

communities', and the role played by their interconnections and interactions in transformative historical junctures and disjunctures in which they significantly participated.

It would be hard to find a better example of what Zyberman is describing than this volume of essays on a group of actors between the wars who were critical figures in the development of public health internationalism as an interdisciplinary discourse and practice. Perhaps the most intriguing issue brought out by this book is that this group of health internationalists agreed intellectually about the political nature of improving population health while possessing a widely disparate range of ideological beliefs. As Borowy points out, they all linked population disease and health management to political action while their ideological beliefs, actions and associations varied hugely at a time of volatile national and international relations.

Those in continental Europe who were socialists or social democrats fell foul of fascism in Germany and Spain. One such was the Jewish public health expert, Franz Goldman, who escaped to save his life. The Minister of Public Health in Yugoslavia, a communist sympathiser and tireless champion of social justice, Andrija Stampar, was more or less exiled by his government as the result of pre-war political intrigue but during the war was imprisoned by the German occupying forces. While all the figures in the volume shared beliefs about the effects of inequality upon population health, some – such as the pathologist Bela Johan in Hungary, and the German social hygienist Otto Olsen – found it possible diplomatically to co-operate with war-time fascism. Others within Germany, such as Fritz Rott, became National Socialists embracing racial hygiene. The brilliant German statistician, Emile Roesele, a communist, remained alive because of his unique indispensability. In neutral Denmark, the eminent serologist, Thorvald Masdan, retreated from the fray to his laboratory. He was accused by some of possessing pro-Axis sentiments. At least one of the internationalists

in the collection, Gustavo Pittaluga, was dismissed from his public health role by totalitarian and democratic governments in Spain becoming a refugee in Cuba following the Second World War. Melville Macenzie, the public health lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and tireless champion of the LNHO, became stuck in British imperialist philosophy.

As Borowy comments, despite these mixed fortunes, all collectively contributed to what Martin Dubin has termed 'a biomedical/public health episteme' that characterised international health co-operation between the wars. Perhaps the unifying element was that each of the public health campaigners was supported by funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and had links with a critical figure explored by Socrates Listios, Selskar 'Mike' Gunn. The Director of the Foundation's Paris Office from 1922–32 facilitated the expanded visions of public health possessed by others explored in the volume but largely in contradiction to the limited strategic goals of the institution he represented.

While all these short biographies reflect intriguing contrasts in the relationship between political ideology and public health philosophy, all demonstrate what Iris Borowy compellingly argues has been the role that collective action undertaken in pursuit of population health played in contributing toward the mission to construct a global civil society.

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Georgina Ferry, *Max Perutz and the Secret of Life* (Woodbury, NY: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2007), pp. xii + 352, \$39.00, hardback, ISBN: 978-087969785-3.

One by one the icons from the golden age of molecular biology have become the subject of biographies – Linus Pauling, James Watson, Francis Crick, Max Perutz, and soon to come, Sydney Brenner, and hopefully Fred Sanger too. Georgina Ferry, like most of the authors

of these biographers is a science writer. Perutz made a wise choice when he chose to invite her to write his life. The result is an engaging, beautifully written book deserving a place on the shelf of everyone who likes to read about science and scientists. It is a full biography that details his early life in Vienna, his move to England in 1936, his life in Cambridge, war experiences, the trials, tribulations and the successes of the post-war years leading to the first low-resolution structure of haemoglobin in 1959 – twenty-two years after he had begun work on the molecule. Ferry takes Perutz's career through to the end of his life with his work on the amyloid associated with Alzheimer's disease. Whether dealing with personal matters or explaining the science, Ferry handles the subject matter with ease and clarity.

Why should this book be of particular value to the historian? Because Perutz was the 'anchor-person' of molecular biology at Cambridge. The famous lab had begun modestly as an MRC Unit, its *raison d'être* being Perutz's research on haemoglobin. He headed the Unit and saw it through difficult times. He handled the *prima donnas* around him with tact, protecting Francis Crick from the anger of the Cavendish Professor, Sir Lawrence Bragg. Perutz oversaw the relocation of the Unit and its transformation into the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in 1962 where he continued as Chairman until 1979.

Equally valuable to the historian is Ferry's account of Perutz's success in revealing the three dimensional structure of the haemoglobin molecule and his researches into the mechanism for its action in oxygen transport. As a result hemoglobin came to serve as a model for mechanisms of enzyme action, with the result that it has become an 'honorary enzyme'.

For the historian of medicine, Perutz's health problems offer a challenging topic for discussion. But the most interesting feature of the biography concerns Perutz's early years in Austria and subsequently as an Austrian émigré in Cambridge, followed by internment and deportation to Canada in 1940. Ferry has

been able to present his early years in some detail thanks to the miraculous preservation by the recipients of the letters he wrote to friends and relatives before and during the Second World War. Some have a journalistic quality as if written by a foreign reporter for the press back home. There lay the germ of the ambition to become a writer that he later achieved, becoming known for his forthright critiques. They form the subject of the chapter 'Truth always wins', where Ferry documents Perutz's attacks on the misrepresentation of science and scientists. Karl Popper, Erwin Schrödinger and Gerald Geison all got a drubbing – rightly or wrongly – by this passionate seeker after truth. As the official biographer, Ferry has handled Perutz's mix of vanity and self-deprecation, vicious critique and devoted admiration, diplomatically, reporting but not judging.

The early part of the book should be read in conjunction with *What a Time I am Having*, the selected letters of Max Perutz (Cold Spring Harbor, 2009), edited by Vivien Perutz, a jewel of a book to be sure. Many of Perutz's essays mentioned in the biography can be consulted in Perutz's *I Wish I Had Made You Angry Earlier* (New York: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2002).

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Imogen Goold and Catherine Kelly (eds),

Lawyers' Medicine: The Legislature, the Courts and medical Practice, 1760–2000 (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2009), pp. xiv + 224, £30.00, paperback, ISBN: 978-1-84113-849-7.

Several decades ago, a British television series entitled *The Expert* was one of the first to offer forensic medicine as a suitable subject for popular entertainment. Nowadays, autopsies are prime-time viewing on several channels, together with detective dramas where the forensic 'expert's' judgement is rarely questioned. This collection of essays is a useful corrective to one-sided interpretations of the ever-changing relations between