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peacetime conditions. Lesley Hall sorts out changing attitudes on venereal diseases 1850–1950 in Britain by ascribing them to changing social relations of armies and populations: VD that had been a problem of armies and prostitutes in the nineteenth century came to be an issue of a society at war in the twentieth century. Mark Harrison investigates Second World War British propaganda on VD and shows a marked shift that is quite in line with Hall's interpretation: illicit sexuality—traditionally an offence against good—was transformed into a failure of citizen soldiers, neglecting their duties towards families and the nation. Leo van Bergen, writing on the Dutch military health service in the First World War and the problem of malingering, treats the case of a medical profession that attempted to demonstrate its usefulness to an army not engaged in the war. Obsessive hunting for malingerers “was one way in which military doctors could prove themselves of true military stock” (p. 73). Finally, Hans Pols gives a study of changing psychiatric interpretations of traumatic neuroses suffered by US army soldiers in the Second World War. Under wartime conditions these were seen in close connection with combat experience. However, in the following period they were more and more taken to reflect deficiencies in childhood education: those who suffered from traumatic neuroses were revealed to be mommy-boys raised by overprotective mothers. The traumatic stress of soldiers could now be blamed on the American Mom rather than on combat experience. This facilitated the stabilization of the glorious myth of a victorious war in which memories of traumatizing combat experiences were unwelcome. The veteran “was celebrated as a fighter for the good cause; his trauma had no place in this world” (p. 267).

All in all, *Medicine and modern warfare* is quite a valuable and stimulating volume,

making a substantial contribution to a central field of twentieth-century medical history.

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Helen Nicholson (ed.), *The military orders. Volume 2: Welfare and warfare*, Aldershot and Brookfield, Ashgate, 1998, pp. xxviii, 412, illus., £59.50 (0-86078-679-X).

This rich and diverse volume, like the one which preceded it in 1994,¹ contains papers delivered at the Conference on the History of the Military Orders that has now become a bi-annual event held at the Museum of St John in Clerkenwell. Like all volumes of proceedings it contains contributions which vary in scope, length and character. But more than most it rewards its readers, particularly with glimpses into the archives of parts of Europe hitherto scarcely accessible to English readers. The volume is organized in four parts: the first two both entitled ‘Welfare’, the third ‘Life within the military orders’, and the fourth ‘Relations with the outside world’. It is probably Part I, ‘Welfare’, that readers of this journal will find most immediately rewarding. For example, Piers Mitchell's study of the skeletal remains from the cemetery of the Syrian–Christian village of Le Petit Gerin (today Tel Jezreel in Israel, some 17 km south of Nazareth) is particularly moving. He evaluates the diseases which afflicted that small rural community, linking them to local agricultural production and dietary habits; he is even able to identify meningitis in an infant's remains. Such attention to the rural communities of Outremer is clearly one of the most fruitful strands in current studies of the Levant, following the work of Ronnie Ellenblum on Frankish rural settlement.²

The close attention to the details and challenges of institutional administration,

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archive keeping and discipline in houses of the Military Orders—the subject of Part III—will interest those studying institutions of care and relief, through comparative emphasis on the variety of organizational tasks which underpin the ability to support and deliver care to the poor and needy. Some of the Houses were formidable institutions which became involved in diplomatic and state-building ventures, and especially at Europe's borders. Material from Bohemia and Frisia, studied by Karl Borchardt and Johannes Mol respectively, extends the study of the Orders into new regions. The students of the Military Orders have traditionally been more aware than most scholars of the material aspects of existence in warfare and fortification, financial support and architectural setting. This volume continues the trend of alertness to material culture, which is also emphasized in Jonathan Riley-Smith's introduction and applied in articles such as those by Sven Ekdahl on Prussia and Fotini Karassava-Tsiligiri on Rhodes.

The Military Orders—like most medical and welfare institutions—were complex bodies which attracted the idealistic but also bred institutionally overbearing officers. They attracted pious donors but were also used by patrons to achieve awkward and demanding objectives. An overwhelming amount of their energy was spent on maintaining their lands, estates, and dependents as great corporate landowners.³ Evidence of their medical and welfare activities appears in most cases studied here to have been only a small part of their business. If their “mission statement” was indeed “fighting for the faith and caring for the sick”, then their move into arenas far from the Levant and its pilgrims was bound to erode the second part of that dictum. Yet the pious association, and the motivation which it could elicit in those who joined the Military Orders were clearly appreciated by European rulers over centuries. Christoph Maier demonstrates the roles that some Houses could continue to play even in areas

which were reformed and which closed down religious houses in the sixteenth century, while Johannes Schellakowsky demonstrates the Orders' rulership within the Prussian state in the eighteenth century.

Helen Nicholson has edited well this volume of diverse pickings, which no review can summarize. It rewards consultation not only by medieval historians, but by those interested and intrigued by the viability and malleability of institutions of care and relief.

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¹ Malcolm Barber (ed.), *The Military Orders. Fighting for the faith and caring for the sick*, Aldershot, Variorum, 1994.

² Ronnie Ellenblum, *Frankish rural settlement in the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem*, Cambridge University Press, 1998.

³ See, for example, the evidence in Dominic Selwood, *Knights of the cloister: Templars and Hospitallers in central-southern Occitania, c. 1100–c. 1300*, Woodbridge, Boydell, 1999.

Daniel Schäfer, *Geburt aus dem Tod. Der Kaiserschnitt an Verstorbenen in der abendländischen Kultur*, Schriften zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte, no. 20, Hürtgenwald, Guido Pressler, 1999, pp. 301, illus. (3-87646-089-1).

There are not many books on the human corpse's significance in the different periods of medical history and in the development of scientific medicine. This is to be regretted, particularly since, with its links to people's beliefs and superstitions, the topic is an important cornerstone of the cultural history of medicine.

Therefore Daniel Schäfer's book is welcome. Drawing on theological, legal and medical textbooks, he describes the history of post-mortem Caesarean section from Antiquity until today. This is done in ten chronologically ordered chapters. According to the sources examined, the author points