

Book Reviews

the Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London.

The author's deep affection for his wife Billie is attested by his inclusion of three short stories from her pen. In a chapter entitled 'A fruitful interaction', he describes with affection his life with Billie and the family that they created together.

This is, as one might expect from Peter Williams, a book that has its idiosyncrasies. Sadly there is no index, nor are there full references to the works quoted. But for all that, it is an entertaining book which should engage the attention of all those who have followed the remarkable fortunes of the Wellcome Trust and its one-time Director.

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Eduard Seidler, Karl-Heinz Leven,

Geschichte der Medizin und der Krankenpflege, seventh revised and extended edition, Stuttgart, W Kohlhammer, 2003, pp. 333, €18.90, (paperback 3-17-017624-2).

The forerunner of this textbook for students of medicine and the healthcare professions was first published by Eduard Seidler in 1966 with the title *Geschichte der Pflege des kranken Menschen* (History of the Care for the Sick). Several editions of the textbook focused mainly on the history of care, in accordance with the strict division between care and medicine in Germany. In 1993, Eduard Seidler, this time together with Karl-Heinz Leven, aimed at combining the history of medicine and healthcare in the sixth edition. The authors thereby tried to connect the developments of both professions without neglecting the many tensions between the two fields. Now, ten years later, in the introduction to the seventh edition, Seidler and Leven emphasize that they have retained the approach of 1993 and have tried to integrate new research from various fields of the history of medicine.

As a textbook aiming to provide an overview of the history of medicine and care

throughout the centuries, it is necessarily a tour de force. The first chapter on the beginnings of care—which has undergone few changes since the editions of the 1960s—as well as the subsequent synopsis of medicine and care in early cultures remain quite laconic and sketchy. The section on Graeco-Roman medicine as the root of modern western medicine, however, provides the reader with a well structured narrative: the development of Hippocratic medicine and care as well as Galen's concepts are convincingly depicted. Then, before focusing on medieval traditions, the authors make a short excursus into Byzantine medicine—strongly influenced by the Greek tradition—and they hint at the poor western reception of classical medicine in early medieval times. The authors then show how the development of monastic care under the Benedictine order was crucial for the development of a Christian European tradition of healthcare. In the case of medicine, they emphasize the high standard of Arab medicine during the Middle Ages and chronicle how Greek medical knowledge flowed back to the Christian west via medical texts in Arabic, where it was disseminated in the newly established European universities. Seidler and Leven stress that these developments fostered the division between medicine and care, since the two fields were hardly ever connected afterwards. The following chapters on humanism and the Enlightenment point to transformations in medical knowledge, in parallel with the gradual integration of the exact sciences into medicine. The authors also show that healthcare remained relatively unconcerned by this development. It was only in the course of the eighteenth century that the integration of medicine into the everyday life of hospitals slowly began to affect the practice of healthcare. In the fifty-page chapter on the nineteenth century, Seidler and Leven only have the space to brush over the numerous developments in the fields of medicine and care. They try to include the development of medicine as a natural science, the splitting up of medical studies into several curricula, the emergence of social hygiene, as well as the beginnings of communal health services and insurance systems. In the

field of care, the authors focus on war developments, including a section on the Red Cross. They also discuss the influence of the women's movement on the emergence of professional healthcare. The twentieth century, rife with complex developments, is also endowed with very little space; here the textbook mainly concentrates on the First World War and the Third Reich. In the section on medicine and National Socialism especially, the authors succeed in providing a short critical synopsis of the most important developments.

An appendix consisting of several printed sources and a bibliography, including a selection of standard works as well as new research, affords readers the possibility of exploring their own areas of interest.

On the whole, the book provides quite a good survey of developments in the history of medicine and care. However, contrary to the intent outlined in the introduction, many chapters deal with the history of care and medicine in two separate sections and the tensions between the two fields remain mostly latent. Finally, some sections are so ambitious in their scope that they must necessarily remain imprecise.

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Lesley Richmond, Julie Stevenson and Alison Turton (eds), *The pharmaceutical industry: a guide to historical records*, Aldershot, Ashgate, 2003, pp. vii, 561, £55.00 (hardback 0-7546-3352-7).

Archive surveys are not easy. It is hard tracking down the material, summarizing what there is in the absence of finding aids, and conveying the information succinctly and clearly so that it can form an essential starting point for research. A survey of the archives of the pharmaceutical industry carries heavier difficulties. A great many of the records of such businesses have been disturbed and lost with the rapid growth of the industry and multiple mergers. Where records do survive there is often ignorance about them: comparatively little cataloguing work has been done on records of

the larger firms. Finally there remains a major problem about gaining access for research; such is the industry's concern to protect information about the development of its drugs.

With these caveats in mind it is particularly pleasing to see the publication by the Business Archives Council of such a well thought out and executed guide. It is greatly to the credit of the BAC that it has already published a fine series of surveys covering brewing, shipbuilding, accountancy and banking. A sixth, on veterinary medicine is currently being published. The last two surveys had financial assistance from the Wellcome Trust. Conducted between 1995 and 2000, the scope of this guide covers "any business which manufactured, dispersed, distributed or sold ethical pharmaceuticals, patent medicines, drugs or galenicals between 1750–1968 as well as trade associations, trade unions and employers' organisations allied to the industry." Mostly it covers pharmaceuticals for human use although there are references to veterinary pharmaceutical products. In order to obtain information an arrangement was made with some of the companies that the database would be made available at the Wellcome Library only. It is to be hoped that further negotiations will change this to give access to a far wider audience via distribution of the CD Rom or mounting it on the web.

In the meantime, those who cannot visit the Wellcome Library will have to make do with this hard copy publication. The researcher's task has been made infinitely easier by the model way the data has been set out; it is sensibly indexed and backed up with invaluable supporting information. A description of the scope and use of these archives by Geoffrey Tweedale is followed by a select chronology of pharmaceutical legislation, a bibliography and a glossary of helpful terms. A guide to public records, name, place and subject indexes, and a list of archive repositories all give the researcher multiple access points to the information. J Burnby's chapter on the early years of the pharmaceutical industry notes the manufacturing of certain medicinal substances on a relatively large scale in the seventeenth century and goes on to discuss the activities