

Book Reviews

was not Du Port's learning but Du Four's French versifying. Many Latin poets were being translated into the vernacular at Louis' court, or being used as the basis for new compositions in the grand style. Du Four's little book, then, like the Salernitan Regimen, tried to present what "everyone" knew in beautiful language. Like many others of his day, he would not have hesitated to use someone else's Latin verse as the foundation for his French, while giving him the credit on the title page. This helps explain the old-fashioned nature of the contents: the attempt to speak to eternal verities means that no bits of potentially incorrect modern theories (like the circulation of the blood) intrude when Du Four writes of health being a perfect balance of the humours in the blood, which is formed in the liver. And Du Four's concern with metre helps to explain both the compactness of prose and the frequent flights of fancy that mark this English version: for example, in the description of diabetes, we find that "the bite of the serpent Dipsas that furrows the Lybian sand produces this great thirst and frequent drinking" (p. 57), and in the signs and causes of uterine passion we discover that the woman suffering from this complaint is not "satisfied by Apollo's grove or by Lucina, winged child of Paphos" (p. 68).

In short, what this edition gives us is a lovely example (although in prose) of the exalted medicine of the French court of the later seventeenth century. The care of the editor, translator, and publisher have reproduced some of that elegance in a fine little book that will add lustre to anyone's shelf.

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VALERIE FILDES (ed.), *Women as mothers in pre-industrial England*, Wellcome Series in the History of Medicine, London and New York, Routledge, 1990, 8vo, pp. xvii, 225, £35.00.

KATHERINE ARNUP, ANDRÉE LÉVESQUE, and RUTH ROACH PIERSON (eds.), *Delivering motherhood: maternal ideologies and practices in the 19th and 20th centuries*, London and New York, Routledge, 1990, 8vo, pp. xxv, 322, illus., £30.00.

As the 21 essays in these two volumes cannot be thoroughly assessed in a brief review, I will try to provide enough of a sense of the contents so that readers can decide whether they want to acquire them or not. Many of the 14 essays in the collection edited by Katherine Arnup et al., have previously appeared in print; its title does not make it clear that, with two exceptions (an article on the American "La Leche League", founded in 1956, and a summary of the writings of Swedish feminist Ellen Key), the contents are entirely about Canada. There is of course nothing wrong with writing about Canadian women's history from a feminist perspective. Indeed, this collection conveys how lively and wide-ranging current research on this subject is in English Canada and Quebec. But the contents are quite uneven. Their greatest defect is that so few are based upon archival sources, a shortcoming not easily excusable in dealing with just a few decades of the history of a small country. Yet those which do draw upon archival material are excellent: Angus McLaren's and Arlene Tigar McLaren's article on abortion deaths in British Columbia between the wars, which establishes the role of abortion in keeping the death rate from "maternal mortality" high throughout the period; Hélène Laforce's contribution on the elimination of midwives from practice in Quebec, a result of the overcrowded medical profession's efforts to reduce competition; and Andrée Lévesque's article on single mothers at the Hôpital de la Miséricorde in Montreal between 1929 and 1939, which highlights the social pressures on those mothers who did not subsequently marry, to abandon their children.

From English Canada come several less thoroughly-grounded contributions, mainly about midwives and the growing hospitalization of deliveries. These are uniformly condemnatory of the doctors and of hospital birth. Jo Oppenheimer's essay on Ontario, based uncritically on official statistics on maternal mortality, even closes with a plea for home delivery. The volume contains, finally, several interesting articles generally related to the lives of women: Diane Dodd writes about a birth-control clinic in the 1930s in Hamilton, Ontario, and Cecilia Benoit interviews various women in a community in Newfoundland about what life was once like for mothers. She reaches no particular conclusions, aside from pointing out there were good sides and bad. Of the

Book Reviews

14 articles, the most reflective is that of an outsider, Jane Lewis of the London School of Economics, who in an overview of the literature suggests, somewhat at odds with the other contributors, that “it is a mistake to see women as passive recipients [of obstetrical care] or as victims of these changes”.

Essays in the volume edited by Valerie Fildes continue this celebratory note of women’s experience, yet utilize a range of evidence—much of it archival—that permits virtually all the contributions to enhance the debate about whether men’s and women’s attitudes to such intimate matters as childbearing have changed at all over the years, or whether only the parameters of repression have changed. In a fluent contribution on “the construction and experience of maternity” in seventeenth-century England, Patricia Crawford concludes that “a powerful ideology of the good mother as caring for children under patriarchal direction existed”. After accumulating a large number of anecdotes—many of them from manuscript sources—she finds that women valued their maternity quite highly. Linda Pollock takes this triumphalist celebration of women’s physical experience to absurd lengths—again, after piling anecdote upon anecdote—in such undifferentiated declarations as, “Pregnancy when it did ensue was a matter for rejoicing”. The author’s enthusiasm permits her simply to kick aside some inconvenient statistical obstacles, dismissing maternal mortality, for example, as “low”. In an essay on the psychodrama of childbirth, particularly on the lying-in month and the practice of churching, Adrian Wilson, taking his lead from Natalie Davis, interprets “the politics of ritual as a matter of contest *between the sexes* [his italics], stressing the active agency of women”. It would not have been possible to come to any other conclusion and still be included in the volume, or for that matter in the first one either.

Three quantitative analyses deserve special mention. In Robert Schnucker’s short but innovative study of literary references to childhood discipline among the Puritans in the period 1560 to 1634, he finds no changes. Many researchers will want to read Fiona Newall’s analysis of a parish in Hertfordshire that received many nurslings and poor children from London. She finds that the practice of sending children *en nourrice* was quite common until the 1720s. Nor does any “massacre of the innocents” seem to have occurred, as often happened in France. To my mind, the most important article in the book is Valerie Fildes’s, on child abandonment from the late sixteenth until the mid-eighteenth century in London, looking at the mothers and families who did the abandoning as well as at care arrangements for the children. Abandonment rose steadily until the early eighteenth century, then declined: the author is at pains to establish that it is not a sign of maternal indifference to children. Finally, Mary Prior has written an intriguing, brief article on romantic love within marriage as seen from the perspective of poetry. She finds a silence, poems by women in particular in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries sooner critical of marriage than embracing it. From this the author concludes—as do several other contributors—that Lawrence Stone’s well-known hypotheses are incorrect. (The present reviewer comes in for hostile comment as well in both of these volumes.)

The book ends with a useful bibliography of the secondary literature, ordered by such themes as “infant care”, “infanticide and child abuse”, “marriage and family life”, and “working mothers.” In addition to being a literate up-date on what is happening at the intersection of women’s history, family history, and the social history of medicine, it may also be assigned with profit to interested undergraduates.

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FREDERIC LAWRENCE HOLMES, *Eighteenth-century chemistry as an investigative enterprise*, Office for History of Science and Technology, University of California at Berkeley, 1989, 8vo, pp. ii, 144, illus., \$16.00 (paperback).

Professor Holmes’s short book is an unedited printing of five lectures he delivered at the International Summer School in History of Science at Bologna in August 1988. This School, which is held every other year in rotation at Bologna, Uppsala, and Berkeley, brings together postgraduate students and lecturers “to hear new interpretations and to consider new material