

Book Reviews

(‘The vendors of medicines advertised in eighteenth-century Bath’, *Medical History*, 1975, **19**: 352–69; and ‘Medicines advertised in the eighteenth-century Bath newspapers’, *Medical History*, 1976, **20**: 152–68) and also that of J. J. Looney (‘Advertising and society in England, 1720–1820: a statistical analysis of Yorkshire newspaper advertisements’ [Ph.D. thesis, Princeton University, 1983]). One also wishes that Doherty, a literary scholar by training, had been more adventurous in literary analysis of the promotion materials, perhaps using the methods of Roland Barthes. Not least, it is a great shame that the volume reproduces none of the advertisements in facsimile: here was surely an opportunity for the evaluation of visual as well as verbal evidence. These however are minor blemishes. Thanks to Doherty’s diligence, dedication and flair, we now possess, for the first time, an in-depth account of the promotion of proprietary medicines in the emergent commercial society. Let us hope that this exemplary work will provide the model for similar product biographies.

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THOMAS NEVILLE BONNER, *To the ends of the earth: women’s search for education in medicine*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1992, pp. xvi, 232, illus., £27.95 (0–674–89303–4).

Over thirty years ago, while doing research on American doctors in European universities before 1914, Thomas Bonner was struck by the “remarkable number of foreign women, including Americans” enrolled in medicine at Zurich, Bern, Paris and Geneva (p. vii). Historians of women’s role in medicine have cause to be grateful that he has now been able to follow up this (at the time) intriguing observation. And, as he shows the numbers were remarkable. Bonner estimates that, in the half-century before 1914, “well over ten thousand women . . . took some medical training in Switzerland or France”, three-quarters of them from the Russian Empire and only a handful actually from Switzerland or France (p. 62).

To the ends of the earth provides the first detailed English language account of the opening of these first continental European universities, most importantly Zurich, to would-be medical women in the 1860s and 1870s and a biographical picture of the women who went there. This detailed description is combined with a comparative analysis of the opportunities and constraints facing these women in their home countries, particularly in Germany, Russia, the United States and Britain, as these developed during the following century. One of the strengths of the book is his emphasis throughout on political and institutional factors in the specific countries, particularly of the different forms of state intervention in medical education, as more significant than levels of prejudice alone in shaping women’s opportunities.

Bonner’s book is a valuable corrective to several recent accounts of the campaign for women’s entry to medicine in Britain. These have paid almost no attention to the European dimension, generally supporting Sophia Jex-Blake’s public rejection of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson’s advocacy of the “back-door route” via French or Swiss degrees, as a means of exercising leverage of public and parliamentary opinion at home. Bonner makes it clear that Garrett Anderson’s proposal might have been viable. And Bonner’s detailed and often poignant picture of the thousands of Russian women who sought medical training long before 1917 should go a long way to eradicate the misconception that the high level of women in (erstwhile) Soviet medicine is a specifically post-revolutionary phenomenon.

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PETER MORRIS (ed.), *First aid to the battlefield: life and letters of Sir Vincent Kennett-Barrington (1844–1903)*, Stroud, Glos., and Wolfeboro Falls, NH, Alan Sutton, 1992, pp. x, 231 illus., £14.99 (0–7509–00164).

Possibly one of the least-researched aspects of Victorian philanthropy is its internationalism. The European wars which accompanied the struggles for German and Italian unification from the mid-nineteenth century onwards threw larger and larger numbers of young men into nationalistic