

European pharmacopoeias. Using the example of guaiac wood, he shows that the discovery of the special properties of a multi-purpose product could provoke an intense global trade in it. Guaiac was on the one hand used for technical purposes such as a material for ships' pulleys, and mortars, but on the other it was especially highly esteemed as a remedy against syphilis—then a new and fearsome illness—so that trade in it increased enormously. Multifunctional drugs were also used as constituents of compound medicines such as theriac, which was not a new remedy but a classical and famous European panacea. Theriac too was transported around the world in enormous quantities. Finally, Rutten shows that fragrant substances like ambergris, civet and musk were also appreciated as medicines, and formed an important group of commodities in Dutch trade.

The book concludes with a bibliography. Rutten's study provides comprehensive information concerning the trade in multifunctional drugs in the eighteenth century and their influence on Europe. By combining aspects of the histories of pharmacy, culture, and trade, he shows that interdisciplinary studies can contribute to a new understanding of historical developments. It is a pity that there are no detailed references, especially since the author has evidently consulted a large number of archival sources. But, most importantly, the results of Rutten's investigations definitely offer much inspiration for further interdisciplinary studies. The book can be recommended to a wide public: to scientists of many disciplines as well as interested amateurs.

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G A Lindeboom, *Herman Boerhaave: the man and his work*, second edition, Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 2007, pp. xxx, 372, illus., €49.50 (hardback 978-90-5235-137-7).

In 1968, G A Lindeboom made his reputation in the English-speaking world as the chief expert on the history of Dutch medicine by publishing his biography of Boerhaave. (See the review in *Medical History*, 1969, **13** (4) by Lord Cohen of Birkenhead.) In that work he was significantly aided by E Ashworth Underwood, who refused to be named as co-author and simply provided a brief, signed Foreword. The book remains the only modern attempt in any language to comprehend the life and work of this most famous of eighteenth-century medical teachers and authors. Given that the original publication is now hard to obtain, Erasmus Publishing have brought out a new edition of the work, with a careful and perceptive introduction by M J van Lieburg about Lindeboom and his work that amounts to an important short biography of its own. The original edition has been entirely reset and is beautifully produced, while the alterations to the text are slight, only correcting errors. More important are Van Lieburg's editorial interventions: the Latin parts have been dropped from appendix one (the *Commentariolus*, composed from Boerhaave's autobiographical notes); appendix three is dropped entirely (the sale catalogue of Boerhaave's collections); the bibliography is painstakingly corrected and brought up to date; and Lindeboom's *Bibliographia Boerhaaviana* of 1959, also carefully expanded and corrected, is added as a final appendix. As he makes plain, the structure and aims of the original work show its age, but it remains a masterful synthesis of information then available in print, and with Van Lieburg's editorial interventions, it will still be widely consulted by anyone wishing to embark on an acquaintance with Boerhaave and his publications.

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Sandra M Sufian, *Healing the land and the nation: malaria and the Zionist project in Palestine, 1920–1947*, Chicago and London,

Book Reviews

University of Chicago Press, 2007, pp. xx, 385, \$40.00, £21.00 (hardback 978-0-226-77935-5).

This book investigates anti-malarial policies pursued in mandatory Palestine. It analyses the scientific and practical undertakings of the various agencies, mainly Jewish and British, which worked with a view to reclaiming landscapes from marshes and abating endemic malaria. The author's main thesis suggests that the anti-malaria campaign highlights the "relationship between health and nationalism or statehood" so dear to Zionists.

The book offers a good empirical survey using materials and sources in Israeli archives, the Central Zionist Archives, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Rockefeller Foundation Archive among others. Nationalist redesigning of the demographic and epidemiological landscape through malaria control has been widely researched lately by social historians of medicine. Linking science, health and nationalism was by no means unique to Zionism; rather it was common to various nationalist ideologies throughout the world. As emphasized in chapter 7, Palestinian doctors were also quick to claim such linkage for themselves, as an issue in cultural and political "self-realization".

But malaria campaigns were undoubtedly of paramount importance for the Jewish colonization of Palestine. According to the author, Zionists were anxious to demonstrate to the mandatory government that they had indeed made a garden from a wasteland. Assuredly, this was part of the Zionist world-view, extensively dealt with in chapter 1. Such a cultural approach, however, can be misleading in some ways. Extension of malarial marshes because of agricultural neglect and abandonment was merely time-honoured knowledge among many malariologists, especially in Europe. Accordingly, matching Zionist ideology against the existing state-of-the-art strategies of malaria control was what one would have expected. Arab peasants were thought of as obstacles to malaria control; was this

representation a Zionist generated idea (the problem is the Arabs)? Or was it a time-honoured scientific notion (the problem is the peasants)? The book gives the impression that every Zionist protagonist, whether politician, public officer or scientist delivered the same ideological discourse. But Zionist discourse on malaria was motivated not only by politics, or by science as politics in disguise, but also by science *qua* science. It took some time for malariology to become less inimical to peasants than formerly. Present-day critics of ideologies are frequently at risk of being anachronistic.

Science is not to be thought of as simply cloaking political interests. Science is the way political actors see things when those things are populations, diseases and landscapes. Landscape is the key word of the book. Landscape is considered as archetypal (the Zionist *Weltanschauung*), pathological (geography of malaria in Palestine), potential (reclamation projects), technological (two case-studies), perceptual (the "medicalization" of Palestine), cultural (health education) and contested (malaria as a symbol of the Palestinian/Zionist conflict). This gives the book a robust conceptual framework. Sufian could have referred to Michel Foucault, since landscape is nothing more than Foucault's "dispositive", that is, a rather heterogeneous set of discourses, institutions, technical devices, administrative measures, and cultural practices from which come change and variation. Through "landscape" we can see in the end how opposite camps strove to capture health as a most valuable political asset.

The richness and the quality of the photographs, maps drawn by contemporaneous health agencies and health education documents put a premium on a book that will be an important resource to those interested not only in the history of the Middle East but more generally to students of the relationship between health and development.

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