

Book Reviews

and his equally talented sons who became leaders of the bar, the bench, and, in the case of William, the medical community of the whole Anglo-American world. Gidney and Millar write of the enduring Ontario professional ideal as the creation of "aristocrats of intellects". A relative once described the Osler boys as "English gentlemen with American energy".

For once the reviewers' cliché is true: it is impossible to do justice to *Professional gentlemen* in a few hundred words. Medicine is only one of the professions brilliantly examined in a formidable work of scholarship; the intricate and subtle analysis encompasses all manner of other occupations from land surveying to dentistry and public school teaching, and is particularly insightful in its discussions of lawyers and clergymen. Gidney and Millar have read very widely in Canadian and comparative sources, they write crisp, clear, academic prose, and manage to be both iconoclastic and persuasive in most of their judgments. Their book will have a major impact on writing about Ontario and Canadian society, and it should be widely read by all scholars interested in the evolution of professions.

I would have liked a bit more on the military as a (declining) profession option for Ontarions, and I believe Gidney and Millar are wrong in implying that hospital practice enabled physicians to experiment on charity patients "without damage to reputations and without fear of suits for malpractice". A cheap shot that would not score in ice hockey.

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Peter G Hesse and Joachim S Hohmann, *Friedrich Schaudinn (1871–1906). Sein Leben und Wirken als Mikrobiologe. Eine Biographie*, Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang, 1995, pp. 252, illus., DM 31.00 (3-631-48140-3).

This biographical account follows a hagiographic approach, trying to restore Schaudinn to his proper place in history as a great scientist and the true discoverer of the

agent of syphilis. Jointly with the physician Erich Hoffmann, the zoologist Friedrich Schaudinn is regarded as the discoverer of the causal organism of syphilis, *Spirochaeta pallida*. As to the authors of the book, the first of them was a distinguished venerologist and sexologist (born in 1909, he died last year), the other teaches sociology and has a particular interest in problems of sexology and medicine.

The work is not a contribution to historical discussion; the authors have, apparently deliberately, ignored almost everything written on their subject before. They justify this by stating that their aim is to let the facts speak for themselves (p. 6). Concerning Schaudinn's role in the discovery of *Spirochaeta pallida*, the argument is not pursued consistently, just as no problem or question is consistently dealt with in the book as a whole. Sometimes short arguments or explanations are given, but these are not informed by recent research in the history of medicine or science and often consist of platitudes about the characteristics of "all great men" or "all intellectuals". In general, many of the authors' judgments are wrong because the historical context has not been taken into account.

So, given its lack of aspiration to historical analysis, does this book have a value as a purely descriptive account of Schaudinn's life and work? The authors have industriously collected a lot of material on Schaudinn, some of it unpublished documents from archives. However, while writing their book, they have violated basic historiographical rules: references to the origin of their information and even of their quotations are scanty and often given in a manner that makes it impossible to trace them back. Furthermore, the extensive quotation of original sources or secondary literature without explaining their function in the account makes the book all but unreadable. This is made even worse by the lack of organization of the text, often leaving the reader in a state of confusion as to what it is all about. So the book cannot be used as a simple collection of material either: any new and interesting material that may have been found is drowned in a sea of trivial detail.

Book Reviews

There is one part of the book, however, that may be of use for those considering further investigation into either Schaudinn's biography or the history of syphilis: 60 out of the 252 pages are devoted to a list of Schaudinn's works, most of which are summarized.

In view of the time and labour the authors must have invested, and considering the potential of their expertise in the field, it is a pity that they did not consult medical historians (not a single historian or medical historian is mentioned in the long list of acknowledgments) or at least some of the pertinent literature on their subject.

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Tony Hunt, *Anglo-Norman medicine*, vol. 1, *Roger Frugard's Chirurgia; The Practica brevis of Platearius*, Cambridge, D S Brewer, 1994, pp. vii, 328, £49.50, c. \$86.00 (0-8599-401-1).

The most urgent task in the still largely unmapped field of medieval medicine is to produce scholarly editions of more manuscript material gathering dust in the libraries of Europe and North America. Tony Hunt has responded to this imperative with solidly professional editions. Clarifying the identity and considerable achievement of Roger Frugard, he has dispelled widely held assumptions about the role of Salerno in the revival of western surgical writing. The manuscripts are faithfully transcribed and economically annotated and emended, and the glossaries provide a wealth of new lexical material. Introduced as "a sequel and complement to *Popular medicine in thirteenth-century England*", and also as the first of two, focusing on "the surviving corpus of Anglo-Norman medical treatises which may fairly be described as 'learned'", this volume appears to open up the possibility of a longer series, but leaves somewhat tantalizingly unformulated the extent of this corpus. It also raises intriguing if unanswered questions about the

transmission of medical knowledge in thirteenth-century England, the puzzling relationship between these Anglo-Norman texts and anything comparable that survives in France, and the broader context of French and Anglo-Norman medicine. Perhaps the reader's curiosity will be satisfied in the "general introduction" of volume 2.

The introduction to Roger's *Chirurgia* includes a short survey and sample extracts of Occitan, continental Old French and Middle English versions (the reader is expected to be fluent in all these plus medieval Latin). The first part of the book concludes with an annotated edition of the fragmentary Old French translation of the *Chirurgia* from the earlier part of the same MS Trinity 0.1.20. Part II is devoted to the *Practica brevis*. Its contents are set out in tabular form according to the Latin versions of the 1497 Venice edition and MS Sloane 1124, and the Anglo-Norman translation in Trinity 0.1.20. There follow the Latin prologue based on Sloane 1124, and brief descriptions of the principal insular MSS of the *Practica*, including a Middle English translation of which samples are provided. A detailed description of the apparently accurate and comprehensive Anglo-Norman translation and an analysis of its insular orthographical and syntactical features and morphological adaptations of Latin words precede the edited text, notes, glossary, and receipts from the *Antidotarium Nicolai* referred to in the *Practica*.

The overriding importance of producing reliable but compact editions has led to a certain economy of explanation for the uninformed or unalert reader. Questions of editing principle are addressed only in the introduction to part two, where the editor articulates "the problem of whether to correct in the interests of scientific accuracy or in conformity with the source from which the text derives". In the case of the *Practica brevis* his approach is, in the absence of any [critical] edition of the Latin original, "to convey the sense of the text, not by restricting comparison to the early printed version of the Latin, but by drawing on the manuscript tradition". Only at