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emotional and intellectual rationales for the movement. At the same time he explores in meticulous detail the complicated practical politics involved. The heart of the story lies in the irony of the movement's survival, the success of the philanthropic effort to "civilize war" being met only through accommodation to, and then generous assistance of, the militaristic interests of individual nation states. By documenting this "militarization of philanthropy", Hutchinson not only fulfils the book's promise "to help us to a clearer understanding of the relationship between organized charity, war, and the state" (p. 4), but also effectively punctures the internationalist, humanitarian, and pacific image of the Red Cross. The myth is blown as much by the evidence of enthusiastic support for the movement from states such as Prussia and Japan, as by the opposition to it from Florence Nightingale, who shrewdly perceived that it would only encourage the business of warring. Many of the book's excellent illustrations further highlight that the Red Cross ultimately served best, not the cause of suffering humanity, but the patriotic propaganda of belligerents. To oppose the Red Cross became, as in America during the First World War, an act of treason. Only in the aftermath of the Great War were some long discarded pacific and civilian purposes revived, such as disaster relief and the implementing of public health measures. Such goals were advocated by the American Red Cross, which also went so far as to set up an office in Geneva to contest the authority of the would-be Geneva overlords. But until the 1920s, when new agendas and new relations of power came into play, national differences and factionalism continued to dominate.

Whether *Champions of charity* would have been greatly improved if its author had gained access to the archives in Geneva is a moot point. But almost certainly that would have made it a different and less engaging book. For the "courteous stonewalling" (p. 3) that Hutchinson received from the guardians of the official records has not only enabled him to share the experience of some of his historical actors, but has also added great force to, if not

determined, his compulsion to slaughter the "sacred cow" of the Red Cross's image and history. Yet this strength—the passion to lay low once and for all the pacific, international, and humanitarian myths of the movement's making—is also the book's weakness. It leads Hutchinson virtually to indict the Red Cross for sanitizing its past. Scholarly critical disinterest and contextual analysis frequently ally with conventional criticism in an effort to solicit support for an exercise in historical slaughter—a tactic that detracts from the solid weight of the historical evidence. Thus, at the outset the Red Cross is smeared with the "tainted blood scandals in France and Canada" (p. 1), while the book's conclusion reads too much like the case for the prosecution in a trial against the wicked perpetrators of myth. It is here, too, that we are bluntly invited to abandon any lingering fondness for the efforts of the Red Cross; if sufferings on the battlefield diminished over the period, Hutchinson argues, it was due entirely to new drugs and medical technologies.

The effect is to lower the otherwise scholarly tone of the volume and thereby open it to much the same sort of criticism as any would-be polemic in defence of the Red Cross. This is a shame, for Hutchinson's careful unravelling of the politics behind the image-making and self-styled history of the Red Cross is too valuable to be thus squandered.

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Leo van Bergen, *De zwaargewonden eerst? Het Nederlandsche Roode Kruis en het vraagstuk van oorlog in vrede 1867–1945* [The severely wounded first? The Dutch Red Cross and the question of war and peace 1867–1945], Rotterdam, Erasmus, 1994, pp. 544, illus., Hfl 74.50 (90–5235–072–8).

Leo van Bergen's study offers a challenging interpretation of the link between the Dutch Red Cross, the army, and war and peace movements. Though largely focused on questions of organization and internal structure, it also offers insights into the provision of medical assistance.

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The volume takes up Roger Cooter's suggestion that the history of the Red Cross in different national contexts would give a picture of "the role of complex political negotiations between conflicting military, medical, and philanthropic interests", largely concentrating on the first two factors. Early chapters describe the international Red Cross, the setting up of the Dutch organization in 1867, and its activities within the Netherlands during the First World War as it negotiated a place alongside existing voluntary organizations and the military health service. Later chapters analyse the position of the Dutch Red Cross in the inter-war period and connections with the peace movement. There is a very brief English summary.

The Netherlands offers an unusual case study, the Red Cross being established in a country which was not a strong military power, and whose population was not interested in military issues, but which, according to van Bergen, had an exceedingly belligerent army. The country was free from war, mobilizing, but not fighting in the First World War, and experiencing only brief skirmishes in 1940, when Hitler's troops invaded and took control in a matter of days. Contrasts in the organization of Red Cross medical services with those of countries heavily engaged in war were clearly beyond the scope of this study. But more could have been said about Red Cross history not just as "military history" and to a lesser extent "medical history", but as the history of a modernizing society, reflecting changing notions of philanthropy and ideas on war as an aspect of a broader social process. The volume focuses primarily on the relationship between the Red Cross and army and not between the Red Cross and civilian society. Nor is the relationship between war and its potentially stimulating effect on civilian medical provision explored in a broader context. These, however, are reservations on what is an important and suggestive study, in a developing area of interest amongst medical historians.

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Anne Killalea, *The great scourge: the Tasmanian infantile paralysis epidemic, 1937–1938*, Hobart, Tasmanian Historical Research Association, 1995, pp. x, 165, illus., A\$20.00 (0–909479–15–1).

Anne Killalea's detailed study of a major polio epidemic in Australia's island state is based on newspaper accounts and also on the memories of health professionals, patients and family members, and the general public. Her work is not historiographically engaged, but is a history written for a local audience, and her readers are assumed to have a knowledge of Australian society and politics in the 1930s. Killalea outlines an interesting and familiar story: Tasmanians' suspicion of "mainlanders", the imposition of quarantine, the continuing use of house fumigation, the fear of those working with the infected (a teacher from an "infected" school forced to take a phenol bath at the local police station), disabled children taunted at school. The epidemic raised important ethical issues that are briefly touched on: the constant shortages of iron-lung machines, for example, meant that health professionals, especially nurses, had to decide which patients would use them and which would not.

The book has some wonderful illustrations, many of them photographs from private collections, but their usefulness is limited by the author's too terse descriptions, and the lack of analysis in the text. The author does not compare "official" medical interpretations of the disease to lay popular ones, but does discuss the major role of nurse Elizabeth Kenny's alternative polio treatment. There is little analysis of the social and economic make-up of the state and its regions, and therefore the study lacks a convincing epidemiological explanation for why the epidemic appeared when it did or spread the way it did.

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