

Book Reviews

this story was again exemplary, though he was forced to resign from the sanatorium directorship because of his resistance to segregation). The third difference between Western Europe and the USA was in the natural decline in the death rates from tuberculosis. Still unexplained (though probably related to improved nutrition and housing), this had started in Europe as early as the late 1840s, whereas in the USA it was delayed for another 30 or 40 years.

Bates's story has a contemporary resonance. A judicious combination of care by the voluntary, local and state sectors might, she points out, answer our contemporary dilemma as to the optimum pattern of care for our elderly and chronic sick. Should our authorities decide to go down this road, they would do well to avoid the needless complexities she chronicles so readably.

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CHARLES LESLIE and ALLAN YOUNG (eds), *Paths to Asian medical knowledge*, Comparative Studies of Health and Medical Care series, Berkeley and Oxford, University of California Press, 1992, pp. 296, illus., \$40.00 (hardback, 0-420-07317-7), \$15.00 (paperback, 0-520-07318-5).

When Charles Leslie edited and published *Asian medical systems* in 1976, it established a new level of sophistication in the study of the field and became required reading for all students of the subject. This new collection of studies continues this tradition of excellence, and similarly deserves a place on our bookshelves.

The articles Leslie and Young have collected cover three areas: East Asia, South Asia, and Islam. On East Asian medicine we have Shigehisa Kuriyama (on eighteenth-century Japanese anatomy), Paul U. Unschuld (on the reception of traditional Chinese medicine in the twentieth century), Judith Farquhar (Chinese medical case histories), Gary Seaman (medical folk concepts in Chinese geomancy), and Margaret Lock (health tensions affecting the (post-) modern Japanese family). On South Asia we have Margaret Trawick (death and nurture in Indian healing), Gananath Obeyesekere (science, experimentation and clinical practice in āyurveda), Charles Leslie (syncretism in modern āyurvedic interpretation), Francis Zimmermann (violence and non-violence in the semantics of āyurvedic interpretation), Mark Nichter (sociology of a viral epidemic in South India). Finally, on the Islamic humoral traditions we have two papers: Byron and Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good (the comparative study of Greco-Islamic medicine), and Carol Laderman (Islamic humoralism on the Malay peninsula).

The collection is preceded by a substantial state-of-the-field essay by the editors, and each subdivision of the book likewise starts with an overview essay. These components create a valuable and thematically unified textbook which is more than the sum of its parts.

The volume shows only one limitation: it does not, perhaps, do full justice to current European scholarship in the field of Asian medicine. There is a lively scene this side of the pond, but only a few of the European articles or books from the last few years are cited by any of the contributors.

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