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Contents



*Charles Webster at the SSHM Annual Conference, 2006, University of Warwick,
Page 2.*

- Conference Reports**
- SSHM Annual Conference 2006 Warwick—page 2**
- Spanish Empire—page 4**
- Clinical Iatrogenesis—page 5**
- Maternal Health—page 6**
- Women, Health and Healing—page 8**
- Dust—page 10**
- Women at the Interface—page 11**
- Medical Past—page 11**
- Conference Announcements and Calls for Papers**
- BSHS Postgraduate Conference—page 13**
- SSHM Annual Conference 2008 Glasgow—page 14**
- Further Announcements—page 15**
- Roy Porter Student Essay Competition—page 15**

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**SSHM Annual Conference,
Practices and Representations of
Health: Historical Perspectives****Centre for the History of Medicine,
University of Warwick, 28-30 June 2006**

The SSHM Conference was held at the University of Warwick (Coventry) and was jointly organised by the Centres for the History of Medicine at the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham. With approximately two hundred participants from across the world, this was the largest SSHM Conference held in several years. There were four keynote speakers, thirty-six panels and a poster display. Panels ranged across time periods and geographical areas, examined topics as diverse as colonialism, ethics, and gender, and considered the diversity of historiographical approaches.

The keynote speakers included Sir Geoffrey Lloyd (Cambridge), Professor Susan E. Lederer (Yale), Professor Charles E. Rosenberg (Harvard) and Dr. Anthony Woods (The Wellcome Trust). Sir Geoffrey Lloyd discussed the comparative study of medicine in reference to Ancient Greece and China, while Professor Lederer's paper moved much further forward in time to consider cardiac transplantation in the 1960s and Professor Rosenberg looked at Erwin Ackernecht's contributions to the development of the history of medicine during the twentieth century. For those scholars able to apply for and interested in Wellcome funding, Dr. Woods presented on the Wellcome Trust's funding strategy for the history of medicine. This complemented the Wellcome Trust funding surgeries that were held on two mornings. At the SSHM drinks reception Margaret Pelling presented Charles Webster with a *festschrift*.

Sessions that I attended included a poster display, "Early Modern Gender and Medicine", "Varieties of Early Modern

Medicine", "Governing Health: Physicians, Artisans and Patients", "Healthy Babies", "Parents and Children", "Imagining Conception and Birth in Premodern Europe (1300-1800)" and "Approaches to the History of Medicine". At each session, the thought-provoking nature of the papers was emphasised by the lively question and discussion periods.

The poster display received many positive comments from conference participants who were encouraged to consider the ways in which pictures instead of words could be used to convey history. In "Gender and Medicine", Lauren Kassell (Cambridge) considered the one-sex or two-sex body using the work of Helkiah Croke, Patrick Wallis (LSE) questioned whether or not early modern London apothecaries were anxious about gender and Margaret Pelling (Oxford) looked at the representations of barbers in art and literature across the centuries.

Presentation of *Festschrift* to Charles Webster

"Varieties of Early Modern Medicine" discussed the multiple uses of early modern medicine. Elsa Dorlin (Paris) compared the discourses of race and gender applied to French colonies in the eighteenth-century, while Tabitha Marshall (McMaster) considered the importance of place and environment to the health of British soldiers during the American Revolution. David Haycock (LSE) looked at the ways in which early modern intellectuals thought they might

be able to obtain immortality in order to continue their studies.

The panel for “Governing Health” focused on medicine in early modern Geneva. While Christine Tourn (Genève) discussed the control of medicine by the Genevan State Council and Consistory Court and patients’ circumvention of this control, Philip Rieder (Genève) traced the practices of surgeons and apothecaries and the unofficial activities of practitioners within masters’ shops. Concetta Pennuto (Genève) analysed the relationship between practice and theory in the *consilia* of Quercetanus in the sixteenth century.



SSHM Drinks Reception at Warwick

“Healthy Babies” included papers on the development of foetal and infant health in Sweden, Glasgow and New Zealand. Stephan Curtis (Memorial) considered the spatial patterns of nineteenth-century midwives’ practices in Sweden alongside the reluctance or enthusiasm of different areas to adopt modern medicine. Angus Ferguson (Glasgow) presented a paper co-authored with Lawrence Weaver (Glasgow) on the rise and fall of the early twentieth-century Glasgow Infant Milk Depot. Linda Bryder discussed the mid-twentieth century medical developments in New Zealand that enabled physicians to treat fetuses and the rhetoric that emerged about fetal rights.

In the session on “Parents and Children”, Lisa Grant (Warwick) undertook a comparison of British and French medical literature (ca. 1762-1862) to locate the role of mothers in children’s medical experiences. Cathryn Wilson (Essex) analysed the politics of power in negotiations between parents and professionals over children’s bodies in late nineteenth-century England. Using the records of the Northampton General Infirmary, Andrew Williams (Birmingham) looked at the admission of children during the eighteenth century, despite official restrictions on their admission. In the panel for

“Imagining Conception”, which looked at the imagery of childbirth in premodern Europe, Monica Green (Arizona State) analysed images of fetuses and childbirth to determine how these images were used medically rather than decoratively. Within the context of the reproductive concerns of aristocratic families in France and Brittany, Elizabeth L’Estrange (Liège) considered the devotional and medical remedies used to ensure successful conception and birth. Lianne McTavish (New Brunswick) provided a close visual analysis of eighteenth-century French obstetrical treatises, discussing the relationship between the images and the texts and the educational uses of the images.

The final session on “Approaches” successfully ended the conference, raising several interesting methodological questions. Flurin Condrau (Manchester) critiqued the trends in the history of medicine that obscure the patient’s point of view and identified areas that need further attention. Demonstrating the variety of possible approaches, Vladimir Jankovic (Manchester) used an environmental perspective to consider the growing emphasis on hardening the exterior of the body from the eighteenth century and Jonathan Reinarz (Birmingham) focused on writing hospital histories and the importance of looking at hospital patients rather than just the institutions.

This year's SSHM conference has demonstrated the dynamic state of the history of medicine. With so much diversity in conference participants, themes and papers, this was an exciting and unmissable conference.

Lisa Smith, University of Saskatchewan



CONFERENCE REPORT

Health and Medicine in the Spanish Empire 1492-1700

The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University College London, 16 June 2006.

Organised by Professor Harold Cook (Wellcome Trust Centre), Dr. Jon Arrizabalaga (CSIC-IMF, Barcelona) and Dr. Teresa Huguet-Termes (CEHIC-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), this one day symposium introduced the work of scholars interested in early modern Spanish medicine. This is the fourth in a series on early modern medicine at the Wellcome Trust Centre, intended to bring together the scholars from European countries with those working in Great Britain. Other conferences have considered France, Italy and Germany.

There were eight speakers throughout the day and the papers can be grouped into four overarching—and often overlapping—themes: medical pluralism, outsiders and foreignness, gender, and remedies and welfare. Several of the papers considered medical pluralism. These papers included Dr. María Luz López Terrada's (CSIC-Valencia, Instituto de Historia de la Ciencia y Documentación López Piñero) considered Valencia's attempts to control the wide range of medical practitioners, while Dr. María Tausiet (IES Prado de Santo Domingo, Madrid) considered the uneasy distinctions between *saludadores* and witches. Dr. William Eamon (New Mexico State University)

analysed the trial of an Italian surgeon tried for charlatanism in sixteenth-century Spain. Beyond his discussion of charlatanism, Dr. Eamon also considered the foreignness of the Italian surgeon and what it meant for him at the court of Philip II. This theme of existing on the outside of the medical world, despite formal medical training, also emerged in Dr. Jon Arrizabalaga's paper which considered the construction of the ideal medical practitioner in the work of Rodrigo de Castro. Importantly, Rodrigo was not only a Jewish physician, but he lived in Antwerp and Hamburg after leaving his native Lisbon. Gender was also important to the conference, as it was integral to both Dr. Terrada's paper on medical pluralism and Dr. Tausiet's paper on witches. Dr. Mònica Bolufer (Universitat de València) focused entirely on gender, discussing the way in which the Spanish *querelle des femmes* changed from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. A final theme from the conference was that of remedies and public welfare. Dr. Mar Rey Bueno (Madrid) considered Philip II's desire to fund the pursuit of alchemical knowledge and the function of the distillery at El Escorial to provide medicines for the court. Dr. Antonio Barrera (Colgate University) examined the process by which medicines from the New World became incorporated in the medical practices of the Old World. Finally, Dr. Teresa Huguet-Termes (CEHIC-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) looked at the development of hospitals in Madrid and social welfare within the overall context of the Habsburg Empire.

The group discussion at the conferences highlighted the ways in which the medical world across early modern Europe had as many similarities as differences. However, the growth of the far-flung Spanish Empire was unique at the time and crucial to ongoing medical developments; for example, medical practitioners frequently moved to other parts of the empire and the strong bureaucracy that emerged enabled closer state supervision of medical practitioners. Several scholars

emphasised how far Spanish historiography has been moving from the Black Legend of the Inquisition, thus opening up a wide range of opportunities for the study of social and cultural history. Given the exciting changes, it is to be hoped that the study of Spanish medical history becomes more central to medical historiography than it has been in the past.

Lisa Smith, University of Saskatchewan

SHM CONFERENCE REPORT

**History of Clinical Iatrogenesis:
Before and After Ivan Illich'
Workshop**

**Centre for the History of Science,
Technology and Medicine (CHSTM),
University of Manchester, 19 May 2006**

On May 19th, medical historians, nursing historians and clinicians gathered at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM) at the University of Manchester for a day-long workshop on the history of clinical iatrogenesis. In addition to being well-attended, the workshop elicited lively discussions from participants. Professor Mick Worboys, from CHSTM, opened the day's discussions by providing an overview of Ivan Illich's writing on the concept of clinical iatrogenesis. In *Medical Nemesis*, Illich argues that modern medicine causes more harm than good. Illich describes modern systems of health care that are reliant on professional medical practitioners as 'sickening' for three reasons: they obscure the political nature of the causes of ill health; they weaken individuals' capacity to heal and care for themselves; and they cause clinical ill-effects that outstrip the possible benefits of treatment. It was in his writing on this last point that Illich coined the term clinical iatrogenesis. The workshop originated with the belief that elements of Illich's work on the topic are worth revisiting and reviving.

However, this requires that Illich's work and the notion of clinical iatrogenesis are contextualised historically.

Following Worboy's introduction, Professor Susan Lederer of Yale University gave a keynote address entitled 'Bad Blood: Race, risk, and wrongs in American blood transfusion in the 1950s.' In her talk, Lederer touched on the history of blood transfusion as a therapeutic modality. For much of its history, blood transfusion has involved the iatrogenic mutilation of the donor. Lederer then turned in detail to a set of controversies in post-war America concerning cross-racial transfusions. Lederer demonstrated that when the discovery of new blood antigens in the late 1940s and 1950s provided a scientific rationale for same-race transfusions (particularly of black Americans), the concern over social iatrogenesis trumped the threat of clinical iatrogenesis. Concerns over the social stigmatization of 'black blood' overrode the concern about developing adverse reactions to antigens in donated blood.

The next set of papers dealt with historical and contemporary understandings of infections acquired as a result of health care practices. Dr. Christine Hallett of the University of Manchester School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work and the UK Centre for the History of Nursing and Midwifery addressed community nurses' perspectives on aseptic techniques. On the basis of interviews that she conducted with community nurses in the late 1990s, Hallett argued that the nurses' ambivalent view of infection control in wound care reflects ongoing changes to the profession, particularly its move from a model of practice-led knowledge production to a culture of positivistic, 'evidence-based' nursing. Presenting a paper co-written with Professor Worboys, Dr. Aya Homei of CHSTM discussed how the rise of lethal fungal infections in the 1950s was viewed by contemporaries to be an exemplar case of

iatrogenic diseases of modern medicine, as they were implicated with the clinical use of broad-spectrum antibiotics. Next, Dr. Robert Bud, from the Science Museum in London, considered the decline in public trust in scientific and medical expertise between the mid 1950s and the late 1960s, which was reflected in markedly different responses to outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant infections in hospitals in the UK during the two periods.

In the following session, Rachel McAdams, a PhD student at the University of Glasgow, discussed the life's work of Maurice Pappworth, a practising clinician and a highly influential critic of the treatment of patients in biomedical research. Dr. Emm Barnes, from CHSTM, described how uncertainty about the long-term consequences of treatment for childhood cancers can itself be seen as iatrogenic. Indeed, labels like 'post-traumatic stress disorder' often appear to confound – rather than ameliorate – childhood cancer 'survivors' and their parents' suffering. Professor Sir George Alberti, Director of Emergency Access at the Department of Health and a former President of the Royal College of Physicians, provided a clinician's perspective on the issue of clinical iatrogenesis. For Alberti, iatrogenesis is inevitable because all medical practices involve interventions, and interventions always carry the risk of doing harm. The challenge for medicine is to establish systems that allow for detection, open reflection and responsible reactions to medical error.

The day's discussion concluded through collective reflection on the papers' shared themes. Historically, participants noted, the 1960s in the UK and North America was a time of widespread decline in public faith in scientific and medical expertise. This questioning and growing suspicion toward expertise co-articulates with rising political dissent and unrest, which is reflected in the language of some critiques, such as the

description of breast cancer surgery as a 'medical Vietnam.' Thus, debates about clinical iatrogenesis can be understood as historically significant markers of the mood of their time.

Laura Fenton, York University, Canada

CONFERENCE REPORT

Maternal Health in the Twentieth Century; International Perspectives

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 10 May 2006.

The emergence of an international maternal and infant welfare movement in the early decades of the 20th Century has provided a rich field of investigation for historians. Scholars have highlighted the great diversity in the timing of campaigns and in the approaches used by individuals, institutions and governments. High maternal and infant mortality have stimulated involvement at the local and national level, but motives and strategies have differed widely from country to country, reflecting the impact of different political, cultural and economic factors.

The purpose of the afternoon workshop held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on 10th May was to explore this diversity using examples from Britain, Scandinavia, New Zealand and the international maternal health arena. Organized by the Centre for History in Public Health, the workshop featured contributions from historians and public health experts working in the maternal health field. Four short presentations were followed by a discussion chaired by Dominique Béhague, a member of the Maternal Health Programme based in the Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Unity, LSHTM.

The afternoon began with "Feminist surgeons and the development of radiotherapy for cervical cancer in early 20th

C Britain”, presented by Ornella Moscucci (LSHTM). This study highlighted women’s role in the construction of initiatives aimed at improving maternal health through the early 20th century with cervical cancer. In the early 1900s cervical cancer was framed as a disease typically affecting poor, older women, many of whom were mothers of large families. Widely associated with obstetrical injury and multiparity, it became an issue of special interest to feminist surgeons and gynaecologists after the First World War in the context of anxieties about maternal mortality and morbidity. Women’s contribution to the development of radiotherapy was examined in the light of professional struggles over the relative merits of surgery and radiotherapy. The establishment of a clinic for the purpose of investigating the radium treatment of cervical cancer, and its evolution into a hospital, the Marie Curie, were seen to have played a key role in establishing radiotherapy as an alternative to surgery in cancer of the cervix. Close analysis of this initiative revealed that medical women’s interest in radiotherapy was prompted not only by long-standing traditions of service to other women, but also by the lure of new career opportunities in a rapidly developing specialty.

The need for a reappraisal of the role played by women’s organizations in the maternal health field was the theme elaborated by Linda Bryder (University of Auckland) in “Them and Us”: Obstetricians and Women in Twentieth-century New Zealand”. This paper challenged two assumptions that have dominated the historiography of childbirth since the late 1970s. The first is the tendency to portray this history as the gradual domination of obstetrics by male doctors in a hospital setting, using ever-increasing technology. The second is the belief that only in the post-Second World War period did women become more outspoken, voicing their demands through lay consumer groups. Focusing on New Zealand, the paper argued firstly that it was women themselves who drove the movement to hospitalised births

with pain relief, allying themselves to modern obstetrical science. Secondly, the move to ‘natural childbirth’ in the 1950s was as much driven by male obstetricians who wished to safeguard the newborn baby, as by women who wished to experience the moment of birth. A complex picture thus emerged, in which the formation of alliances between providers and consumers of obstetric care was seen to have been critical to the development of services and practices in the sphere of maternity.

Signild Vallgårda’s (University of Copenhagen) presentation shifted the focus onto the function health promotion has played in the maternity field as a vehicle for the exercise of state power. Inspired by the work of Michel Foucault, “Governing mothers - health promotion messages to pregnant women and parents in Denmark and Sweden from 1930 to the present” examined the governing programmes and practices through which transformations in mothers’ behaviour and identity had been sought. Governing technologies have relied on distinctive vocabularies and procedures for the production of truth; used specific ways of acting and intervening, and deployed characteristic ways of forming persons and agents. During the 1930s, for example, the introduction of health examinations of women and children in Denmark and Sweden served to define standards of normal development for pregnant women and children, shaping women’s health expectations and identifying groups in need of special state intervention. Health promotion material sought to change behaviour not only by means of prescriptive advice, but also by appealing to mothers’ autonomy, aspirations, and sense of responsibility. These messages are still very much in evidence in contemporary Denmark and Sweden, although the governing ambitions have widened in the latter part of the 20th century to include the management of the family and of its social network.

The final session of the workshop drew on a project currently being developed within the ambit of the Maternal Health Programme at LSHTM. Katerini Storeng's, Dominique Béhague's and Oona Campbells's (LSHTM) paper, "An anthropological exploration of the use of historical constructions by key players in the maternal health field", examined the way in which history has been mobilized by players in the international maternal health arena since 1990. The study, which was presented by Katerini, focused on two main domains in which certain "lessons from history" are frequently made reference to: the first is the contemporary use of historical analyses (e.g. analyses of maternal mortality declines in 19th C Sweden and other European countries) as a means of justifying the need for skilled midwives and medical interventions in childbirth; the second is the portrayal of the history of Safe Motherhood programmes commonly put forth by maternal health advocates themselves, which is often imbued with a sense of failure and struggle for identity and legitimacy. Players in the maternity field have drawn from the work of historians like Irvine Loudon and Edward Shorter in order to legitimate an emphasis on the technical aspects of maternity care. What has not been widely appreciated is that the strategies that have worked for the developed West may not be appropriate to the developing world.

The workshop, which was well attended, stimulated a lively discussion of the uses of history in the maternal health field. Presenters and participants said they had found the workshop stimulating and useful for their own research.

Dr Ornella Moscucci, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

SHM CONFERENCE REPORT

Women, Health and Healing in Early Modern Europe

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. 21 April 2006

On an unusually warm spring day in late April, historians of medicine gathered in Baltimore for a one day workshop 'Women, Health and Healing in Early Modern Europe'. Organised by Professor Mary Fissell and hosted by Johns Hopkins University, the workshop sought to explore new work on women's role as healers and as patients. The first session of the day, 'Mining Women's Manuscript Remedy Books,' consisted of three papers focused upon using manuscript recipe collections to reassess women's role within the early modern healthcare system. The pre-circulated papers included 'Kitchen Physicke? Women, Recipes and Household Medicine in Seventeenth-century England' by Elaine Leong (Leicester); 'Art Written Down: Elite Women and Medical Recipes in Early Modern Germany', Alisha Rankin (Trinity College, Cambridge) and 'According to the Age and Strength of the Patient': Old Age and Seventeenth Century Popular Medicine', Professor Lynn Botelho (Indiana University of Pennsylvania). Amy Froide, (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) provided an insightful response to the papers. While each of the three papers focused upon recipes created and collected by women of different ages, in different European countries and across social strata, the papers were linked with the common goal of evaluating and assessing manuscript recipe collections as primary sources. A lively and stimulating discussion amongst the participants addressed both the scope of these texts and the diverse methodologies which could be adopted to 'mine' the manuscripts.

The first simultaneous afternoon session, 'Assembling the Female Body? Flap Anatomies in Early Modern Germany' was led by Amy Cislo (Washington University)

and Kathleen Crowther-Heyck, (University of Oklahoma). The interdisciplinary and hands-on discussion focused on a number of sixteenth and eighteenth-century flap anatomies presented by Cislo and Crowther-Heyck. The group discussion which followed assessed the role flap anatomies might have played within early modern anatomy and medical education practices and touched upon the production and intended and real audiences for these fascinating objects.



Coffee-fuelled discussion at Johns Hopkins

The second concurrent afternoon session, 'Performing Medieval Childbirth: Some Literary Texts,' provided an interdisciplinary re-examination of medieval childbirth. Led by Professor Katharine Park (Harvard University), and Professor Gail M. Gibson (Davidson College), the participants examined the way childbirth was depicted in literary texts, historical documents, and images. The materials discussed most fully were 'The Nativity,' an excerpt from the N-Town cycle of religious pageants compiled in East Anglia sometime after 1468; a notarial account of a childbirth in Zaragoza, Spain in 1490 (translated by Montserrat Cabré), and the Florentine marble relief 'Death in Childbirth,' attributed to the workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio (c. 1477). This rich combination of primary materials provoked an enthusiastic discussion. Particularly notable was the realization of strong regional differences in childbirth practices. Likewise,

the combination of primary documents and secondary reading chosen by Park and Gibson suggested a greater male role in childbirth than is generally emphasized in historical studies. Overall, the participants agreed that the topic of childbirth must be approached with flexibility, and that the generally accepted understanding of childbirth rituals should not be taken as universal or unbending.

The final session of the day, 'Women in Practice,' turned to examine the status of female medical practitioners in the courtroom and in the community. The papers presented included 'The Trials of the Female Medical Expert in Ancien Régime France' by Cathy McClive (Durham), and 'Sir John Lack-Latin, a Peddler, and a Presumptuous Woman: Situating Women's Medical Experiences in Elizabethan London' by Deborah Harkness, (University of Southern California). The discussion of these excellent papers focused on definitions of expertise, and what it meant to be a female expert. Both McClive's case of midwives acting as expert witnesses in court and Harkness' examples of female practitioners viewed as experts within the community revealed an underlying concern about women's medical expertise on behalf of regulating bodies (the Ancien Régime courtroom and the Royal College of Physicians in London). At the same time, the presenters noted the extent to which midwives were used as expert witnesses in France and female practitioners flourished in Elizabethan London.

Overall, the conference provided an exciting and intense forum for discussion, and it was deemed a rousing success by all involved.

Elaine Leong, University of Leicester and Alisha Rankin, University of Cambridge

Working with Dust: health, Dust and Diseases in the History of Occupational Health

Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter, 10-12 April 2006

This major international comparative conference on industrial health and the politics of disease regulation since 1700 was organised by the Centre for Medical History at the University of Exeter and was generously sponsored by the Wellcome Trust and supported by the Society for the Social History of Medicine. The three day event, 10-12 April 2006, attracted a large number of international scholars who developed a global perspective on the problem. The conference built on an earlier expert symposium on Dust, Disease and the Politics of Ill health in the mid-20th Century (c. 1930-1970s) British Mining held at the University of Exeter, 22-23 September 2005. Key themes and issues identified at both events will be re-visited at a further meeting (to be held in the USA, autumn 2007) ahead of the publication of selected conference papers. Researchers who are interested in participating in this final conference in the series or contributing to the edited collection are invited to contact Dr Jo Melling (J.L.Melling@exeter.ac.uk) for further information.

The first day of Working with Dust focussed on the textile industries. In a session titled 'textiles and anthrax', Tim Carter (Birmingham) and Rosemary Wall (Imperial College) explored reactions to the disease in Kidderminster and Bradford. Janet Greenlees (Manchester) and Pamela Dale (Exeter) then looked at 'textiles, technology and health politics', with emphasis on the campaign to control the practice of 'shuttle-kissing' in the cotton industries of Lancashire and New England. The day concluded with a series of films introduced by Michael Clark (UCL) and Catherine Mills (Exeter). The second day concentrated on mining. The session on 'silicosis and tuberculosis' included papers by

Jo Melling (Exeter) and Tony Davies (University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) and Criena Fitzgerald (University of Western Australia). Alfredo Menéndez Navarro (University of Granada) and Gerald Markowitz (City University of New York) developed contrasting case studies of 'silicosis in Europe and North America'. This led into a wider survey aimed at 'understanding coal miners' health issues in the 20th century' which included papers from Andrew Perchard (University of the highlands and Islands Millennium Institute) and Ronnie Johnston (Glasgow Caledonian) and Arthur McIvor (Strathclyde). The final day involved contrasting papers from Amarjit Kaur (University of New England, Australia) and Mark Jackson (Exeter) in a session titled 'from global labour markets to domestic labour'. Chris Sellers brought the event to a conclusion with a broad overview of 'new frontiers in the history of work and the environment'. In a wide-ranging discussion he extended analysis from national studies to the relationship between hazards in the developed and developing worlds. He found mixed evidence for 'race to the bottom' models of production but illustrated complicated patterns of supply and demand for hazardous materials. This provoked a very stimulating question and answer session that led into an interesting 'round table discussion' that picked up themes and issues raised by all the different papers. The motivation of the different actors, and their understanding of dust hazards, was confirmed as a vital research agenda going forward.

Pamela Dale, University of Exeter

Women at the Interface: Science, Technology and Medicine**Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter, 24 February 2006.**

This one day workshop for postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate students was held at the University of Exeter on 24 February 2006. It was hosted by the Centre for Medical History and generously supported by the Wellcome Trust. The day was organized to encourage exploration of the key themes and share work in progress. Dr Lesley Hall from Archives and Manuscripts, Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine acted as expert summarizer and gave the keynote address on “A masculine mythology suppressing and distorting all the facts”: contesting the concept of the male as norm’. This provoked a very stimulating discussion chaired by Rhodri Hayward and fed into the closing round table discussion chaired by Helen Blackman.

The morning session, chaired by Catherine Mills, included four contrasting work in progress papers and a presentation from Sara Brady (Swansea) on ‘The South Wales Coalfield Collection: A Resource for Medical History’. This not only outlined her work with Professor Anne Borsay but demonstrated the scope of this previously under-utilized archive. An interesting discussion on a variety of manuscripts, artifacts and electronic resources followed. The afternoon programme involved the key note address, three further papers and the round table discussion. The day proved very enjoyable and much excellent work was shared by speakers and those simply attending the event. Many thanks to the centre staff for their help with the arrangements. A programme and set of abstracts can be obtained from C.E.Keyte@exeter.ac.uk. Details of forthcoming events hosted by the Centre for Medical history can be found at <http://www.centres.ex.ac.uk/medhist/>.

Papers were given by Pamela Dale ‘Class and Gender Tensions in the Infant Welfare Movement’, Ali Haggett ‘You and Your Nerves...Representations of Minor Mental Disorders in the Women’s Periodical Press 1959-69’, Debbie Palmer ‘Who Cares for the Carers? A Study of the Occupational Health of General Nurses from 1890-1919’, Pamela Richardson ‘Bridging the Gulf: Quaker Women at the Vanguard of Relief Work in Germany after World War One’, Mary Carter ‘The Challenges of Providing a High Quality Diabetes Service in the 21st Century: The Consultant Physician’s Perspective’, Maddy Morgan ‘The Contagious Diseases Act: A Pragmatic Response’ and Sarah Hayes ‘Behind Every Great Man: The Role of Women in the Scientific Study of Child Behaviour and Emotional Health, 1900-1945’.

Pamela Dale, University of Exeter

Assessing the Medical Past: Occupational and Community Health of the South Wales Coalfield**Swansea University, 14 December 2005.**

This one day conference brought together a diverse audience with interests in occupation and community health as well as scholars working on the history of the South Wales coalfields. It was organised by Professor Anne Borsay to publicise the important South Wales Coalfield Collection and host the launch of the enhanced on-line catalogue. Anne Borsay is the director of a Wellcome Trust funded project to identify medical records in the collection and facilitate access to them. This conference forms part of a five point strategy to make better use of the internationally important collection. A publicity leaflet was also unveiled on the day and a printed catalogue and guide will complete the project in 2006. It was

particularly encouraging to see the close relationship that had been established between the project team and the archivists and librarians responsible for the collection, many of whom attended the launch and contributed to the sessions.

The conference opened with an official welcome from Professor Peter Townsend, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Swansea University. He stressed the international importance of the South Wales Coalfield Collection, and emphasised the value of making it more accessible to researchers. Hywel Francis M.P. discussed his involvement with the early history of the collection and welcomed the current project's aim of developing research resources in medical history. He then drew explicit links between the suffering of the South Wales miners and mining communities and their contribution to pioneering social institutions that made significant contributions to wider social change. These were themes that speakers and delegates picked up in an extended and engaging discussion of the Tredegar Medical Aid Society at the closing round table.

In the first session, chaired by Alun Burge, Chris Williams (Swansea) gave a paper, titled 'New Directions in the History of the South Wales Coalfield'. This discussed his personal association with the Coalfields Collection, dating back more than twenty years, and described the many ongoing projects that utilise its resources. In an impressive survey of recent scholarship he raised a number of methodological issues and identified key themes, including medical history, for future research. He stressed the problematic incorporation of specifically coalfield issues into wider histories of Wales but also drew attention to the imperatives of the past and the many current issues that flow from the social, economic and political legacy left by the coal industry in South Wales.

Jo Melling's (Exeter) paper 'Dust gets in your eyes (and lungs): debates on coal miner's working conditions and respiratory health',

drew attention to the vital role played by South Wales miners and their unions in the identification and control of pneumoconiosis. This research project (with Mark Bufton) has made extensive use of the Coalfield Collection and its findings are challenging many existing accounts of the pneumoconiosis problem. The project has identified a need to understand the legislative context, the contested nature of the scientific evidence and the capacity of different actors to mobilise. By linking work and community health, in a way that encouraged its politicisation, the unions were able to press for action and emerge as key actors in the debate without appearing to be either simple victims of the dust or heroic class warriors. Individual miners are shown to have calculated risks according to their personal circumstances as well as prevailing capitalist market relations.

The first session concluded with the web launch and a brief address from staff involved with the project. Siân Williams (South Wales Miners' Library) gave a detailed account of the development of the collection, its current holdings and value to academics and other researchers. Elisabeth Bennett (Archivist, Library and Information Services) described the trade union and other papers held in the collection and noted the recent improvements to the catalogues, which had been updated and were being put on the web. Unfortunately there was still a sense that the collection was not being fully exploited and she welcomed the way the current project was making the collection available to new audiences. In turn Anne Borsay (Project Director) and Sara Brady (Senior Research Assistant) noted the high level of cooperation and vital sense of teamwork that had made the collaboration possible. Anne Borsay gave a brief outline of the project and Sara Brady gave a detailed report on her work before demonstrating an on-line search. Delegates returned to a discussion of the texts and images shown, and the possibilities presented by the web capability, at the round table.

The second session chaired by Mansel Aylward, opened with a paper from Arthur McIvor (Strathclyde, in collaboration with Ronnie Johnston), 'South Wales Miners and Occupational Lung Diseases since 1945' that drew on oral history testimony and the records in the Coalfield Collection. An examination of dust disease in South Wales was interwoven with disability narratives. Miners affected by pneumoconiosis accounted for more than 14,000 of the 54,000 disabled people in Wales in 1946. Their experiences, which show evidence of power and agency, run counter to the social model of disability current in much of the literature. While disabled miners suffered social exclusion through loss of income, loss of work, loss of breadwinner role and curtailment of social life it is also true that the tight family and community networks in the coalfield areas, together with union led welfare initiatives, went some way to overcome this. Miners also made efforts to control dust and prevent pneumoconiosis whilst simultaneously fighting for compensation.

Steve Thompson (University of Wales, Aberystwyth), posed the very interesting question 'how did workers in South Wales access healthcare for themselves and their families?' in his paper 'Medicine in the Archives: Workers' Medical Schemes in South Wales, c.1870-1948'. He demonstrated the comprehensive services delivered by some medical aid societies and drew the link between the Tredegar society and the creation of the NHS. The paper showed how early nineteenth-century schemes in the iron industry provided an enduring model of health provision for workers. Initially employer led, later there was increasing pressure for employee control and firm commitments to principles of democracy and mutuality. These schemes have been overlooked by the UK historiography but US literature demonstrates the importance of such schemes and highlights the uniqueness of the South Wales model.

Anne Borsay concluded the session with 'Rehabilitating Wartime Miners, 1939-45'. This presentation used documentary film to provide revealing insights into the relationship between medicine, citizenship and disability. The Ministry of Information film 'Fit to Work' which formed part of the 'Worker and Warfront' series celebrated working-class agency, collectivism and expert knowledge. This chimed with the way that the orthopaedic specialists had sold 'scientific rehabilitation' to the coalfield communities through publications like 'The Miner'. Yet the passivity of the patient portrayed, and the rejection of impairment as a legitimate human condition created many problems for disabled people that have persisted throughout the era of the welfare state. The citizenship of disabled people was arguably compromised at this key moment in pursuit of productivity.

The day concluded with a round table chaired by Chris West. This brought together many of the key themes of the day and suggested new avenues for research, with gender and health, together with associated ideas about masculinity and femininity, emerging as key concerns for delegates. There was a strong commitment to continue to work on the health of coalfield communities and a keen interest in exploiting the resources identified by this project.

Pamela Dale, University of Exeter

SSHM CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

British Society for the History of Science Postgraduate Conference

University of Durham, 4-6 January 2007

Call for Papers Deadline: Wednesday 8 November 2006

The next British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) postgraduate conference will

be hosted by the Department of Philosophy in collaboration with the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease at the University of Durham, from Thursday 4 to Saturday 6 January 2007. The annual BSHS postgraduate conference is an opportunity for postgraduates, from the UK and abroad, researching within the history of science, technology and medicine to present their research.

We welcome papers from all postgraduates working in History of Science, Technology and Medicine, and also those working in other disciplines whose research touches on any area of HSTM studies. We would like to offer as many postgraduates as possible the chance to present their papers, hence time for presentations will be restricted to no more than twenty minutes.

Please send a title and a brief abstract (not more than 350 words) to the organisers by Wednesday, 8 November 2006. The abstract should provide an outline of your paper, including methodology, sources and key questions of your research project. Please also include contact details and your institutional affiliation.

For further details or submission of abstracts please contact the organisers Vicky Blake, Beth Hannon and Sebastian Pranghofer at:

bshs.pg2007@durham.ac.uk
BSHS Postgraduate Conference 2007
Durham University
Philosophy Department
50 Old Elvet
Durham
DH1 3HN
United Kingdom

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/bshs.pg2007/bshspg2007.html>

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

History and the Healthy Population: Society, Government, Health and Health care

Annual SSHM Conference 2008

The Society for the Social History of Medicine 2008 Annual Conference will be jointly organised by the Centre for the History of Medicine at Glasgow University and the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare Glasgow, a research collaboration between Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Strathclyde. For more information on the hosts, please see:

www.arts.gla.ac.uk/History/Medicine/
www.gcal.ac.uk/historyofhealth/index.html

Or contact either Dr Gayle Davis (G.Davis@arts.gla.ac.uk) or Dr James Mills (jim.mills@strath.ac.uk). Send a title and an abstract of 300 words to lmarshall@arts.gla.ac.uk

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

History of the Social Determinants of Health

3-Day Conference

Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University of London.

Sir David Davies Lecture Theatre (G08)

**Roberts Building, Torrington Place,
London WC1E 6EQ**

See website for full details/registration form:

www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed

Or telephone Carol Bowen: 020 7679 8163

ANNOUNCEMENT

'AIDS Relief and Global Biomedicine Today: The Re-emergence of a Military-Therapeutic Complex in Africa?'

Dr Vinh-Kim Nguyen

Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Montreal will give The Booth Lecture at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, UCL, Wednesday 29 November 2006, 17.30

Attendance is free, but by ticket only and you are advised to register no later than Monday 20 November 2006. To request a ticket/tickets please send a stamped addressed envelope, clearly marked 'Booth Lecture', to:
Carol Bowen
Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL
210 Euston Road
London
NW1 2BE

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mind in Medicine: New Histories of Psychiatry

Themed Research Seminar

**Oct-Dec 2006, Thursdays 17.30-19.00
Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 210 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE**

Registration not required

Full details available on the website from September 2006

www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed

Or telephone Carol Bowen: 020 7679 8163

ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHMM) invites submissions to its 2006 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition. This prize will be awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine submitted to the competition as judged by the SSHM's assessment panel. It is named in honour of the late Professor Roy Porter, a great teacher and a generous scholar.

The competition is open to undergraduate and post-graduate students in full or part-time education. The winner will be awarded £500.00, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal, *Social History of Medicine*.

The deadline for entries is December 31, 2006. An entry form can be found on the back page, alternatively further details and entry forms can be down-loaded from the SSHM's website: <http://www.sshm.org>

Or contact:

Dr Lutz Sauerteig,
Centre for the History of Medicine and
Disease,
Durham University,
Queen's Campus,
Wolfson Research Institute,
University Boulevard,
Stockton on Tees, TS17 6BH,
United Kingdom.

Email: competition@sshm.org



SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

2006 ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE MEMORIAL COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

I have read the rules for the Sshm's 2006 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Memorial Competition. I agree to abide by these rules.

I declare that I am eligible to enter this competition according to the terms of rule 2 (please see website for further details)

Signature:

Full Name:.....

Date:.....

Address:.....

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Email :.....

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