

of similar trials in Württemberg are especially perspicacious on this point. In a completely different vein, Joel Peter Eigen's essay on insanity and English law during the period 1800–1840 also depicts a situation in which criminal or civil law could be tempered, a role that medicine would continue to play nearly a century later, as Barbara Brookes and Paul Roth found in their study of the Bourne case and the medicalization of abortion.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the cohesive quality of the first half of *Legal medicine in history* is much less apparent in the second part. Covering a period when the connections between law and medicine have become much more routine and substantial, the collection fragments into a series of individual studies of particular aspects of the complex ways in which law and medicine have intersected. Among the most interesting is Stephen Watson's Foucauldian examination of the prison as a site for the production of expert knowledge about mental deficiency, a tale that highlights the ways in which the legal system itself could structure observations under which new medical conditions would become visible and real.

On the whole, *Legal medicine in history* is a highly successful collection. While it might have been improved by maintaining its focus on England and certainly by expanding its coverage of material in the period 1850 to the present, it does an excellent job of raising some important questions about the relations between medicine and law in England and of providing acute insights into the connections between developments in legal medicine and the social/political/cultural worlds in which these changes were taking place.

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R D Gidney and W P J Millar, *Professional gentlemen: the professions in nineteenth-century Ontario*, Ontario Historical Studies series, University of Toronto Press, 1994, pp. xv, 505, £39.00, \$60.00 (hardback 0-8020-0619-1), £16.00, \$24.00 (paperback 0-8020-7580-0).

A case can be made for the proposition that Canadians have been over-achievers in the fields of ice hockey and medicine. Climate is mostly responsible for predominance on skates. A much more complex interplay of social structure and cultural aspirations explains the attainment as healers. In *Professional gentlemen: the professions in nineteenth-century Ontario*, the husband and wife team of R D Gidney and W P J Millar, provide us with a splendid history of the evolution of medicine and most other professions in the formative years of Canada's foremost province. Ontario was a community that aspired to preserve the best of its British heritage in an American setting, and, in medicine, at least, came close to success.

The founders of Upper Canada/Ontario hoped to create in the American wilderness an hierarchical society led by an aristocracy of the best people. Absent a landed ruling class, they vested great power and prestige in the traditional gentlemen's professions—divinity, law and medicine. When the rude dynamism of North American life began undermining all establishments, Ontarions made creative compromises. The province rejected the United States' experiment in medical "free trade" for example, and instead co-opted homeopaths and eclectics into its licensing/regulatory system. Its leading proprietary medical schools, centred in Toronto and staffed by physicians drawn from traditional elites, remained several notches above the North American standard. At the end of the century the University of Toronto, less hamstrung than British counterparts by the strength of classical humanism, profitably expedited the wedding of science to practice that became the basis of one of North America's largest and most successful medical faculties.

It is no accident that Ontario became a net exporter of highly-talented physicians (and other professionals) to the United States and sometimes back to the mother country. Gidney and Millar note that much of the history of the evolution of Ontario professions is contained in the story of a talented Church of England clergyman, the Rev. Featherstone Lake Osler,

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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.