be invaluable to you. Please book early: space is limited.

For further details contact:

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Medicine and the Media in the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Britain

**University of Warwick,
February 1, 2003**

This interdisciplinary one-day conference, funded by the Humanities Research Centre at Warwick University, will be held on February 1, 2003. Papers will explore a range of issues including

- the rise of a media focussed public health;
- the ways in which the media could propagate knowledge of medical sciences;
- the negotiation and representation of professional medical identities in the media and
- the use of fictional narrative devices by patients to write through their experiences.

Speakers include Virginia Berridge, Sophie Blanch, Tim Boon, Dan O'Conner, Julia Hallam and Sheryl Root.

For further information about the conference, and registration details, please contact:

Sue Dibben
HRC@warwick.ac.uk
or
Vicky Long
hyrez@warwick.ac.uk.

WORLD WIDE WEB

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The guide to history of medicine resources on the Internet

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MedHist is a gateway to evaluated, quality Internet resources relating to the history of medicine and allied sciences, covering all aspects of the history of health and development of medical knowledge.

MedHist is aimed principally at students and staff working within the further and higher education sectors, and also at anyone with a general interest in the subject area.

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Studies in the Social History of Medicine

The Society's Series with Routledge continues to thrive. Nineteen books have now been published, the most recent of which are listed below. Monographs as well as edited collections are now included and we welcome ideas for new volumes.

Potential editors and authors are advised to make a brief preliminary enquiry before embarking upon a formal proposal, which should be at least six pages in length and between 15 and 20 pages if sample material is not available. Further details are available on the SSHM web site:

<http://www.sshm.org/publications/series.html>

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<http://www.sshm.org/publications/orderform-shm.pdf>

Recently published volumes:

- D. Smith and J. Phillips (eds), **Food, Science, Policy and Regulation in the Twentieth Century** (2000)
- R. Davidson and L. Hall (eds), **Sex, Sin and Suffering** (2001)
- A. Bashford and C. Hooker (eds), **Contagion** (2001)
- W. Ernst (ed.), **Plural Medicine, Tradition and Modernity, 1800-2000** (2002)
- J. Stanton (ed.), **Innovations in Health and Medicine** (2002)
- S. Sturdy (ed.), **Health and the Public Sphere in Britain, 1600-2000** (2002)

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The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) is pleased to announce that the winner of its 2001 student essay competition is Angela Montford (Department of Medieval History, University of St Andrews, Scotland) for her essay 'Dangers and Disorders: The Decline of the Dominican *Frater Medicus*'.

A revised version of this essay will be published in *Social History of Medicine* in 2003.

Details of this year's essay competition are available at

<http://www.sshm.org>

or by emailing

competition@sshm.org

Please note that the fax number for joining the Society for Social History of Medicine has changed. With the exception of members joining in the Americas and Japan, order forms should now be sent to OUP at +44 (0)1865 353485 (Please disregard any other number on the order form)

The fax numbers for the Americas and Japan remain the same.

Back issues of the *Gazette* can be downloaded from the Sshm website, at

<http://www.sshm.org/gazette.html>

Please visit the Sshm Website at <http://www.sshm.org>

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