

dimension in depth, he suggests that an appreciation of Nazi health initiatives can help us “better understand how fascism triumphed in the first place” (p. 278). Indeed, future studies of the public reception of Nazi health initiatives may find that they made fascism more attractive—but, granted the sensitivity of health enthusiasts to public opinion and their ambivalence about potentially unpopular moves, we may also be in for some surprises. In the meantime, *The Nazi war on cancer* will draw a wide readership, thanks to its novelty, its scholarly merit, its imaginative illustrations, and the willingness of its author to confront, frankly and candidly, the moral dilemmas arising from his research.

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**Roger Cooter, Mark Harrison and Steve Sturdy** (eds), *Medicine and modern warfare*, Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine, Clio Medica 55, Amsterdam and Atlanta, Rodopi, 1999, pp. iii, 286, Hfl. 150.00, \$83.00 (hardback 90-420-0546-7), Hfl. 45.00, \$25.50 (paperback 90-420-0536-X).

The history of medicine and war is a field that has seen more and better research in the last decade. Two volumes edited by Roger Cooter, Mark Harrison and Steve Sturdy—the second one is reviewed here—are part of this trend and make their own contributions to it. *Medicine and modern warfare* offers ten case studies and an introduction. In the latter Mark Harrison uses Max Weber’s concept of modernization as rationalization in industrial societies to set the frame of the topics treated in the volume. Two central traits of the relation of the military and the medical in the twentieth century stick out:

medicine contributed to the rationalization of the military, e.g. by replacing traditional forms of keeping discipline with scientific forms of surveillance and indoctrination. This medicalization of the military was accompanied by a militarization of medicine that was part of a larger process of a weakening of boundaries between the armies and societies in an age of total wars. As Harrison emphasizes and the contributions in the volume make clear, this does not result in a unified picture of an easily militaristic medicine. Instead complex forms of tensions, transitions and exchanges between wartime and peacetime, military and civilian medicine are characteristic.

The editors have chosen a loosely chronological order for the contributions ranging from the Spanish-American War of 1889 to post-Second World War American psychiatry. It seems, however, tempting to sort the contributions into three groups based on different aspects of modernity as defined in the introduction. The first set of texts by J T H Connor (professionalization of American physicians resulting from the Cuban war of 1898), Michael Worboys (Almroth Wright’s years at the Army Medical College) and Claire Herrick (British and American evaluations of Japanese sanitary services in the Japanese–Russian war of 1905) all show how physicians portrayed their profession as a means for the modernization of armies at around 1900. A second group of texts by Cay-Rüdiger Prüll (British and German pathology in the First World War), Ian Whitehead (training of British military doctors in the Second World War) and Mark Harrison (on the medical services of the Indian troops serving in Europe 1914–15) all take a deeper look at the Great War and the changes it brought about in military medicine.

The third, and to the reviewer most challenging group of papers, tackles problems of transitions and tensions between military and civilian medicine, respectively of medicine under war- and

## Book Reviews

peacetime conditions. Lesley Hall sorts out changing attitudes on venereal diseases 1850–1950 in Britain by ascribing them to changing social relations of armies and populations: VD that had been a problem of armies and prostitutes in the nineteenth century came to be an issue of a society at war in the twentieth century. Mark Harrison investigates Second World War British propaganda on VD and shows a marked shift that is quite in line with Hall's interpretation: illicit sexuality—traditionally an offence against good—was transformed into a failure of citizen soldiers, neglecting their duties towards families and the nation. Leo van Bergen, writing on the Dutch military health service in the First World War and the problem of malingering, treats the case of a medical profession that attempted to demonstrate its usefulness to an army not engaged in the war. Obsessive hunting for malingerers “was one way in which military doctors could prove themselves of true military stock” (p. 73). Finally, Hans Pols gives a study of changing psychiatric interpretations of traumatic neuroses suffered by US army soldiers in the Second World War. Under wartime conditions these were seen in close connection with combat experience. However, in the following period they were more and more taken to reflect deficiencies in childhood education: those who suffered from traumatic neuroses were revealed to be mommy-boys raised by overprotective mothers. The traumatic stress of soldiers could now be blamed on the American Mom rather than on combat experience. This facilitated the stabilization of the glorious myth of a victorious war in which memories of traumatizing combat experiences were unwelcome. The veteran “was celebrated as a fighter for the good cause; his trauma had no place in this world” (p. 267).

All in all, *Medicine and modern warfare* is quite a valuable and stimulating volume,

making a substantial contribution to a central field of twentieth-century medical history.

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**Helen Nicholson** (ed.), *The military orders. Volume 2: Welfare and warfare*, Aldershot and Brookfield, Ashgate, 1998, pp. xxviii, 412, illus., £59.50 (0-86078-679-X).

This rich and diverse volume, like the one which preceded it in 1994,<sup>1</sup> contains papers delivered at the Conference on the History of the Military Orders that has now become a bi-annual event held at the Museum of St John in Clerkenwell. Like all volumes of proceedings it contains contributions which vary in scope, length and character. But more than most it rewards its readers, particularly with glimpses into the archives of parts of Europe hitherto scarcely accessible to English readers. The volume is organized in four parts: the first two both entitled ‘Welfare’, the third ‘Life within the military orders’, and the fourth ‘Relations with the outside world’. It is probably Part I, ‘Welfare’, that readers of this journal will find most immediately rewarding. For example, Piers Mitchell's study of the skeletal remains from the cemetery of the Syrian–Christian village of Le Petit Gerin (today Tel Jezreel in Israel, some 17 km south of Nazareth) is particularly moving. He evaluates the diseases which afflicted that small rural community, linking them to local agricultural production and dietary habits; he is even able to identify meningitis in an infant's remains. Such attention to the rural communities of Outremer is clearly one of the most fruitful strands in current studies of the Levant, following the work of Ronnie Ellenblum on Frankish rural settlement.<sup>2</sup>

The close attention to the details and challenges of institutional administration,