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altered plans to provide a railway to Nova Scotia. A brush with ill health, and a consultation with William Osler, led Tupper to moderate his lifestyle. Having held several portfolios in the Cabinet, he “retired” to England as High Commissioner in 1884. But after Macdonald’s death, Tupper was recalled to politics by his party and was appointed prime minister for a two-month period until his Government resigned in mid-1896. He continued as leader of the Opposition until his defeat at the polls in 1899 at the age of 78. Back in Britain for a second retirement, he lived sixteen years more, making occasional visits to Canada and receiving the attentions of Osler and other aristocrats. During most of his life, Tupper kept up his practice of medicine, and he never relinquished his identity as a doctor.

The reader sometimes craves Tupper’s personal view of situations, but it seems the sources do not provide. Perhaps the most interesting chapter is the Epilogue, in which Tupper’s apparently legendary “womanizing” comes as a bit of a surprise. Here also the Murrays speculate on the lesser renown of this highly accomplished man as compared to others, including Howe. They admit that the success of so many of Tupper’s favourite projects—Confederation, the railway, the CMA—does not imply that “Tupper had the clearer vision, and took the correct stand”. But they allude honestly to the problems inherent in writing biography, confessing that they “are among those who still think that Canada was a good idea”. In looking over the attractive photographs, with a large number of fierce portraits, I cannot help but wonder if Tupper is remembered less fondly because he did not smile. But we know pictures can lie as readily as words.

The Murrays’ book is a welcome addition to the Canadian Medical Lives Series: clear, concise, written with humour and admiration. It brings to light the life of a neglected political doctor whose impressive double career is worthy of consideration by

Canadians and by historians and physicians everywhere, especially if they think that medicine and politics together can contribute to a healthy world.

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Eduard Seidler, *Kinderärzte 1933–1945: entrechtet—geflohen—ermordet. Paediatricians: victims of persecution 1933–1945*, Bonn, Bouvier, 2000, pp. 494, illus., DM 58.00 (hardback 3-416-02919-4).

Until now, the role of paediatrics during National Socialism has not been investigated in detail. For this important study, the German historian and paediatrician Eduard Seidler, emeritus professor at the University of Freiburg im Breisgau, has done much research on the curricula of many Jewish paediatricians and on their emigration. The documentation was initiated by the German Society for Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. While the substantial introduction is in both German and English, the second part, containing the short biographies, is exclusively in German.

In 1933, about 48.8 per cent of all paediatricians in Germany (about 744) were considered to be or were indeed Jewish. As a consequence, in accordance with the “Racial Laws” of Nuremberg, they were persecuted. In this monograph, Seidler considers both medical researchers and practitioners equally. His thorough examination reveals the whole dimension of expulsion and loss in the development of paediatrics. In the detailed introduction the author analyses the affinity of Jewish physicians to paediatrics, the role of Jewish women in this medical discipline and the role of paediatrics in social medicine. In addition, Seidler investigates the importance of Jewish paediatricians to medical science, as well as anti-Semitism at the universities and in medicine in separate

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chapters. In a special examination, Seidler shows that the attitude of the German Society of Paediatrics to their Jewish members was characterized by increasing discrimination. Persecutions and assassinations now replaced humiliation and withdrawal of medical licences. Many physicians were able to emigrate in time, others felt desperate and committed suicide. At least seventy-one paediatricians lost their lives in the concentration camps. After the war, a collective suppression of these depressing facts continued for many years. Only a few Jewish paediatricians survived the holocaust in Germany. One of them was Prof. Dr Rudolf Hess, director of the Children's Hospital in Bremen (today called Prof.-Hess-Kinderklinik). In 1933 he was suspended from his position because, according to the principles of National Socialism, he was regarded as a "hybrid of the first degree". Hess was imprisoned in the concentration camp at Farge. Fortunately, he was released and went underground. After the war, Hess was the only paediatrician who returned to his former position. Seidler has reconstructed 629 of the 744 biographies. Since these paediatricians emigrated to more than thirty countries this is an enormous achievement. Studies on the history of emigrants are always difficult and they take a great deal of time.

The investigation has some flaws which were partly inevitable. There is a lack of further information concerning 117 of the paediatricians—we know their names but not their fates. In two other samples, paediatricians from Austria and Prague were covered. In general, the Austrian analysis which included only physicians from Vienna was incomplete, while that from Prague consisted exclusively of paediatricians of the German medical school. The question of specialists was not regulated until 1928; that is why older colleagues who had received their education before this date did not present a comparable standard. So it was difficult to

classify some physicians. Seidler found that there were various reasons why paediatrics appealed to young Jewish physicians, but he does not analyse this phenomenon. In the quantitative analysis there are small mistakes in adding up the figures. Since publication, the names of further emigrants have been discovered, and these will be added in the next edition.

All in all, this is a very comprehensive and inspired study. It should be an example for other medical specialities.

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Anita Guerrini, *Obesity and depression in the Enlightenment: the life and times of George Cheyne*, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 2000, pp. xx, 283, \$25.00 (hardback 0-8061-3159-4), \$15.95 (paperback 0-8061-3201-9).

One of the most successful early-Georgian physicians, the Aberdeenshire-born George Cheyne (1671/2–1743) once weighed thirty-two stone. Inevitably he has been cast as an eccentric Falstaffian figure enthusiastically recommending water-drinking and vegetarianism to his fellow nervous sufferers amongst the Hanoverian élite at Bath where he became an established practitioner and author. Cheyne's own youthful indulgences as an ambitious Scot seeking patronage in Queen Anne's London precipitated a physical and spiritual crisis, later described in candid detail in the *Author's own case*, appended to *The English malady* (1733), where he patriotically configures nervous sensibility as the price of social superiority. Cheyne's crisis also prompted a recantation of the deistic drift in the version of Newtonianism promulgated by his Edinburgh medical-mentor Archibald Pitcairne. Without abandoning Newton, Cheyne turned to Platonic analogies and a