

Gazette

18

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Editorial

As Matthew announced in the last number of the Gazette he has stepped down as Editor and we all like to thank him for his hard work in keeping the Society's members regularly informed. My role as editor means the Gazette leaving Sheffield after five years and 17 issues and moving west to Liverpool. This may also be a time for more fundamental changes. At the Annual General Meeting of the SSHM this summer the future of the Gazette was discussed particularly in the light of David Wright's work in establishing and maintaining the Society's Web site (<http://www.nott.ac.uk/depts.html#arts>). Since not all Society members have access to electronic communications it was decided for the present that the Gazette and the Web pages would contain similar information and would be run in tandem. This should remain under active consideration and other options will be given coverage in the Gazette. The internet is already being used for other functions by Society members such as the Science Medicine and Empire email discussion group and bibliographic review of literature (<http://info.ox.ac.uk/~linc0140/index.html>). Developments such as this aid the increasingly international outlook of the society: Dr Elizabeth Fee has been appointed as a third editor of the Journal and the 1997 Annual conference will be a joint meeting with the International Network for the History of Public Health.

I would welcome your views on the future of the paper Gazette or some form of printout. Indeed I would welcome all items of interest. It not only makes my job as editor easier but makes a newsletter such as this of more value to its readership. Send in the news, conference details and reports, overseas members reports and talking points which have made the Gazette a success for the Society's members. If this editorial reads rather like the opening gambits of my predecessors that is because I need your support too, and hope that I can maintain the newsletter to its consistent high standard.

Helen Power, Editor.

Correspondence about the content and circulation of the Gazette and material for inclusion should be sent to the editor, Helen Power, Department of Economic and Social history, University of Liverpool, 11 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 3BX. Tel: 0151 794 2410. Fax: 0151 794 2423. Email: hel@liv.ac.uk

INFORMATION

Disclaimer: It is stressed that any views expressed in this Gazette are those of the Editor or the named contributor; they are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee or general membership. While every care is taken to provide accurate and helpful information in this Gazette, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the Chair of its Executive Committee and the Editor of the Gazette accept no responsibility for omissions or errors or their subsequent effects. Readers are expected to check all essential information appropriate to specific circumstances.

Membership of the Society for the Social History of Medicine includes a subscription to the journal and is paid through: Journal Subscription Department, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP. Membership rates for 1996 are: £26 or £16.50 for students (UK and Europe), and \$46/\$32 for the rest of the world. Send subscriptions to: Journal Subscriptions Department, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP. Tel: 44(0)1865 267907. Fax: 44(0)1865 267485.

Executive Committee:

President (1995): Professor Shula Marks

Chairman: Ann-Marie Rafferty, Centre for Policy in Nursing Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1A 7HT. Tel: 0171 636 8636. Fax: 0171 580 8183. Email: a.rafferty@lshtm.ac.uk.

Secretary: Anne Borsay, Dept. History, University of Wales, Lampeter, Dyfed, SA48 7ED. Tel: 01570 422351, Ext. 307. Fax: 01570 432885; Email: borsay@lampeter.ac.uk.

Membership Secretary: Harriet Deacon, Queen's College, Oxford, OX1 4AW. Tel: 01865 279186. Fax: 01865 790819. Email: hdeacon@vax.ox.ac.uk.

Treasurer: David Wright, Dept of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, Queens Medical Centre, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2UH. Tel: 0115 9249924. Fax: 0115 9709955. Email: david.wright@nottingham.ac.uk.

Programmes coordinator: Tim Boon, Science Museum, London SW7 2DD. Tel: 0171 938 8069. Fax: 0171 938 8050; E-mail: t.boon@ic.ac.uk.

Publicity: Steve Sturdy, Science Studies Unit, University of Edinburgh, 21 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9JT. Tel: 0131 650 4014. Fax: 0131 650 6886. Email: S.Sturdy@ed.ac.uk

Journal Editors: Paul Weindling, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE. Tel: 01865 274603. Fax: 01865 274605. Email: Weindling@vax.ox.ac.uk.

Hilary Marland, Centre for Social History, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. Tel: 01203 523292. Fax: 01203 524441. Email: h.marland@warwick.ac.uk.

Elizabeth Fee.

Gazette Editor: Helen Power, Dept. Economic & Social History, University of Liverpool, 11 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 3BX. Tel: 0151 794 2410. Fax: 0151 794 2423. Email: hel@liv.ac.uk.

Publications: Bernard Harris (Series Editor), Department of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, Tel: 01703 592567. Email: B.J.Harris@soton.ac.uk.

Overseas members secretary: Cornelie Usborne, Dept. History, Roehampton Institute, Digby Stuart College, London SW15 5PH. Tel: 0181 392 3243. Fax: 0181 392 3231. Email: C.Usborne@roehampton.ac.uk.

Other Executive members:

Kelly Boyd, Goldsmith's College, University of London. Email: kkboyd@sas.ac.uk
Hera Cook, Birkbeck College, University of London. Email: H.Cook@LSHTM.ac.uk
Jacqueline Jenkinson, Department of History, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA. Tel: 01786 467582. Email: jjjl@uk.ac.stirling.forth

Peter King, (coopted) University of Cambridge.
David Smith, Dept. of Economic & Social History, University of Aberdeen, Taylor Building, Old Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2UB. Tel: 01224 273676. E-mail: d.f.smith@abdn.ac.uk.
Molly Suphen, UCSF, California, USA. Email: sutphen@itsa.ucsf.

Overseas Contact Members:-

Overseas members with news and views should contact Dr Cornelie Usborne, Dept. History, Roehampton Institute, Digby Stuart College, London SW15 5PH, fax: 0181 392 3231, Email: C.Usborne@roehampton.ac.uk

Australia: Prof. Roy Macleod, Dept. History, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006; Dr Ian Stewart, PO Box 976, Wagga Wagga, NSW 7650, fax: (6169) 218464, tel: (6169) 211655; Peter Short, Faculty of Nursing, University of Technology, Sydney, Broadway, NSW 2007, tel: 61 (02) 3304313, fax: (612) 330 4317.

Austria: Dr Sonia Horn, Institut fur Geschichte, Universitat Wien, Dr Karl Luegerring 1, a-1010 Wien.

Belgium: Dr R. Rubens, Scheldevelacstr. 28, B 9840 De Pinte.

Canada: Prof. Jacques Bernier, Dept. D'Histoire, Universite Laval, Quebec City, Quebec, G1K 7P4; Carla Paterson, 13960 66 Ave, Surrey BC, V3W 9B1.

Denmark: Dr Signild Vallgårda, Dept. Social Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 3, DK 2200 Copenhagen, tel: (45) 3532 7999, fax: (45) 3135 1181, e-mail: siva@kubism.ku.dk

Finland: Dr Riita Oittinen, Department of Economic and Social history, university of Helsinki, PO Box 54 (snellmaninkatu 14), 00014 University of helsinki, Finland. tel: +358-0-191 8947 fax: +358-0-191 8924 email: Riitta.oittinen@helsinki.fi

Germany: Lutz Sauerteig, Institut fuer Geschichte der Medizin, Universitaet Freiburg, Stefan-Meier-str. 26, d-79104 Freiburg. Phone: +49/761/203 5038. Fax: +49/761/203 5039. Email: sauertei@ruf.uni-freiburg.de

Flurin Condrau, Seminar for Social and Economic History, University of Munich, Ludwigstr. 33/III, d-80539 Munchen. tel 0049 89 2180/2229; fax 2180/3168; email f.condrau@swg.vwl.uni-muenchen.de

Netherlands: Dr Frank Huisman, University of Groningen, Department of History, P.O.Box 716, 9700 AS Groningen, Tel. +31 503636117, Fax: +31 503637253, e-mail: f.g.huisman@let.rug.nl

New Zealand: Dr L. Bryder, History Dept., University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland.

Peru: Dr Marcos Cueto, Roca Bologna 633, Lima 18, tel: (5114) 323070, fax: (5114) 324981, e-mail: mcueto@iep.org.pc

Poland: Dr med. Krzysztof G. Jeziorski, Chemotherapy Clinic, The Maria Skiodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology, ml Wawelska 00-973, Warszawa, tel: 48-22-230277, fax: 48-22-24-29

Spain: Dr Oriol Ramis-Juan, Duquesa d'Orleans 24, 08034 Barcelona, tel: (34) 3 2111400, fax: (34) 34189866

Sweden: Ingrid Olsen, Dept. Health & Sociology, Linkoping University, S-58183 Linkoping
Switzerland: Dr Lazare Benaroya, Avenue des Bergieres 47, 1004 Lausanne, fax: (4121) 648 7243, tel: 4121-646-7444

USA: Dr Peter McCandless, History Dept., College of Charleston, Charleston SC 29424, e-mail: mccandlessp@cofc.edu; Prof. Howard Kushner, Dept. History, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182, e-mail: Hkushner@ucsd.edu; Prof. Benjamin Harris, Dept. Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, WI 53402, e-mail: harris@it.uwp.edu, fax: 414-595-2630; Cherilyn Lacy, University of Chicago, Dept. history 1126 East 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637; John Cooper, 4 South Idaho St, Seattle, WA 98134

Elections to Executive Committee: Nominations are invited from members of the Society for two vacancies on the Executive Committee to serve from 7 September 1997 to 6 September 2000. Candidates must have been members of the Society for at least one year. Each nomination should include the name and signatures of the proposer, seconder and the nominee. A form is provided below. All must be members of the Society. The Candidate is requested to supply a concise biography of up to 100 words with their nomination.

| |
|-------------------------|
| Nominee (please Print) |
| Signature of nominee |
| Proposer (please print) |
| Signature of proposer |
| Seconder (please print) |
| Signature of proposer |

Nominations must be sent on the form above (or copy) to Dr Anne Borsay, Dept of History, University of Wales, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED and be received by 31 January 1997.

Social History of Medicine: Reviews Editor.

It is with great regret that the Executive Committee and Editorial Boards were given notice of Greta Jones' intention to step down from a most successful period as Reviews Editor. We are beginning the search for Greta's successor and should welcome applications and nominations for the position of Reviews Editor. We are keen to have someone appointed by Spring 1997 in order for there to be some overlap and a handover period to ease the new incumbent into the job. Please send nominations to Anne Marie Rafferty, Chair, Executive Committee and Search Committee. Many thanks in anticipation.

Job Description: Reviews Editor.

The person concerned should have a good knowledge of the field and reasonably wide contacts with scholars working in it. They should have undergone themselves the experience of publishing, reviewing and being reviewed. Reviews editors should be aware of the importance of covering fields outside their own field of expertise.

The Reviews Editor should be committed to widening the circle of reviewers, particularly young researchers, and to maintaining and expanding the pool of overseas reviewers. They should be prepared to persevere to get significant books reviewed in initially unsuccessful. Needless to say no hint on snobbery, jobbery or academic politics should affect their decisions.

The Reviews Editor needs access to secretarial assistance, a telephone, electronic mail, and a sympathetic head of department whose support must be guaranteed. It is important that at least one day a week is devoted to reviews. Deadlines for submission of proofs etc must be met promptly.

Most the rest concerns technical matters and can be picked up from the retiring editor. However, the incoming editor should try and improve the procedures he or she inherits where possible.

Greta Jones, Reviews Editor.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(The information given below is accurate as far as we know. However, we accept no responsibility for errors. Please contact the organiser to confirm details.)

SSH M CONFERENCES.

Insanity, Institutions and Society: New Research in the Social History of Madness
University of Exeter, 18-20 April 1997.

The Spring 1997 Conference of the Society will take place at St Luke's Campus, University of Exeter and will offer a survey of new research on the social history of insanity with a particular focus on the institutions dealing with the insane from the eighteenth century to the present. The organisers hope to use the event to review the most recent scholarship in the field and invite leading contributors to respond to fresh findings and innovations in research.

There will be general papers from Roy Porter and Andrew Scull as well as a session particularly devoted to the problems preserving and utilising medical records led by Eddie Higgs. A bus tour around the architecture of the key asylums in the Exeter area is also planned for those interested in the physical organization of these institutions.

Proposed contributors will include Richard Adair on the Lunacy Commission, Jonathan Andrews on Scottish asylums, Peter Bartlett on the Poor Law, Harriet Deacon on Robben Island, Anne Digby, Waltraud Ernst on Indian Asylums, Bill Forsythe, Edward Higgs on medical records, David Hirst on Welsh asylums and the family, Shula Marks on the Cape asylum, Jo Melling. Hilary Marland on female insanity, Pamela Michael on Welsh pauper lunatics, Roy Porter on the eighteenth century, Andrew Scull, Julia Sheppard on hospital records, Len Smith on the Old Poor Law and asylum provision, Akihito Suzuki on Bethlehem, Wendy Walker on the Chichester Asylum records, Lorraine Walsh on philanthropy and insanity, Susan Ward on medieval graveyards and insanity evidence, John Welshman on modern community provision, David Wright on Buckinghamshire experiences.

Since places are limited, the organisers request that those interested in attending the conference should use the application form enclosed in the present issue of the Gazette to book as soon as possible. A deposit is requested with each application.

Joseph Melling and Bill Forsythe, Conference Organisers
Rosemary Humphreys, Conference Administrator
Tel: 01392 263297. Fax: 01392 263305. Email: medarch@exeter.ac.uk or J.L.Melling@exeter.ac.uk.

Annual Conference
Health in the City: A History of Public Health
Liverpool, 4-7 September 1997.

The annual conference for 1997 will a joint meeting with the International Network for the History of Public Health. The conference is linked informally to other activities in the history of public health in Liverpool in this year which marks the 150th anniversary of William Henry Duncan's appointment as MOH. The exhibition looking at the history of public health on Merseyside will now be located in the Museum of Liverpool Life. The conference venue will be the Atlantic Tower Hotel, which is situated in the city centre and offers stunning views of the Pier Head and river Mersey, encapsulating many of the themes of the conference. The meeting will explore the history of urban public health from its origins to the present day. There will be an emphasis on comparisons between the experience of urban public health in the developed and less developed countries. Sessions will include the urban/rural divide; changing patterns of demography and public health; origins of urban public health; moving people, moving disease; comprehending the masses - ordering the public for the public health; centres and peripheries - looking at the role of colonial agencies and international health organizations in urban health; discourses of public health in history; reinventing public health - the modern agendas; pollution.

Participants include: Graham Mooney, John Henderson, Giovanni Berlinguer, John Rogers, Gerry Kearns, Frank Snowdon, Bob Woods, Robert Jutte, Tim Boon, Ann-Emmanuel Birn, John Ashton, Dorothy Porter.

Enquiries for registration should be sent to Sally Sheard, Dept of Economic and Social History or Dept of Public Health, University of Liverpool, P0 Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: +44 (0) 151 794 5593. Fax: +44 (0)151 794 5588. Or to Helen Power, Email: hel@liv.ac.uk.

Music and Medicine: The History of Music Therapy since Antiquity.

(In association with SSHM)

24-26 April 1997, Royal Holloway, University of London.

The aim of the conference will be to chart the history of the uses of music in the care or cure of the sick from antiquity to the present day. The emphasis will be on Western Europe, but there will also be contributions dealing more broadly with Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Papers will be wide-ranging and pitched at the non-specialist, embracing both theory and practice, listeners and performers, the mentally and physically ill. Those who have expressed a willingness to read papers include: David Gentilcore, Penelope Gouk, Peter Jones, Cheryce Kramer, Jonathan Katz, Christopher Page, Paul Robertson, Amnon Shiloah, Anthony Storr, Angela Voss and Martin West.

Further details and registration: Peregrine Horden, C/o All Souls College, Oxford, OX1 4AL. Fax: 01865 279299. Email: peregrine.horden@all-souls.ox.ac.uk.

'Practice'. A Joint Meeting with the British Society for the History of Science.

14 November 1997, Manchester.

Organizer: Paolo Palladino.

Medicine and the Public Sphere.

Summer 1998, Edinburgh.

Organizer: Steve Sturdy.

NON-SSHM MEETINGS

Workshop on Ancient Medicine

22 June 1997, Mainz, Germany.

Enquiries and offers of papers to: Medizinhistorisches Institut, Uni-Klinikum, d-55101 Mainz.

New Methodologies in the History of Psychiatry

28 February - 1 March 1997, Laussane & Geneva

Institut Romand d'histoire de la Medecine et de la sante

Themes: patient files as sources; treatments; classifications and syndromes; construction of the psychiatric case.

Further information and registration: Institut d'histoire de la medicine, chemin des Falaises 1, 1000 Lausanne 4. Tel: 021/314 70 50. Fax: 021/314 70 55. Email: Hist.Med@inst.hospvd.ch

Medicine, Law and Human Rights: Historical Perspectives

22-7 March, Castelvecchio Pascoli, Italy.

3rd of the European Research Conference series of the European Science Foundation on 'Coping with Sickness'

Themes will include: health and human rights; regulations concerning life and death; regulation of medicine; and law and medical expertise.

Details: Dr John Woodward, Department of History, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN.

Death and Life

4-6 April, 1997, University of California, Berkeley

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference

Suggested topics include: ceremonies and technologies of birth and death; disease and epidemic; the concept of population; labour, midwifery, male birthing; pathos, sentimentality, mourning; elegies and other writing about the dead; anatomical illustration and picturing the dead.

200 word abstracts and papers (15 pages max). Special consideration to panels drawing on at least three disciplines. Deadline 15 October 1996. Correspondence to: INCS-Berkeley, English Department, 322 Wheeler hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-1030.

Building Bridges with Traditional Knowledge: An Exploration of Issues Involving Indigenous Peoples, Conservation, Development and Ethnoscience.

12-15 February 1997, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

Six sessions will look at the following issues: balance between conservation and agriculture in areas owned by indigenous peoples; costs and benefits of development, research and conservation strategies from the traditional perspective; logging, forestry, wildlife management, and non-timber forest products as revenue; ethnomedicine and ethnopharmacology; intellectual property rights in collaborations between university/indigenous peoples; discussion of community-conscious conservation and development strategies.

Pre-registration (before 29 November 1996) \$35.00 students; \$65.00 all others; late registration \$55.00 students, \$85.00 all others; on site registration \$105.00 all registration. Further details Alexandra Paul: BBT Conference, PO Box 110430, Gainesville, Florida, 32611-0430. Fax: (352) 392-7127. Email: itd@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu. Website: <http://hammock.ifas.ufl.edu/~michael/BBT>.

Childhood in Question

18-20 April 1997, University of Essex.

Themes include: representations of childhood, parents and children, children and the state, children and fantasy.

Proposals for papers or workshops (Title and Synopsis c. 500 words) should be sent to convenors, Anthony Fletcher and Steve Hussey by 1 November 1996. Further details and registration from Mrs Belinda Waterman, Dept. History, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

Annual Meeting of CHEIRON

19-22 June 1997, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

Cheiron - The International Society for the History of Behavioural and Social Sciences gives notice of its 29th annual meeting. Programme submissions (symposia, papers and posters) which may deal with any aspect of the history of the behavioural and social sciences or with related historiographical or methodological issues, must be postmarked by 1 February 1997. Travel awards are available to assist students who present papers or posters.

For further information contact John Carson, Cheiron Programme Chair, Dept of Science & Technology Studies, 632 Clark Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-2501. Tel: 607-255-6048. Fax: 607-255-6044. Email: js15@cornell.edu.

The Right to Health in Modern Society

11-12 July 1997, Oxford

The Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford, is organising a conference on the evolution of the relationship between health, illness, and concepts of citizenship in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The conference will concentrate mainly on the British experience but there will also be contributions from Western Europe. We hope to discuss some central issues in both the history of modern health care and the sociology/philosophy of citizenship. Papers will examine the meaning of the right to health in terms of health status, and the right to health care services; the meaning of the obligation to promote health on the part of the individual, the family, the voluntary sector, employers and the state; and the boundaries of the concepts of citizens' rights and duties - situations of conflict between ethical imperatives; the treatment of non-citizens (ethics of experiments on the insane, dead, persecuted minorities); and whether rights to health can be abrogated by the citizen (euthanasia).

Further details from Edward Higgs by May 31. Postal address: Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE. E-mail: eddy.higgs@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk. Tel: 01865-74616. Fax: 01865-274605.

'Family' and 'Household' - Revisiting Concepts and Experience - Call for papers

2-4 January 1998, Nottingham.

The annual conference of the Social History Society of the UK will be held at the city site of Nottingham Trent University, with accommodation in the nearby Stakis Hotel.

Offers of papers are invited from historians and others, and postgraduate students are also encouraged to submit offers of discussion papers, relating to work in progress, to be included in proposed workshop sessions. The following list of themes and topics is offered as guidance, but contributions outside these areas are welcome; there are not limits to period or place. It is also hoped that offers will be forthcoming from those seeking to challenge, as well as those seeking to explore, traditional understandings and usages of the terms 'Family' and 'Household'; drawing on theoretical concepts and on investigations of past experience, as well as on methodological issues:

Kith, Kin, Clans and 'Castes' and their workings; The Economics of Families and Households; Creation of 'Family' and 'Household' culture and reputation and their wider implications; Power Structures and Procedures (including gender issues).

All enquiries and offers of papers (send a 1 page summary by 16 May 1997) to Mrs Linda Persson, Admin Secretary, Social History Society of the UK, Centre for Social History, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YG. Tel: 44 (0)1524 59605. Email: L.Persson@lancaster.ac.uk.

OTHER NEWS

Medical Museums Terminology Working Group

At the invitation of the UK Museums Documentation Association (MDA) a new Medical Museums Terminology Working Group held its first meeting at the Wellcome Centre in London on 6 September 1996. Representatives from a varied group of British museums and archives with specialist medical collections discussed currently available thesauri and termlists and sought to identify the more glaring gaps left by existing sources.

Most present thought the naming of instruments and equipment less of a problem than identification, dating and collation of the constantly changing terms used through medical history to describe physical and mental conditions and diseases. A single term such as 'melancholia' or 'fever' might appear across widely different chronological periods, in different cultures and social groupings, and have a host of disparate meanings from the vaguest lay use to the clinically specific.

It was agreed that the Group could play a very useful role in pulling together a series of compatible, yet flexible, termlists in this and other relevant fields. Catherine Draycott of the Wellcome Centre for Medical Sciences agreed to act as chair (Wellcome Centre Medical Photographic Library, 210 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. Tel: 0171 611 8588. Fax: 0171 611 8577) and Helen Fryers of the Thackray Museum, Leeds as Secretary (The Thackray Medical Museum, Beckett Street, Leeds LS9 7LP. Tel: 0113 244 4343. Fax: 0113 247 0719).

Anyone who may be able to assist with guidance on sources, particularly of termlists for obsolete medical terminology, and anyone working with a relevant collection who is interested in joining the group or being kept informed of its progress is invited to make contact through the Terminology Projects Manager MDA (Museums Documentation Association, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4DH. Tel: +44(0)1223 242848. Fax: +44(0) 1223 213575. Email: mda@mdocassn.demon.co.uk).

Modern Records Centre: University of Warwick

I would like to draw the attention of researchers in the social history of Medicine to the archive resources of the Modern Records Centre (MRC) at the University of Warwick. The MRC aims to collect and make available for research original sources for British political, social and economic history, with particular reference to labour history, industrial relations and industrial politics. After more than 20 years to result is the gathering together of a wide range and depth of material of interest to those researching the social history of medicine in the 19th and 20th centuries.

For those interested in the medical professionals and their assistants, the obvious sources are the archives of the Medical Practitioners Union (MPU; ref MSS.79), the Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE; ref MSS.229) and NALGO (ref MSS.20). The MPU's archive, as well as including its various minutes, 1924-71, includes a run of Medical World, 1922-70. The COHSE archive includes archives from the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union, and the National Asylum Workers' Union/Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union. The NALGO archive includes various series of Minutes, 1889-1929, for the National Poor Law Officers Association.

The archive of the Trades Union Congress (ref MSS.292) is one of the Centre's largest deposits. It includes files on accidents and rehabilitation, industrial health, industrial and non-industrial diseases and conditions (TB, blindness and deafness). Less obviously, there are files on rationing, works canteens and British Restaurants, the food industry, supplementary milk for school children, milk marketing and distribution, holidays and working hours, housing, National Health Insurance and the living wage.

The archives of individual unions also throw light on medical conditions. The Operative

Stonemason's Society archive (ref MSS.78) includes the Fortnightly Returns, 1834-1910, described by the Webbs as 'perhaps the most valuable single record of the Trade Union Movement'. The Stonemason's was an immensely democratic society and every request to spend the society's funds had to be published in the Returns, a fortnightly newsletter circulated to all members. The result is detailed reports of members' ill-health and accidents, as well as reports on where work was to be found, and the local pay rates and conditions adopted.

For a searchable summary of the Centre's holdings look at its Webpage. The URL is <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrcmmrc.html>. For further information, including a free copy of the Centre's Notes for Researchers, contact the Archivist, Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. Tel: 01203 524319. Email: archives@warwick.ac.uk.

Mrs Christine Woodland, Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick.

Medicine and Conflict (formerly Medicine and War)

A publication which may be of interest to members. Single issues of the journal which appears quarterly and is indexed on Medline and Index Medicus are available from the editorial offices at 601 Holloway Road, London, N19 4DJ (£5.00 inc postage & packing). In particular a reader has drawn attention to an article in volume 12, 1966, 90-106 by P Van Dungen, 'Dr Emil Flusser, forgotten precursor of the medical peace movement', which may interest those who attended the Annual Conference in 1995 on Medicine and Modern Warfare.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Race, Science and Medicine
SSHMM Autumn Conference
18-19 September 1996, University of Southampton.

This autumnal conference in Southampton was a delight. Serene surroundings in the sunny South offered a suitable pause before the storm of new semesters. The companionable atmosphere and smooth organization were favourable to constructive contemplation. A long, distracting train journey (at least from Manchester) provided opportunities for uninterrupted study rarely enjoyed in university departments these days. And, just as a bonus, we heard a collection of excellent papers and relished some fruitful and stimulating discussions. The conference began with Nancy Leys Stepan's lucid exploration of the history of racial science in relation to debates about gender and citizenship. Starting with a brief survey of recent writings on the 'paradox' of 'gender equality versus gender differences', Stepan moved on to argue that the history of the naturalised body, or the history of embodiment, was central to the stories of citizenship and pointed out some of the new historical questions raised by this approach. Emphasising the need to remember that racial science, like all other

sciences, is 'always a social product' Stepan then explored the relevance of histories of racial science (and, in particular, studies of the relation of the natural to the political) for the study of gender and citizenship.

Subsequent speakers on the first day explored a variety of critical issues in widely different geographical and chronological settings. With his close scrutiny of John Atkins, Norris Saakwa-Mante revealed that concepts of racial constitution were already being imaginatively expounded in the early eighteenth century. Drawing on her extensive study of the fieldwork practices of the 'Manchester School' of anthropologists in their political, social and cultural context, Lyn Schumaker argued that 'the racial language and practices of Africans and white settlers in southern Africa played as important a role as that played by contemporary anthropological theory' in shaping the anthropologists' own ideas of race. In a finely detailed account of segregation practices at the Robben Island Asylum in the late nineteenth century, Harriet Deacon reminded us that racial categories could change quite quickly, that is, in the space of a few decades. And Waltraud Ernst's three-pronged study of institutional practices in Bengal, Bombay and Madras demonstrated the ways in which differences in hospital structure related to varying constructions of racial issues in different social, political and economic contexts.

After tea, a paper by David Arnold (summarised in his absence) was used to introduce a general discussion on race, science and medicine in the colonies. Arnold's paper made three points: first, that malaria served as a metaphor for racial decay and degeneration in India; second, that ideas of racial degeneration constituted a central element of both British and middle class Indian self-perceptions; and third, that ideas of race were not immutable. These points were explored in detail in the subsequent lively discussion led by Shula Marks who raised a number of challenging questions about the connections between racial, scientific and medical concepts and about the impact of colonialism on racial ideas.

The first day was rounded off by two papers on visual representations of race, science and medicine. Mark Jackson's analysis of changing images of people with what was originally referred to as 'mongolism' was followed by Michael Clark's perceptive discussion of a number of evocative film clips from the collection at the Wellcome Trust and Wellcome Institute. As Waltraud Ernst pointed out in discussion, visual representations are too often ignored as suitable sources by historians of medicine.

The second day of the conference was as full and fertile as the first. Cora Kaplan's forceful presentation on gender, nation and racial thinking in Victorian Britain included a convincing exposition of the links between Dickens' essays and his attendance at freak shows. Jonathan Sawday's account of the Piltdown forgeries was a candid and entertaining reconstruction of a consuming mystery. After lunch, papers by Bernard Harris (on anti-alienism, health and social reform), Paul Weindling (on typhus and race), Hannah Augstein (on the 'Caucasian hypothesis'), Matthew Thomson (on British anthropology and social psychology in the twentieth century) and Deborah Thom (on race and intelligence) continued to inform and entertain until the concluding session, after which we drifted back to our separate corners of the historical world, wiser and happier, awaiting the book.

Mark Jackson & Lyn Schumaker
Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Manchester.