

## Book Reviews

eighteenth-century sexuality is beginning to emerge which takes us beyond the memoirs of Boswell. Historians of eighteenth-century medicine will find the volume especially interesting. Virtually every essay has some bearing on the history of medicine, for medical men occupied a vital position in the sexual marketplace. It was medical men who produced the serious and not-so-serious sexual literature of the age; the clergy, it seems, pretended that sex did not exist. It was medical men, again, who administered to the sexually incompetent and the sexually wounded through their pills and potions: they laid down the parameters of the sexually natural and claimed to be able to keep the sexually active whole. Indeed, according to Roy Porter, medical men were not just the orchestrators of the sexual dance, but keen participants. That eighteenth-century creation the man-midwife was a sexual predator. Like the dancing-master and the eunuch, he was often a liberating force in the aristocratic household, offering his prestigious clients a sexual as well as a medical service. There can be no doubt, then, that *Sexual underworlds of the Enlightenment* is an informative and thought-provoking publication. Once introduced to this rich dish of sexual delicacies, the reader can only wish he could stay longer at the table. Even now there still seem so many aspects of eighteenth-century erotica unexplored. When, for instance, will someone write on that ultimate eighteenth-century experience in sexual titillation: the stuffed mermaid? This reviewer awaits with eagerness the third volume of the trilogy.

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AMALIE M. KASS and EDWARD H. KASS, *Perfecting the world: the life and times of Dr. Thomas Hodgkin 1798–1866*, Boston, San Diego, and New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988, 8vo, pp. xxx, 642, illus., \$34.95/£24.50.

If it is ever necessary to reduce the extensive library of medical biography to a select handful of books, the Kass' life of Thomas Hodgkin ought undoubtedly to be among the survivors. Not least because it is more than a *medical* biography. The Kass' study is an immensely readable narrative, not just about medicine but about Quakerism, science, and the politics of colonialism in the nineteenth century. The authors' many years of painstaking research have been amply rewarded, not with inconsequential footnotes, but by detail which allows them to illuminate and not obscure Hodgkin's life.

Thankfully the Kasses have taken the "and times" part of their title seriously and not indulgently. For instance, they neatly use the apprenticeship of the young Quaker apothecary to examine medical education in early nineteenth-century London and the workings of the "chain of friendship" among the Friends. Similarly, they plot Hodgkin's years at Guy's, simultaneously demonstrating patronage at work in a great voluntary hospital and the career of the new membrane pathology. The last two hundred pages of the narrative treat Hodgkin's life by subject rather than chronologically. The reader may feel this was a judgmental error since the book loses the integral sense of events so convincingly conveyed in the first part. Confronted by Hodgkin's myriad activities, however, the authors' decision is comprehensible. Although Hodgkin was a medical man by profession, a mammoth part of his time was devoted to organizations concerned with the condition of North American Indians, slaves, aborigines, and countless other tribes and races enjoying their first encounter with civilized white man.

One of the most forceful impressions left by this book is how extensive a transforming power Quakerism was in industrial society. Quaker ideals pervaded the lives of Hodgkin and his circle, few of whom ever doubted that, with a little encouragement, every individual could find the inner light and become self-sufficient. Nor did they doubt that in too much relief lay the danger of dependence. The medical dimension of this view is well documented by the Kasses in their account of Hodgkin's lectures on the promotion of health, delivered among the miserable poor of Spitalfields. Likewise, the authors recover many other tangible memorials of Quaker endeavour, including political reform movements and a new account of disease. In its own way the Kass' book is a Quaker text. In general it centres on the individual and what he was or was not able to bring about by his own efforts. Conversely, there is a relative neglect of Hodgkin as a

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member of a class. The suggestion that the perfect world which Hodgkin was striving to bring about might have an order not accessible to Hodgkin himself is not seriously entertained. That there might be secular historical forces at work of which Hodgkin might be the instrument, not the commander, does not enter the Quaker purview.

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MICHAEL COLLIE, *Henry Maudsley: Victorian psychiatrist. A bibliographical study*, Winchester, St Paul's Bibliographies, 1988, 8vo, pp. xvii, 205, illus., £30.00.

Henry Maudsley (1835–1918) has remained strangely elusive despite his apparent familiarity. Quoted at will, and usually with disapproval, by modern commentators, he provides the archetypal image of the Victorian alienist. But behind the twelve principal books and 80 or more articles, reviews, and pamphlets there is very little else to grasp. There are some letters, the usual obituaries, the minutes of the Medico-Psychological Association (MPA) and a brief autobiographical fragment, but no biography of note and some large lacunae. While therefore it may seem odd that a professor of English should choose to write a *bibliographical* study of an “organic” psychiatrist, it should nevertheless be welcomed. After all, Maudsley wrote of Shakespeare “Testimonied in his own Bringingsforth”, so why not bring forth Maudsley in his own writings. They are the essence of the man, in all their stolid grandeur, and their often convoluted style and repeated contradictions (as well as their second-hand rarity) make them less than accessible today.

Professor Collie regards his study as a “work of recovery and restoration”, and he has written a “longish, [79 pages] non-specialist introduction outlining the main events of Maudsley’s career”. The bibliographical details have all the attributes beloved of the first-class book-dealer’s catalogue (“*Front cover* Five blind-stamped rules at top and bottom”) as well as the alchemical mysteries of pagination (Collation [A]<sup>4</sup> B–Y<sup>8</sup>; 172 leaves (21.6 × 14); [i]–viii [l]–333 [334–6]). He has also summarized 54 of the signed articles, and this detail is an admirable strength of the book. Two appendices include an autobiographical piece, written about 1907, and part of Maudsley’s contribution—on therapeutics—to Reynold’s 1866 *System of medicine*. There is no doubt therefore that the work of recovery (including some nice photographs) has been thorough, and will be indispensable to future analyses of Victorian psychiatry.

The disappointment of this work is the lack of references. There is an index of course and a brief ‘Selected reading list’, but many statements, especially in the introduction, are left unsupported. We are told of a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* claiming that Maudsley knew the Ripper (p.xvi). We are told “there was no point in looking back in time to anything before 1867” (p. 25) and that “novelists read his works with greater attention than he reads theirs” (p. 68). This is perhaps allowable as an imaginative recreation of a life, but a documentary life, as Schoenbaum’s Shakespeare, need not be thus adorned. The constant use of the phrase “must have” illustrates the problem. Much that Maudsley said—in the minutes of the MPA and before an 1877 Select Committee—was recorded verbatim, so why not quote directly?

Nevertheless, the facts remain indispensable. There is a most useful discussion of the relation between Maudsley’s work and that of Gissing and Meredith—both the subjects of previous bibliographies by Collie—and an elucidation of the public role of the law report in a world of hidden psychiatry. Maudsley’s key first work, *The physiology and pathology of mind* (1867) also emerges as the book no one else quite dared to write. Now that someone has dared to write the first book about Henry Maudsley, it may be possible to begin a true historical evaluation of his much maligned profession.

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MARIO LANCIK, *Der Breslauer Psychiater Carl Wernicke. Werkanalyse und Wirkungsgeschichte als Beitrag zur Medizingeschichte Schlesiens*, Schlesische Forschungen, Veröffentlichungen des Gerhard-Möbus-Instituts für Schlesienforschung an der Universität Würzburg e.V., Bd. 2, Sigmaringen, Jan Thorbecke, 1988, 8vo, pp. 98, illus., DM 26.00.