

# Medical History

## Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE INC

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### THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Society's Council meeting and AGM were held this year in Sydney in conjunction with a New South Wales branch function, the Peter Tyler memorial witness seminar. This was a departure from our usual practice of holding these meetings in the 'off' year at the time of the annual Australian Historical Association conference. The executive chose to do this for two reasons. We thought this might enable more council members to attend and that it would provide an opportunity to extend support to the Sydney 2015 conference planning team.

At the Council meeting and AGM Charles George and Peter Hobbins updated members on the planning arrangements. The venue seems very suitable, the guest speakers and the programme outline are starting to take shape, and the associated functions and activities are being pencilled in. There was a very useful discussion about a website for the conference with links to the Society's site and a Facebook page to enable a regularly reviewed promotion of the conference.

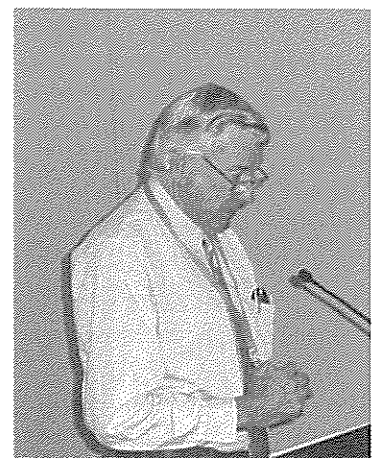
These meetings also made progress with two important reviews. The first of these was a review of the Society's journal, *Health and History*. The journal in terms of its readership and status is very successful and this owes much to its current editors, Hans Pols and Cathy Coleborne. But both the editors and the executive recognised there were a range of issues that needed to be dealt with so, ten years on from the last review, we decided to proceed. The executive arranged a meeting with the editors a day before the Council meeting and this proved very constructive. Roles and protocols for the editors, assistant editors and Board members were agreed upon, as was a way forward for a redesign for the Journal. It was agreed that a move to a publishing house had significant advantages and the editors were charged with seeking options for a suitable Australian publisher that would respect our contractual arrangements with the internet based distributor, Jstor, and would be financially acceptable. We hope to

complete this review ready for presentation to Council within the next three or four months.

The second important issue before us was a review of the Society's website. Both the executive and our able website manager, Paul Sendzuik, felt this was pressing. Paul, after much labour, presented the Council with a new 'draft' website. The Council was very appreciative of this and agreed in principle to accept the option Paul had presented. Madonna Grehan and Cathy Colborne were appointed as an informal committee to work with Paul on the site detail. This committee was also asked to examine the place for and management of a Facebook page. This too we hope to bring back to Council within the next three or four months.

The Witness Seminar, convened by Peter Hobbins, on the history of medical history in New South Wales, will no doubt be described in detail elsewhere. However, one particular observation was of concern; that was the difficulty medical history has in finding space in modern university curricula and the declining use of history by increasingly narrowly focused university teaching staff. The budget blight that emanates from Canberra only makes this situation worse. The role of our Society in promoting medical history and the benefits from its understanding becomes ever more important.

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## ALL ABOUT OURSELVES

Members of the ANZSHM describe their life, work and interests

My passion for history did not begin at school. We learnt the basic history of Australian exploration and geography in primary school – much more, I think, than my grandchildren seem to learn now. At high school, ancient history was taught by the school chaplain who recommended long texts that had no pictures to enhance interest. I did no classes in European or world history at this stage.

As a medical student, occasional lecturers stimulated interest with their tales of medical pioneers and the history of diseases. One memorable neurologist taught us about neuromuscular anatomy by animated discussion of slides of Greek and Roman statues. Related to my early career as a neonatal paediatrician I became fascinated by how knowledge of maternal and neonatal themes and birth defects evolved.

History really began to live for me when an NHMRC Fellowship in Applied Health Sciences enabled me and my young family to live in London for a year, travel to Europe, then read more widely in libraries at the University of California Berkeley while gaining my postgraduate degree in public health. Obsessive bibliophilia in professional and other fields of interest also proved to be an enduring, and sometimes expensive, ailment!

Perhaps because I, like many medical colleagues, have no formal qualifications in history, I am greatly attracted to the writings of Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, Barbara Tuchman. In her collection of narratives, *Practising history*, she insists that history is not just 'the study of past events' but should include an *understanding* of our past.

My first significant publication commemorated the centenary of Norman Gregg's birth in 1892. Fortunately a good library in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney enabled me to trace how knowledge of congenital rubella came to light, rather belatedly because Gregg's classic article 'Congenital cataract following German measles in the mother' first appeared during the Second World War in the *Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of Australia*, an antipodean specialty journal far from readers distracted by war.

More than five years ago, with the centenary of the Great War approaching, I decided to begin researching the war service of Gregg, who graduated in 1915, his fellow graduates from Sydney Medical

School, its academic staff and medical students. This research has stimulated biographical sketches of many of Gregg's contemporaries – perhaps to become biographies one day.

National archives and digitised newspapers, starting with those in capital cities and more recently from regional newspapers, are extraordinarily valuable resources for historical research, bringing to light minutiae of lives long ago, even when family genealogists have been hard at work. Little did my family and grandchildren know until recent weeks that their great, great, great grandfather was held up by the infamous bushranger, Ben Hall, in the 1860s!

I try to keep in touch with professional historians through History of University Life seminars at the University of Sydney, and at ANZSHM and other national and international conferences. As well as presenting aspects of medical history related to the Great War, I continue to research facets of maternity services in New South Wales, the early development of fetal and neonatal intensive care, and the history of the causes of birth defects, much of which has occurred within my own lifetime.

We have tremendous scope for researching and narrating our national history of health and medicine, particularly in a year when the *Medical Journal of Australia* is celebrating its centenary. As well as academic pursuits, we have the opportunity to inspire interest in historical themes and promote Australian and New Zealand medical history. I enjoy doing so through ANZSHM, the History of Medicine Library Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and most recently the Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney, and as a member of the Quarantine Station Community Committee.

Early in my eighth decade, I like to think that my most interesting historical work is yet to come! Since childhood, the majestic North Head at the entrance to Sydney Harbour, and more recently its Quarantine Station, have evoked for me a strong sense of place and spirituality. When my own days of history are past, my ashes will be cast from its cliffs into the wild sea below, swept away in the tides of time!

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## MEMBERS' NEWS

### WELCOME!

Jane Adams (NZ)  
Elizabeth Carse (VIC)  
Alison Day (NZ)  
Lisa McKenna (VIC)  
Neil Roy (VIC)  
Cheryl Ware (NSW)  
Kath Weston (NSW)

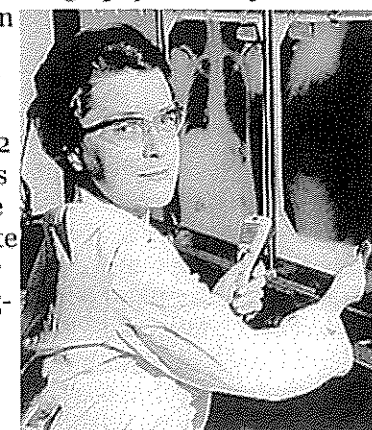
## HISTORIAN HONOURED

Former President Linda Bryder, the recipient of one of three inaugural Research Excellence Awards from the University of Auckland, was the only sole winner and the only one from the humanities or social sciences. (The others went to teams from the Medical School and from the Faculty of Science). The award was based on her research into the history of reproductive health and in his citation the Vice-Chancellor quoted Cambridge Emeritus Professor Robin Carrell on Linda's 2009 book, *A History of the 'Unfortunate Experiment' at National Women's Hospital*: 'It is a chilling and gripping account. Read it. Although the story relates to a crisis in New Zealand, it bears a grim message for all who endeavour to advance medical science.'

## BLAST FROM THE PAST *Medical History Australia* 25 years ago

In May 1989 the Newsletter reported that at the forthcoming Melbourne Medical History Society meeting 'Dr Shirley Roberts will speak on Sir James Paget, whose biography she has just completed.'

This was an astute choice. Director of radiology at Prince Henry's Hospital from 1962 until 1987, Roberts resigned at the age of 59 to concentrate on a second career as a historical biographer. Her first foray into the medium was an account of the life of Sir Charles Hotham, Governor of Victoria



Shirley Roberts (1927-2011).

in the mid-1850s. Roberts then switched her energies into medical biography, with volumes on Paget, Sophia Jex-Blake (the Scottish pioneer of medical education for women), and James Parkinson. A regular contributor to the *Journal of Medical Biography* from 1995 to 2003, Roberts' later years were blighted by dementia, until her death in 2011.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The next deadline for copy is 15 August 2014. Copy should be sent to the editor, Derek A Dow at d.dow@auckland.ac.nz or, if you prefer snail mail, 62 Koraha St, Auckland 1050, NZ.

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## RESEARCH QUERY

A UK colleague, who is researching the history of the British Commonwealth Medical Conference, later the Commonwealth Medical Association, wrote to me recently to ask if I knew the whereabouts of the Australian Medical Association archives. I steered him in the direction of the AMA Federal Office. When he contacted the AMA he received the following response: 'Thank you for contacting the AMA Federal Office in regards to your research. Unfortunately our historical records are not digitised and are stored with an off-site storage provider in multiple boxes. The process would not only be extremely time consuming for AMA staff but also very expensive as we have to pay for the retrieval, return and transport costs of each box. I regret the AMA is unable to assist you with your enquiry and wish you well with your research.'

Has anyone out there had any greater success in accessing these records for historical purposes?

## AMPI NEWS

### Thwarted ambitions: the unpublished colonial doctor

In an age when print was the only mass medium, doctors often wrote for publication. Statistically, about one colonial doctor in ten has publications listed in his AMPI record. Appearing in print could enhance a doctor's reputation, and a full-length book offered the prospect of some extra income.

However not every completed work actually made it onto the booksellers' shelves. This is not to say one can point to a pile of abandoned colonial medical manuscripts. But there is other evidence of unpublished books by doctors, and it leads down some interesting byways of colonial history.

Paradoxically, the first clue to the existence of an unpublished book is often a newspaper advertisement offering it for sale. This was the case, for example, with *The Settlers' Guide, or Modern Domestic Medicine and Surgery* by Dr William Bell of Windsor, NSW. It was advertised in 1849, but no printed copies ever surfaced.

As it happened the story of *The Settlers' Guide* did not end there. Against all odds, the original manuscript was found 150 years later by a local historian, Lois Sabine, among the papers of an early solicitor. It was typeset and published by her in 2009. Her research revealed that Dr Bell had given the manuscript as security for a loan, and never retrieved it.

Interestingly, Dr Bell did succeed in publishing two shorter works, which are listed in Sir Edward Ford's *Bibliography of Australian Medicine*. One of them was called – appropriately enough for an author who was several times insolvent – *An Essay on the Wear and Tear of Human Life*.

A number of other medical authors advertised books that, so far as one can tell, were not published at the time. Walter Hugh Tibbits, for example, promoted his *Experiences of a Surgeon on Board an Emigrant Ship* in a local newspaper soon after his arrival at Hobart in 1858, but there is no sign of his book ever having been printed.

A similar fate was in store for the work of James Bryant LSA, also of Hobart. His book bore the rather awkward title *Observations on the Prevailing Fever and on Medical Ethics*. It is listed by Ford, on the strength of an 1831 advertisement, but marked 'not seen'. Dr Bryant returned to Lon-

don, where he acquired his MRCS in 1860, after more than 30 years in the profession.

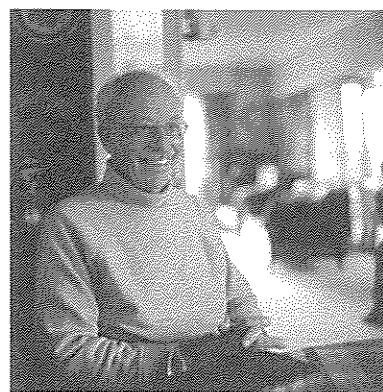
Also recorded as 'not seen' by Ford is a work by Stephen Geary Wilks MD, an 1821 immigrant who became a well-known Sydney identity. His *Life-preserving Manual* had been published in London in 1820. In his later years a letter to a Sydney newspaper revealed a flamboyant writing style, resplendent with many literary and biblical allusions and quotations. Considerable professional ambition is suggested by the title of his advertised (but evidently unpublished) book of 1828, *Observations on the Diseases, Medical and Surgical, of New South Wales*.

Finally, an advertisement of 1837 that seems to have escaped the eagle eye of Edward Ford suggests one possible explanation for the failure of some projected colonial medical publications to appear in print. Charles Smith MD of Sydney announced in the *Australian* that his *Treatise on the Diseases and Medical Treatment of Children* would be sold by subscription – once a thousand orders had been received! Not surprisingly, it seems never to have seen the light of day.

**Stephen Due**  
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### TWO NZ PARALLELS TO AMPI

(1) Dr Rex Wright-St Clair of Hamilton was a long-standing member until his death in 2005 and organiser in 1987 of the first medical conference to be held in New Zealand. For more than 40 years Rex gathered information on pre-1930 New Zealand doctors. The resulting data, published in a limited edition in 2003 as *Historia Nunc Vivat: Medical Practitioners in New Zealand 1840–1930*, provided a counterpoint to the Australian Medical Pioneers Index. Thanks to the efforts of Dr Bramwell Cook of the Cotter Medical History Trust, and Auckland University Library, Rex's work is now available online. See: <http://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/external/WrightSt-Clair-HistoriaNuncVivat.pdf>

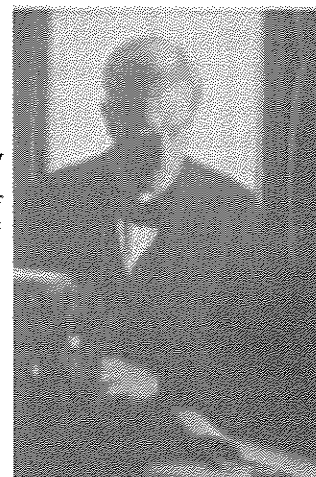


(2) After several issues when the AMPI experience has been mirrored by a New Zealand counterpart, Stephen Due has stumped me with his account of Australia's unpublished authors.

The closest I can come to this is George Frederick Maberley, the son of an architect known as William Ne'er-do-well', who was a London bookseller and publisher before taking up the same trade in Auckland in 1859. His arrival there was lauded by Alexander Macmillan, co-founder of Macmillan publishing and grand-uncle of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan: 'May you prosper, for your own sake and the sake of your fellow-colonists, not to speak of the producers of books, both publishers and authors, at home. Nothing can be more important to us than to have good booksellers planted in these new colonies.' Maberley returned to England and qualified MRCS 1866. In 1879 he arrived in Melbourne as physician to William Kyte's Electric and Thermopathic Institute, using his former skills to publicise the Institute. In 1886, two years before the Institute's demise, Maberley left to practice in New Zealand. After a brief stay in Nelson he moved to Wanganui where he gained some renown as an evangelical preacher. His later career in New Zealand is shrouded in mystery, though we know he died in England in 1913.

### MJA CENTENARY

The *Medical Journal of Australia* Centenary Symposium and Dinner will be held in the New Law Building, University of Sydney on 4 July 2014 and you are invited to be part of medical history! As part of the proceedings there will be a historical exhibition and reception in the University of Sydney Fisher Library, from 5.00, with a display of the Library's Rare Medical Books Collection. A celebratory dinner in the University's Great Hall will see guests regaled with speeches from key players in the medical community and beguiled by a variety of talented musicians. For more information, email [mja@thinkbusinessevents.com.au](mailto:mja@thinkbusinessevents.com.au) or call 02 8251 0045 and to register online go to <https://www.mja.com.au/centenary/registration>.



Henry William Armit was the first editor of the MJA, from 1914 until his death in 1930.

### VALE—JUDITH CORNELL (1940-2014)

ANZSHM members will be saddened to learn of the recent death of Judith Anne Cornell. Judith was a visionary leader, a valued colleague and a friend to many. As Judith Roberts she graduated from Sydney's St George Hospital in 1961. She later played a key role in nursing in NSW and nationally through, for example, the NSW Operating Theatre Association, the Australian Confederation of Operating Room Nurses, the College of Nursing and the Southern Sydney Area Health Board. In 1995 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Judith was keenly aware of the need to preserve the material heritage of her profession and disseminate its history. She wrote a number of books, some co-authored with Lynette Russell, including *Letters from Belsen 1945: an Australian nurse's experiences with the survivors of war* (2000) and *A vision for the bush: the NSW Bush Nursing Association 1911–1974* (2012).

After her retirement Judith became the College of Nursing's honorary archivist. She was also involved with St George Hospital Graduate Nurses Association's heritage collection and was a founding member and sometime president of SPASM (Society for the Preservation of the Artefacts of Surgery and Medicine), which began as a collection of anaesthetic and surgical equipment but is now a museum at Gladesville open to public visitation.

In 1998 Judith was elected president of the Health and Medicine Museums Special Interest Group of Museums Australia (HMM) and became an advocate for volunteer-managed collections all over Australia, some of which only survive today because of her guidance.

Judith played a pivotal role in the preservation of collections in NSW hospitals. In 2000, in response to her characteristically insistent agitation, South East Health appointed a Health Heritage Committee with Judith as chair. The movable heritage policy produced by that committee was adopted state-wide and, thanks to Judith, vulnerable items and entire collections have been rescued from destruction or disposal and are now being managed responsibly.

We extend our condolences to Judith's husband – and partner in many of her activities – Tony, and to her sister Beverley.

**Megan Hicks and Bevan Stone**  
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## NSW BRANCH NEWS

New South Wales was pleased to play host to our Society's AGM on Saturday 10 May at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

### Peter Tyler Memorial Witness Seminar

Immediately following the AGM was the long-awaited Peter Tyler Memorial Witness Seminar, which focussed on the history of medical history in New South Wales, particularly since 1980. The seminar began with presentations by Yvonne Cosart and Brenda Heagney. In her reflections of a career in medical academia, Yvonne extolled medical history as a forum for bringing together individuals with different backgrounds and training. She admitted to bearing many wounds and scars from her repeated attempts to include history in the medical curriculum, commenting that 'the use of history in teaching has been scandalously overlooked in the past 50 years'. Yvonne also stressed that historical materials comprise more than documents and books. Artefacts and specimens are an integral part of medical records, yet are being discarded by the current health system and not taken up by museums or archives. One example is the failure to retain pathology specimens of HIV in NSW – a tragedy for future understandings of the times we have lived through.

Focusing on her time in medical libraries from the 1960s, Brenda charted the growth of interest in medical history and changes in the way information was gathered. Senior medical figures at Sydney University often wrote medical history as an adjunct to their teaching and research work and there was a notable increase in the late 1970s, with the 'History of medicine and health in Australia' seminar held at St Vincent's Hospital in 1980 as a watershed. As librarian of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Brenda was involved in preparing materials for their regular evening talks on medical history. Under the tutelage of Bryan Gandevia, she helped research and publish booklets based on the library's collection and other sources. Working with Roy Mills, her proudest achievement was a booklet on the role of physicians in Japanese captivity during World War II. Noting that over the past decades there had been hostility between doctors and historians, Brenda felt that a truce had now been reached.

Yvonne and Brenda were then joined by Susan Hardy and the three panellists responded to questions about organising and communicating medical history, especially in the pre-internet era. There was some discussion of different approaches to studying and writing medical history, with Susan Hardy stating that she had never detected

any animus from clinicians over several decades working as an academic medical historian.

An audio recording of the meeting will be lodged with the papers of the NSW Society for the History of Medicine at the Mitchell Library, alongside 'Recollections of the history of medical history in New South Wales' forms distributed to members before the seminar. There is still time to submit these forms. If any member is willing to transcribe the audio files, please contact Peter Hobbins.

### 2015 Biennial Conference in Sydney

The conference committee is now meeting monthly with our conference managers, DC Conferences. We are pleased to announce that our keynote speakers include Dr Simon Chaplin, head of the Wellcome Library in London, and Professor Linda Bryder from the University of Auckland.

One important means of keeping the conference affordable lies in attracting sponsorship, through a range of supporter packages. If you have contacts in relevant fields including health administration, publishing, medico-legal practice, or other professional bodies interested in the history of health, please provide details to our sponsorship coordinator, Charmaine Robson, at [charmaine@robson.tel](mailto:charmaine@robson.tel) or 0412 721 222.

### New history in the old Burkitt-Ford library

New display cases have been installed in the former Burkitt-Ford library in the Edward Ford building at the University of Sydney. Working with medical alumni and students, Cate Storey is preparing a display of historical medical texts and materials. To assist with this project, please contact Cate on [cestorey@bigpond.com](mailto:cestorey@bigpond.com).

### First Tuesday history of medicine reading group

For the time being meetings of the First Tuesday history of medicine reading group will be replaced by ad hoc sessions to discuss the medical alumni archives. Anyone interested in participating in the 'Medical alumni archives committee' should contact Cate Storey on [cestorey@bigpond.com](mailto:cestorey@bigpond.com).

### RACP history of medicine lectures

The regular series of medical history lectures run by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is in hiatus for 2014. The College is undergoing a sweeping review of its numerous functions and committees. We have, however, been reassured that the history of medicine library is not under threat.

**Enquiries/RSVP for all events to Peter Hobbins, [peter\\_hobbins@bigpond.com](mailto:peter_hobbins@bigpond.com) or 0418 277 827.**

## VICTORIA BRANCH NEWS

The Medical History Society of Victoria held its AGM in March, with the biennial election of President and Committee. The meeting lecture was given by ANZSHM Secretary, Anthea Hyslop. Her presentation, 'Spanish Influenza in Victoria, 1919' gave a fascinating insight into the progress of the epidemic in Victoria, the ways in which it differed to progress in other Australian States, and how the epidemic affected (or was affected by) Victorian health services, and the population.

The outgoing President, Tony Buzzard reported on the previous year's activities, and noted that the MHSV now has some 145 people on its mailing list, most of whom receive all updates and notices by email.

The new President is Dr Madonna Grehan, Director of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery History Project. Pam Craig was elected as Vice President, while Martine Dodd and Rod Westhorpe will continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Professor Gordon Whyte has joined the committee, together with Elizabeth Arthur, Ann Brothers, Tony Buzzard, Noel Cass and Marie Rogers.

Dr James Keipert will speak on 'The relationship of mental illness to superior leadership skills in times of crisis' at our next meeting on 11 June.

The following meeting will be the biennial 'country' meeting, to be held in Hamilton in western Victoria on Saturday 4 October 2014. An interesting full day program of presentations is already being prepared. Interstate and New Zealand colleagues will be very welcome. Those who wish to receive details should visit the ANZSHM website or contact the MHSV on [MHSVmail@gmail.com](mailto:MHSVmail@gmail.com)

**Rod Westhorpe, Hon Secretary**  
[westhorpe@netspace.net.au](mailto:westhorpe@netspace.net.au)

## BOOK REVIEW

John C. Weaver, *Sorrows of a Century: Interpreting Suicide in New Zealand, 1900-2000*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal & Kingston, London, Ithaca, Bridget Williams Books Wellington, New Zealand, 2014, 449pp. Canadian historian John Weaver chose to base his study of twentieth-century suicide on New Zealand because, he explained, the records there are exceptional and 'of world heritage standing'. With the aid of a computer programme he analysed the records of over 11,000 individuals drawn from approximately 25,000 New Zealand suicide in-

quest files from 1900 to 2000. Despite working with such a vast data set, this is no dry quantitative analysis but rather the book is resplendent with personal stories, many of which are of course extremely sad. Not surprisingly for a historian, he sets out to explain suicides in relation to broader economic and cultural circumstances and is wary of the attempts by other professional groups, such as psychologists and sociologists, to construct theories around or universalise suicide experiences. The book deserves a wide audience, of historians as well as health professionals dealing with suicides.

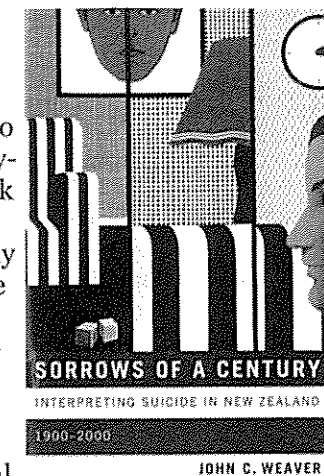
**Linda Bryder**  
[l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.bryder@auckland.ac.nz)

## JOURNAL WATCH

The May 2014 issue of *Social History of Medicine* contains a review of Janet Greenlees and Linda Bryder (eds), *Western Maternity and Medicine, 1880-1990* (London 2013). The reviewer states that the book 'makes bold arguments about changes in the practice and experience of maternity and motherhood ... [and is a] ... fine contribution to the social history of maternal health and medicine'. Of Madonna Grehan's chapter on the agency of midwives in colonial Victoria, the reviewer writes that its value 'lies in its focus on the practice of midwifery in a rural context'. The review also notes that Linda Bryder's chapter on the professionalisation of New Zealand midwives in the early twentieth century 'was particularly valuable for the ways in which it demonstrated how feminist activists working with the state in New Zealand oversaw the professionalisation of midwives'.

The same issue (pp.372-84) also contains an article by Warwick Anderson, entitled 'Second opinion: making global health history: the postcolonial worldliness of biomedicine'.

For those interested in comparative studies of the evolution of medicine in Britain's former White Dominions, the April 2014 issue of *Medical History* is devoted to New Directions and Challenges in Histories of Health, Healing and Medicine in South Africa.



## CALL FOR PAPERS

The second issue of *Health and History* in 2015 will be a special issue devoted to 'Medicine, Health, and the Great War'. Please contact the editors if you are interested to contribute. Submissions should be received by 1 February 2105.

Hans Pols (hans.pols@sydney.edu.au)  
Cathy Coleborne (cathyc@waikato.ac.nz)

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Georgia has been a trade and traffic corridor between the occident and the orient for many centuries. The 44th Congress of the ISHM will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 11-14 September 2014, in conjunction with the Georgian National Academy of Sciences and the Tbilisi State Medical University. The theme of the Congress is 'The Great Silk Road and Medicine' but the agenda is very wide so most individuals who are interested would be able to find a subject on which they could present a paper. Abstracts should be lodged by 31 May and early bird registration closes on 30 June. The social programme includes visits to vineyards, ancient mountain fortifications and city heritage sites. For further details see <http://www.ishm-congress-tbilisi2014.org>.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Cowlshaw Symposium will be held in Melbourne on Saturday 4 October, in the Hughes Room at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The Symposium is a day of presentations on subjects of medical and surgical history. Papers are based on the resources of the Cowlshaw Collection, one of the best collections of historic medical books in Australia/New Zealand. Topics can range from Dupuytren's Contracture to the Trojan War. For details contact Geoff Down, Curator, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, phone: +61 3 9276 7447 or email: [geoff.down@surgeons.org](mailto:geoff.down@surgeons.org)

The Geological Society of London's History of Geology Group is hosting a conference from 3-4 November 2014 entitled 'Geology and medicine: exploring the historical links and the development of public health and forensic medicine'. Themes for this meeting include the founding fathers of geomedicine, geological therapies, the origins of public health, and the evolution of forensic medicine.

Those wishing to contribute should contact Professor RTJ Moody [rtj.moody@virgin.net](mailto:rtj.moody@virgin.net). Extended abstracts of 500 words and a maximum of 3 figures should be submitted by 31 August 2014. For further information see <http://www.sshm.org/content/cfp-geology-and-medicine>.

Follow the ANZAC nursing sisters across the Aegean in 2015. Bookings are now available for a voyage to commemorate the Anzac nurses who were in the Aegean in 1915, take a new look at the work of trained nurses in the First World War, and draw attention to the importance of Lemnos in the Gallipoli Campaign. The main speaker on this seven-day voyage from Athens to Istanbul via at Thessaloniki, Lemnos, and Canekalle is Christine Hallett, Professor of Nursing History at Manchester University.

Highlights will include laying a wreath over the wreck of the troopship Marquette on which 10 New Zealand nurses died when it was torpedoed in October 1915, and a visit to Mudros Harbour, home of the No 3 Australian General Hospital at Turks Head, staffed by Australian Army nurses in 1915-16.

For a flyer about the voyage, contact Clare Ashton, Hon Research Associate, Nursing History Research Unit, Sydney Nursing School, University of Sydney [clare.ashton@bigpond.com](mailto:clare.ashton@bigpond.com), and for bookings see <http://www.wildearth-travel.com/trip/aegean-anzac-nursing-sisters-gallipoli/>

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E-mail: [d.dow@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.dow@auckland.ac.nz)

Enquiries about membership of the Society should be sent to the Administrative Secretary, ANZSHM, PO Box 4092, University of Melbourne VIC 3052. E-mail: [anzshm@anzshm.org.au](mailto:anzshm@anzshm.org.au)

For the latest information, visit the ANZSHM Internet Website: [www.anzshm.org.au](http://www.anzshm.org.au)

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES ARE WELCOME, PREFERABLY IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.