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psychological breakdowns reached almost epidemic proportions. In north-west Europe, where Canadian troops were continually engaged in combat, army psychiatrists had improved upon forward psychiatric treatment developed in Italy, and most cases of battle exhaustion were returned relatively quickly to the front.

In comparison with medicine and surgery the advances made in psychiatry during the Second World War were not spectacular. Diagnostic and treatment procedures implemented in 1914–18 were rediscovered and incrementally developed. What was most significant about psychiatry during the Second World War was its new relationship with military authority: by the end of the war psychiatrists were regarded as useful in conserving manpower and in sustaining morale. But after the cessation of hostilities, the Canadian Army quickly lost interest in psychiatry, and there were few places for psychiatrists in the peacetime army medical service.

Copp and McAndrew have provided a well-written and well-researched account of an important and neglected subject. But, though *Battle exhaustion* is not a long book, its central arguments have a tendency to lose themselves amidst the often fascinating narrative. Too often the subject matter is allowed to speak for itself, without comment or interpretation on the part of the authors. One might also have expected to hear more from the victims of battle exhaustion themselves. That said, the authors have succeeded in their objective of writing a “new kind of military history”, in which the human factor is restored to its proper place.

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GERRIT HOHENDORF and ACHIM MAGULL-SELTENREICH (eds), *Von der Heilkunde zur Massentötung: Medizin im Nationalsozialismus*, Heidelberg, Wunderhorn (Schröderstraße 16, 6900 Heidelberg), 1990, pp. 287, illus., DM 28.00 + p. & p. (3–88423–067–0).

This collection of twelve lectures on German medicine and its atrocities during the Nazi era was organized and edited by medical students presently enrolled at the University of Heidelberg. Shocked by the news, in December 1988, that German pathology departments were continuing to use specimens prepared from viciously-murdered victims of human experiments, they inquired about the situation at their own university. The Rector's totally unsatisfactory, defensive response led them to organize the lecture series, in an attempt to overcome the obfuscation to which they were subjected, to find out the facts, and to understand their elders' reluctance to deal with their shared heritage. The result is impressive. These are well-researched, concise presentations, followed by discussion. The topics range from social Darwinism and its historical importance, through the legalization of forced sterilization, euthanasia, and child psychiatry, to psychological analyses of Nazi propaganda and its effectiveness, and to the questions of how this disaster could come about and how one may live with the aftermath.

It is perhaps of interest that eight of the thirteen contributors were born in the 1940s and one in the '50s, and, of the four born in the '20s, only two are physicians. Real criticism of one's own teachers continues to run counter to a tradition of obedient admiration. Thus we learn that certain archives are not opened for fear of embarrassing “a still living colleague”, in a sentimental concern that is tacitly assumed to be of greater importance than any for the unnamed victims.

Reading this volume is no easy matter, yet this should be required for all of us, especially as historians of medicine or science. Aside from the crying need to include this period in all histories, this volume also explicates the resistance that has developed against this knowledge. Moreover, these events challenge the commonly-held assumption that the laudable progression of modern medicine is assured by an ever improved technology. We now have proof that this presumption must be laid to rest. Whatever other reasons motivated these physicians, their greed for scientific data seems to have been paramount. By putting “science” and “society” above their compassion for individual fellow human beings, they were able to proceed with their deplorable sterilizations and lethal experiments. The chapters dealing with mass and

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group psychology indicate that the trust we place in ethics committees may need re-examination. The heavy emphasis placed on science in contemporary medical education may harbour dangers for our patients today and tomorrow, which a critical historical perspective such as that presented here may help to avert.

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FRANK FENNER (ed.), *History of microbiology in Australia*, Parkville, Australian Society for Microbiology, 1990, 8vo, pp. xiv, 610, illus., £35.00 or US \$75.00 incl. p. & p. from the Australian Society for Microbiology Inc., 191 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052, Australia.

In recent years, there have been a spate of political anniversaries conveniently linked to coincidental, though not identical, anniversaries in medical science, from the US Declaration of Independence bicentennial in 1976 to that of the French Revolution in 1989 (hard on the heels of the centenary of Pasteur's first anti-rabies inoculations in 1986). Now comes a history of microbiology in Australia, celebrating the bicentennial of the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, and the centennial of Pasteur's mission to Australia in 1888, when by virtue of its isolated position as an "island laboratory", Australia served as an early, though not entirely successful, trial ground for Pasteur's method of biological control of a destructive rabbit population.

From then on, microbiologists and microbiological services in the widest sense, encompassing concerns with both human disease and diseases of livestock and crop plants (reflecting Australia's heavy dependence on its agriculture and sheep farming), have progressed to an unshakable position of international renown. The book is a tribute to the strength of Australian microbiology and its research institutes. The discoveries and achievements are legion, from Joseph Bancroft's eponymous adult worm of filariasis, to the more recent work on rabbit myxomatosis as it reflects on the evolution of virus-host relationships, and the inspired studies of influenza viruses, the roles of their respective haemagglutinins and neuraminidases, and their effect on antigenic drift.

For the serious student of any or all branches and ramifications of Australian microbiology, and its interaction with developments in the rest of the world in the twentieth century, this is an invaluable catalogue of achievements. It also includes potted biographies, with portraits of many of the greater and lesser lights of the period. With nearly 300 contributors and "coordinators", and more than five times as many working scientists and their manifold contributions referred to in the text, in addition to detailed information concerning teaching institutions and research institutes, the more than 600 pages of the present volume, at the comparatively modest price of £35, is admirable value by today's publishing standards.

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H. E. HENKES (ed.) and CL. ZRENNER (associate ed.), *History of ophthalmology 1*, Sub auspiciis Academiae Ophthalmologicae Internationalis, repr., *Documenta Ophthalmologica* 68, nos. 1-2, Dordrecht, Boston, and London, Kluwer, 1988, 8vo, pp. 184, illus., Dfl. 165.00/\$85.00/£49.95 (paperback).

The book is a collection of eighteen papers read at annual meetings of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis; not all of them come up to a scholarly standard. A wide area, in time and in place, is covered although, of course, no comprehensive picture emerges.

The late Eugene Chan, e.g., contributed a survey of Chinese ophthalmology over more than 3,000 years, while Amalric (Albi, France) looks at the representation of the eye in African art, stressing its influence on such modern painters as Juan Gris. It is surprising to learn from Stefanopoulos (Athens) that legends about Hippocrates (actually rather fantastic ones) still live on in the villages of Cos. Reviewing the ophthalmic contents of the Hippocratic writings, Lascartos and Marketos (Athens) emphasize the concept of ocular affections as manifestations of general disease; they rightly think it useful to remind their highly specialized professional colleagues of this ancient truth.