

his work or the circumstances of his appointment.

Eschewing intellectual history, thus, Oliver has produced a short book, but an interesting and useful one. The medical school is well situated in the wider social and political context and, unusually, continues to be well situated to the present day. Medical schools and hospitals need long memories. When advocates of market reform campaigned to separate the school from its hospital, Judith Walzer Leavitt helped to mitigate the outcome by illustrating the difficulty in obtaining clinical access in the first place. In this accessible history of the medical school at Madison-Wisconsin, Oliver perpetuates those memories.

E A Heaman,
Queen's University,
Kingston,
Canada

Robert Jütte, Motzi Eklöf and Marie C Nelson (eds), *Historical aspects of unconventional medicine: approaches, concepts, case studies*, EAHMH Network Series, vol. 4, Sheffield, European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Publications, 2001, pp. xii, 288, EAHMH members £19.95, non-members UK £34.95; Europe £37.62; elsewhere £41.76 (hardback 0-9536522-2-X). Orders to EAHMH Publications, PO Box 625, Sheffield S1 3GY, UK; website: www.bbr-online.com/eahmh.

The title of this collection of fourteen conference papers suggests a lack of direction and uncertainty of subject—"unconventional medicine" is nearly as nebulous a term as "historical aspects". Indeed, "the extraordinary diversity of alternative practices in Europe" (the Introduction informs us), means that this volume "can only constitute another

attempt to reveal the complexity of factors both favouring and undermining the roles for alternative medicine in industrialised countries and modern health care systems" (p. 5).

In fact, there are some excellent suggestive papers in the volume for which no apology needs making. Not all, however, are on "industrialised countries". Some of the most original treat folk medical practices in locations far from the studied urban centres of homœopathy and mesmerism—rural Finland, Bavaria, and Iceland among them. Claudine Herzlich's chapter on the multiple logics of caring and healing raises the intriguing question of why contemporary French sociologists and historians have been so singularly uninterested in analysing unconventional medicine, even though their countrymen are as into it as anyone. Much hinges on the fact that the French speak of "*médecines parallèles*", more so than the inherently conflictual denominations deployed elsewhere in the world—a linguistic point that complements Robert Jütte's opening paper on the history of the semantics of alternative medicine, and echoes that by Motzi Eklöf on legal and lexical definitions of quackery in twentieth-century Sweden. Herzlich's broader point is that there is no threat: the "alternatives" are now largely within the biomedical orthodoxy that appropriated them, and, in general, contemporary culture is less authoritarian and more pluralistic in outlook than when the venders of "heterodox" medicine originally set out their wares. Thus the anti-orthodox, anti-medical monopoly model of medical sociologists in the 1960s and 1970s now looks somewhat threadbare; indeed, Herzlich concludes, it is doubtful if unconventional medicine should even constitute a specific field of historical-sociological inquiry.

Like most of the contributors to this volume, Herzlich can be accused of neglecting the politics around alternative medicine, both the formal ones within

Book Reviews

ascending or crumbling welfare states, and the informal ones around class, race, ethnicity, and gender. The latter receives some attention in Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra's chapter, focused on the Dutch medical market in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. But, as in the best of these essays, more questions are raised than answered, not least, in this case, around the problematics of gender itself. Only one chapter deals head-on with the older theme of the politics of professionalization: Phillip Nicholls (the only British contributor) offers a revisionist account of the boundary-drawing between homœopaths and regulars in the mid-nineteenth century. Rather than stressing essentialist differences, Nicholls argues that the exclusionary tactics adopted by the struggling regulars stimulated and strengthened the formation of homœopathic organizations which, "once developed, institutionalised the very epistemological differences of which the regular school complained" (p. 166).

Although many of the chapters refer to similar-looking legislation in the early-twentieth century proscribing alternative practices (as in Denmark, Sweden and Finland), none unfortunately explains the phenomenon. Barbara Wolf-Braun's largely descriptive chapter on "magnetopaths" and the occult fringe in *fin-de-siècle* Germany, provides no clue as to why the Prussian Minister of Culture should have issued a decree in 1902 calling for all lay practitioners to register with district doctors, let alone what the connections might be between this measure and the different types of scientific and lay reactions to hypnosis in Germany. Contrary to this usual picture of alternative-practice-under-adversity is Michael Stolberg's contribution on irregular healing in late-nineteenth-century Bavaria. There, the medical market was *deregulated* in 1873, opening it to all comers with or without licence. Drawing on a marvellous collection of late-nineteenth-century statistical surveys of some 32,000 irregular healers, Stolberg explores what has

hitherto been largely neglected by historians of the "fringe", the non-exotic, ordinary practices of lay healing.

In many ways Stolberg's essay comes closest to embodying the sense of this volume, which explicitly is not an attempt systematically to compare alternative medical practices and politics in different European countries, nor rigorously to develop new methodological approaches. Its coherence lies, rather, in its modest display of new or understudied territories (national and therapeutic), and in its provision of shopping lists for future research and conceptualization. For this, and for providing an excellent alternative to the Anglo-American literature on the subject, the volume ought to find a welcome place in the classroom.

Roger Cooter,

The Wellcome Trust Centre for
the History of Medicine
at UCL

Stephen Lock, John M Last and George Dunea (eds), *The Oxford illustrated companion to medicine*, 3rd ed., Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. xiv, 891, illus., £39.50 (hardback 0-19-262950-6).

With issues of health care provision and biomedical science being high on the agenda in daily news and political debate, works such as this *Companion* can play an important role in facilitating public understanding of the medical facts involved, as well as their historical and social dimensions. Clearly, Stephen Lock and his co-editors, together with over 200, predominantly Anglo-American expert authors involved in this volume, have made a significant contribution to this enterprise.

In more than 500 accessibly written main articles, from 'Abortion' and 'Abuse of old