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forms one chapter of *Building types* (1976), lamented the lack of studies in this field. "There are", he wrote, "few 'types' as fruitful as the Hospital, if one wants to see how functional thought, i.e. medical convictions and discoveries, is reflected in plans and elevations; the pavilion type instead of the cruciform plan and the big blocks of today owing to antisepsis."

Dr Taylor is one of the few historians to have taken the hint. The nineteenth century was a most fruitful time for the development of the hospital as therapeutic instrument, rather than simply a—by turns more or less architecturally distinguished—container for outcasts from society. There was, towards the end of the century, much development of elegant variations on the pavilion plan form. This tendency led to a fashion for circular wards from the 1880s and, around 1900, the "X" plan. The latter is perhaps best exemplified at University College Hospital, London, designed by Alfred Waterhouse and his son Paul.

Such was the volume of theory behind these experimental hospital buildings that a writer in *The Builder*, a trade weekly, remarked in 1911, "The operating theatre is more a surgical instrument than a building."

Almost incidentally, the skirmishes of scholarship and fashion that characterize the nineteenth-century "Battle of the Styles" are considered when appropriate. The book has a gazetteer, arranged by architect and by location, which leads the reader to references and illustrations. Some temporarily forgotten specialist hospital architects are accorded potted biographies. The energetic user of Dr Taylor's gazetteer will quickly come to realize that urban and suburban hospitals "fitted in" with the style of their localities. Northwood, a pleasantly stodgy late-nineteenth-century dormitory suburb is host to the tuberculosis annexe to Mount Vernon Hospital. The Hospital, in particular the "Arts and Crafts" style chapel, is an exercise in discretion.

This book is an indispensable addition to the slender corpus on hospital design, which invites further study of the twentieth century, thus far only touched on by architectural historians, notably Adrian Forty in 'The modern hospital in England and France: the social and medical uses of architecture' in A. King's *Buildings and society* (1980). This last book is a surprising omission from Dr Taylor's bibliography, which seems somewhat truncated. Why mention only two of the special hospital numbers of the *Architect's Journal*, when several were published?

If there is fault to find, it is not with the text of the book, which is admirable, but rather with the oddly abrupt nature of various appendices. Perhaps an editorial or production decision has led to Dr Taylor not telling quite all he knows.

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JEAN-PIERRE GOUBERT, ROSELYNE REY, JACQUES BERTRAND, and ALEXANDRA LACLAU, *Atlas de la Révolution française, 7: Médecine et santé*, Paris, Éditions de l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, 1993, pp. 88, Frs 110.00 (2-71332-0999-4).

This is a most unusual work, being a handbook of information about medicine in France between about 1770 and 1820 rather than a monograph or a conventional overview. Although part of a series about the Revolution, the remit of the *Atlas* is much broader, encompassing patterns of disease, institutions, and professions from the first three decades or so of the nineteenth century as well as from the revolutionary period strictly speaking, and dealing with themes that go beyond the direct links between a specific event and medicine. Each chapter is devoted to a broad topic, such as sick people and illnesses, and the medical professions, but its contents are quite specific, with detailed sub-headings. The chapter on illnesses and the ill, for instance, provides information on dysentery in 1779 and 1792, and on measles and smallpox between 1776 and 1786. For each topic the material is presented in the form of maps, graphs, and a variety of tables, together with a short commentary. The result is a rather dense book, not a volume to be read once from cover to cover, but one to use repeatedly. The material needs to be studied closely and then contemplated in order to appreciate its complexity. The chapters are minutely referenced, and several present materials not easily available elsewhere, and there is also a useful bibliography.

Such a book is a wonderful resource for research and teaching; it should therefore be translated into English as a matter of urgency, and published in an inexpensive edition. It would be better still if

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companion volumes could be prepared for other countries. Some of the sources available for France may not exist elsewhere, but it would be worth exploring the possibilities. For example, an analysis is included of 85 letters written by patients to a doctor over the period 1780 to 1830 (p. 19). An indication is given of the tone of the letters, of which parts of the body they mention, and of the kind of pain described. Comparable sources certainly exist in countries other than France. Of course, the precise figures are unimportant, but the overall patterns of such correspondence are highly significant.

It is not surprising that “medicalization”, in the sense of numbers of health professionals, is an important issue in the book, since the French sources lend themselves to explorations of this theme, and much work on it has been undertaken by French scholars. The huge amount of information on those who practised medicine in France is made possible by sources like the *Cahiers de doléances*, on the basis of which an indication of political attitudes is offered (pp. 30–1). Naturally, the limitations of such sources have to be recognized, but they are nonetheless valuable, especially when presented in the forms adopted here.

An interpretation of the relations between medicine and revolution is given in the introduction (pp. 7–9). This is a useful statement, which presents the Revolution as a crystallization of trends already present in the *ancien régime*, trends that were moving towards reform. It is argued that the health of the citizen became of concern to the state, thereby providing a specific instance in which politics and medicine came together. Thus the question of the balance between continuity and change is dealt with in a helpful way. Much of the material presented in the *Atlas* bears somewhat loosely on the more direct interactions between medicine and the French Revolution. Taken as a whole the book provides both a sense of the larger context and an account of the links between politics and medicine—it is an extremely valuable addition to the secondary literature.

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W. G. HARTLEY, *The light microscope: its use and development*, Oxford, Senecio, 1993, pp. viii, 360, illus., £40.00 (0–906931–05–9).

“The microscope has proved for a century and a half perfectly adequate to engage continuous study of itself”. This quotation from the first chapter provides the theme for Hartley’s book, which traces the evolution of the light microscope and of its components from the sixteenth century to the present day. It sets the various stages of the development of the instrument and its accessories in the technical, social, economic, and geographic context of the time; what the author describes as the palaeontology of the microscope. An understanding of the science of optics and of the working of the light microscope is assumed and is essential for the full appreciation of this very detailed, technical, yet most readable book.

Hartley paints an interesting picture of the discovery of the microscope, highlighting what was fortuitous, what convenient, and how the compound microscope appeared at the right psychological moment. The fossilization of the instrument as a fashionable toy, and its subsequent study sponsored by wealthy amateurs is recounted. A useful table showing its sequential development leads the reader to the emergence of microscopy as a study in itself.

The dichotomy of interest in the mid-nineteenth century, which isolated the British, with their concern for optical technique rather than what was revealed, from the Continental microscopist, introduces the post-1840 era. “It was at this point that English microscopy took an idiosyncratic swerve into an area of fascinating optical effects totally unrelated to any practical opportunities which they represented.” Even so, a description of early projects to produce inexpensive instruments and a good review of contemporary textbooks illustrate the increasing interest in the microscope and its applications.

The general pattern of development in Victorian England, after the foundation of the Microscopical Society of London, is set out and is followed by a background chapter on English, Continental, and American microscope makers, against which ensuing chapters on the evolution of the instrument and of its various accessories are developed. The ascendancy of the German industry from 1870 onwards, with its firmly practical manufacturing philosophy, is highlighted. “The development of scientific medicine and scientific industries led to a demand for scientific microscopes like the Germans used, and this ultimately led to the adoption by the English trade of a basically Continental design of both instruments and optical components.”