

placed fully in context either as a medical profession, or as one perceived, particularly in the early years, as suitable for women. Comparison with the rates of pay, conditions of service, training periods and so on in analogous professions would have been more useful than the mass of statistics which Barclay lifts straight from annual reports without analysis, so that they serve to obfuscate rather than illuminate, especially in the final chapters, where special interest groups multiply, the structure of the Society becomes more complex, and consequently there are more and more available statistics on prices, accounts, members, attendances and publications with which to bombard the reader.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy should be pleased with Barclay's book as celebrating the Society's and the profession's establishment and achievements, but for the non-physiotherapist interested in more general questions, including Barclay's five "keynotes", it is dissatisfying.

**Isobel Hunter, Wellcome Institute**

**Arthur E Imhof and Rita Weinknecht** (eds), *Erfüllt leben—in Gelassenheit sterben. Geschichte und Gegenwart: Beiträge eines interdisziplinären Symposiums vom 23.–25. November 1993 an der Freien Universität Berlin*, Berliner Historische Studien, vol. 19, Berlin, Duncker & Humblot, 1994, pp. 507, DM 148.00 (3-428-07872-1).

Arthur E Imhof has been one of the pioneers in post-war historical demography in Germany. Not only has he launched and carried out a number of fundamental studies, he has also successfully integrated historical demography into broader areas of social history, and thus contributed substantially to the reinstatement of demographic research after its abuse in Nazi Germany. Incorporating cross-references to the present-day situation, he has also introduced the field to a wider audience of interested amateurs.

It is quite logical therefore that in recent years his research has increasingly focused on

the far-reaching implications that extended life-expectancy has upon present-day life. As life-expectancy has more than doubled within the last 400 years, one of his main concerns is how these additionally given years should be spent, and, even more, how they can be utilized to create a sensible and fulfilled existence. This is a problem not only for people who find themselves living longer, but even for those of a younger age. Life today requires a "life-plan" constructed by the individual in order to be able to live a fulfilled life. Only this enables him or her to die in quietude, since religious belief in a post-mortem existence is increasingly vanishing.

These were also the key aspects of the Berlin symposium, the results of which are presented in this volume. Under the auspices of Arthur E Imhof, a number of international experts from various areas of research, together with media and education representatives, assessed the subject in forty contributions.

Part one of the volume focuses on the "hard facts", the secular demographic and epidemiological trends over the past 400 years. Relying to a substantial extent on the excellent Swedish data, the western European path towards modern health conditions is reconstructed. Concerning the developments in recent decades, the analysis concentrates on the interesting differences between the former two German states. One major issue raised is the fact that these gained years are often accompanied by an increase in morbidity and ill-health. To take this into account, the use of a refined indicator, the "disability free life expectancy", is demonstrated. Contributions on methodological aspects, particularly where future developments are concerned, conclude this section.

The second part of the volume combines historical and present-day developments in western Europe with the experiences of cultures in the Asian area. Historians, sociologists, theologians, and historical demographers take part in the discussion on the title theme of the volume, and proffer various contributions of varying quality on the subject.

In the third part a number of concepts and proposals are introduced on how these ideas

and conclusions can be put into practice, with the essential prerequisite that they are mediated to a wider audience. The concluding part, with contributions on the relationship between the media and academia, advocates increased mutual understanding between the two fields.

To sum up, the compilation offers a sometimes surprising conglomeration of contributions, ranging from demographic analysis to moral-ethical and socio-political considerations, including some of Imhof's increasingly art-historical orientated reflections on the subject. Certainly, the repeatedly emphasized moral aspects and implications for contemporary individuals are not to everyone's taste, and remain, after all, debatable. Nevertheless, the volume deals with an important subject, and at least attempts to apply the often postulated interdisciplinary approach.

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**René Ginouvès, Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets, Jacques Jouanna and Laurence Villard** (eds), *Bulletin de correspondance hellénique, supplément 28: L'Eau, la santé et la maladie dans le monde grec*, Actes du colloque organisé à Paris du 25–27 novembre 1992 par le Centre de Recherche "Archéologie et systèmes d'information" et par l'URA 1255 "Médecine grecque", Paris, École Française d'Athènes, 1994, pp. xi, 428, no price given (2-86958-066-5). (Distributed by De Broccard, 11 rue de Médicis, 75006 Paris.)

Conference proceedings come in various sizes. This bumper volume is distinguished by the general high level of its communications and by its attempt to bring together archaeologists, medical historians and philologists to look at water in classical antiquity. There are three sections. In the first, the focus is on water and its uses in a variety of mainly medical authors, from Homer to Late Antiquity, and even to Prospero Alpini reporting on Egypt in the sixteenth century.

Galen is the only major author left out, in part because the subject has recently been treated at length by J A Lopez Férez in a series of papers noted on p. 108. The second section looks at the religious uses of water, and the evidence for springs and other sources at the sites of healing cults, mainly in Greece. There are reports on recent discoveries at Argos, and at a major site on the island of Lipari that incorporated a large thermal establishment. The final section breaks much newer ground by looking at the dangers to health of water, either within the body, with a variety of "watery" conditions, or outside it. While the provision of sufficient water for an ancient city was often a problem, historians tend to forget the difficulties involved in keeping the supply wholesome in cisterns or in aqueducts. Here the archaeological presentations really do advance our understanding considerably.

The most interesting papers in this volume are the final three papers in this section, looking at paludism, malaria, and marsh fevers. F Villard gives a straightforward account of the plagues that affected armies as they camped in the marshes besieging Syracuse. J N Corvisier and S Collin-Bouffier build on this to examine the famous theory of W H S "Malaria" Jones, that Classical Greece was weakened and finally destroyed by the onset of malaria. By using archaeological, palaeopathological, and medical evidence to supplement that of the literary sources, they independently conclude that Jones was wildly wrong. Evidence for malaria in fifth-century Greece is very slight, and, although marshes were often viewed as dangerous places, this need not have been because of the mosquito. If anything, it was the economic decline of Greece in the last two centuries BC leading to the collapse of agriculture, and the abandonment of careful drainage that enabled *falciparum malaria* to gain a hold, not the reverse, as Jones argued. This view is not new: it was argued more than a decade ago by J de Zulueta and L Bruce-Chwatt, in their history of malaria, work apparently unknown in France, but it is good to see their scepticism confirmed by other scholars with different arguments.