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Elizabeth Blackwell at Geneva Medical College: Reflections on the 150th Anniversary of Women in Medicine¹



1999 marks the 150th anniversary of the entrance of women into the modern medical profession. On January 23, 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) received her M.D. from Geneva Medical College (GMC) in Geneva, New York, the first such degree earned by a woman anywhere in the world.³ In reaction to the general outrage of the medical community, GMC immediately shut its doors to women. Even though Blackwell had been graduated at the top of her class, the powers-that-be declared her a freak whose unnatural example ought not to be followed by other women. In the early 1850s not even Elizabeth's sister Emily could persuade GMC to relax its new policy (although there is a record of a Martha A. Rogers receiving an M.D. from GMC over a decade

By Eric v. d. Luft²

later, in 1865). Emily Blackwell (1826-1910) finally received her M.D. from Cleveland Medical College in 1854, after having been rejected by several other American medical schools besides GMC, and after having been expelled from Rush Medical College in Chicago because of her gender.⁴

Elizabeth Blackwell was not the first woman to practice medicine or to be recognized as a physician. Women have been practicing medicine, both openly and secretly, since ancient times.⁵ She was not even the first to practice in America.⁶ That distinction probably belongs to Harriot Kesia Hunt (1805-1875),⁷ who practiced openly for about twenty years in Massachusetts before being allowed to attend lectures at Harvard Medical School in 1850 and receiving an honorary M.D. from Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania⁸ in 1853. But by modern educational and credentialing standards, Blackwell was the first woman in the world to earn a regular M.D. degree from a regular or accredited medical school by means of satisfying the standard requirements of a full course of study.

The credentials by which one is properly constituted a "physician" vary with the era. No one disputes that Hippocrates, Celsus, Galen, and Avicenna were physicians. They did not have the letters "M.D." after their names, but they were recognized as physicians nonetheless. In the days when surgery was rigidly distinct from the practice of medicine, when most remedies were either herbal or manipulative, and when anatomical, physiological, and pathological knowledge was based more upon tradition, speculation, and theology than upon systematic empirical methods, nearly anyone who had

any practical success in the healing arts could be accepted as a physician. That included women too, in almost all cultures. For example, Chun Yu-ven, approximately a contemporary of Galen, is traditionally known as the first Chinese woman physician. Many women openly practiced medicine in southern Italy in the eleventh century, including the renowned Trotula of Salerno; and similarly in thirteenth-century France. Although Hildegard von Bingen would be just a folk herbalist by modern standards, in her own twelfth-century Germany she was specifically called "physician." Ancient Greek, Roman, and Christian records, as well as medieval literature such as "Erec et Enide" by Chrétien de Troyes, all testify matter-of-factly to the existence of women physicians in those cultures.

A cogent challenge to Elizabeth Blackwell's status as the world's first regular woman physician could be made by partisans of Dorothea Christiane Leporin Erxleben (1715-1762), a German practitioner who was awarded the M.D. by the University of Halle in 1754 on the then usual basis of writing a dissertation and passing an examination. She had already been in medical practice long before 1754, having been taught medicine at home by her physician father. But in 1753 three local male physicians with M.D. degrees brought suit against her for, so they alleged, practicing medicine illegally. In response to this lawsuit, she exhumed an old special decree of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, from 1741, which allowed both her and her brother extraordinary dispensation to take the medical examinations at Halle. Taking advantage of this document, she turned the lawsuit in her favor, won the degree, and merely returned to her everyday life.

After Dorothea Erxleben, several other German women claimed to have M.D. degrees, but in general they were just highly credentialed midwives. Blackwell mentions a Fräulein Sebold whom she believed had earned a German M.D. and was practicing medicine in Berlin in the 1840s, but she was probably misinformed.9 Sebold was perhaps an independently practicing midwife — they were common enough in Europe in that era — but apparently there were no women practicing in Germany as genuine physicians with M.D. degrees until Franziska Tiburtius (1843-1927) and Emilie Lehmus returned to their homeland with Swiss degrees in 1876. There were several prominent German midwives named "von Siebold" in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries; perhaps Blackwell had one of them in mind.

Also, before Blackwell's time there were quite a few women who obtained M.D. degrees by deceit, i.e., by pretending to be men. The most successful of these was Miranda Stuart (1792?-1865), who, calling herself "James Barry," was graduated with an M.D. from the prestigious medical school at Edinburgh in 1812, served as a high-ranking career medical officer in the British army, particularly in Canada, and was discovered to be female only at her death, when her request to be buried in whatever clothes she happened to be wearing when she died was disregarded.¹⁰

The story of Blackwell's fifteen months as a

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student at GMC epitomizes the nature of midnineteenth-century prejudice against women physicians and medical students.

There was the blatant kind: With few exceptions, the Geneva community treated Blackwell terribly. Her very admission to medical school itself was just a practical joke that the students played on the faculty. Doctors' wives refused to speak to her. Townies stared at her as if she were an exotic animal. Many regarded her as either a lewd woman, or insane, or both, and in any event someone sure to be a bad influence on children. Professor James Hadley, the Registrar, promised her letters of recommendation but never sent them.

But there was also the more subtle kind: Evidence exists that the greatest social and professional obstacle for her and other early women physicians was not the no-holds-barred hostility or the direct opposition of some segments of the medical Community, but rather the secret machinations and hypocritical decisions of those medical men who assumed a limited acceptance or toleration of women studying medicine. Whereas the hostile component would simply deny all women the opportunity to become physicians,¹¹ the tolerant component, on the other hand, tended to see woman physicians as freaks, as legitimate exceptions to the natural position of women, and thus in effect denied women physicians the right to be fully human.

Professor of Anatomy James Webster was Blackwell's only champion among the GMC professors. His support of her was forthright, personal, and active. Having been in Geneva only four days, and after only two days of lectures, she wrote to one of her sisters on November 9, 1847, "I feel sunshiny and happy, strongly encouraged, with a grand future before me, and all owing to a fat little fairy in the shape of the Professor of Anatomy."

Geneva was a rowdy place in 1847. Webster's colorful vulgarity made him exceedingly popular in this macho environment. Prior to Blackwell's arrival, he enjoyed a grand reputation among the students for his jovial manner and especially for the ribald jokes he would tell in connection with his dissections of the male reproductive system. Although he had welcomed Blackwell from the start, he politely suggested that she not attend that particular session. But when she offered him sound reasons why she should attend, he relented, and confessed to the whole class that he had been justly rebuked. Stephen Smith, in the first appendix to Blackwell's autobiography,¹² discussed this incident at some length and concluded that her presence in Webster's course lifted the minds of professor and students alike out of the gutter and forced the students to concentrate instead on actually learning the material.

The two main reasons given in the midnineteenth century for denying medical education to women were what we may call "the physiology argument" and "the delicacy argument." The former held that women naturally lacked the intellectual and physical attributes to tolerate the rigors of medical education and practice, and that women physicians would thus be naturally inferior to men in the same role. Among the most outspoken promulgators of this view was Harvard Professor of Materia Medica Edward H. Clarke,¹³ who admitted freely that women had the right to study and practice medicine, but denied that they had the physical, mental, or emotional nature to exercise this right, especially at a certain time of the month.¹⁴ The latter argument held that it was immoral for women to listen to talk about male genitalia, to dissect male bodies, to discuss anatomy with men, to perform any medical or surgical procedure except obstetrics and/or gynecology, etc. Some who held this belief also held that it was immoral for men to attend women in childbirth.¹⁵

Partially in deference to the delicacy argument, men were willing to accept women physicians as glorified midwives, but as little else.¹⁶ One particularly striking example is that when Sarah Loguen Fraser became the first woman physician in Santo Domingo in 1883, she was strictly forbidden by law to treat any adult male patients, and was allowed to treat only those women and children whose husbands and fathers

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explicitly approved of her.¹⁷

Just as women are generally defined in terms of their sex rather than in terms of their humanity (e.g., the English word 'man' can mean either 'male human being' or just 'human being', but the English word 'woman' can only mean 'female human being'), so women doctors are generally associated in some way with sexual matters. Society expects female physicians to be "female physicians," not "female physicians." It expects them to be concerned professionally with "women's health," not with just "health." Genderneutral specialties have until very recently been mostly off-limits to them. Most nineteenth-century women physicians were only midwives, obstetricians, gynecologists, pediatricians, hygiene specialists, public health physicians, or general practitioners.¹⁸ Blackwell had wanted to become a surgeon; it would have been interesting to see what shape her battle would have taken if her accidental loss of the sight of one eye in November 1849 had not effectively precluded a career in surgery.

In the post-Vesalian, post-Harveian medical world, women healers were marginalized, shunned, banned, and sometimes even persecuted as witches. This "tightening" of standards did not in any way approach the high level of standards for the education and credentialing of physicians today. But because medicine came to be regarded in the Renaissance and after as more an academic discipline and less an aspect of home economy, it meant that women, who were generally prohibited from attending universities and discouraged from becoming apprentices, were effectively prevented from any longer being able to train as physicians and having society recognize them as such.

Midwifery was the lone exception to the post-Renaissance rule of forbidding women to practice the medical arts. Some midwives achieved very high levels of medical knowledge, research, and practice. For example, French midwife Marie Anne Victoire Boivin (1783-1841) published her improvements in the design of the speculum, her advances in internal pelvimetry, her classic descriptions of several intrauterine masses, and many other important medical works. The University of Marburg even bestowed an honorary M.D. upon her in 1827. Her memory was still fresh when Blackwell arrived in Paris in the spring of 1849, thinking — correctly — that she would meet a bit less resistance in Europe than in America.¹⁹

As Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, it was Charles Alfred Lee who delivered the valedictory address at her commencement.²⁰ In this speech he invariably called his audience just "Gentlemen" — as if sarcastically alluding to the fact that not all of the people in his audience were physically capable of ever becoming gentle "men." Yet his rhetoric, if he had been sincere (and Blackwell apparently thought it was), may have been applauded even by feminists, for at one point he said, in specific praise of the thoroughness and integrity of Blackwell's study of medicine:

> Such an instance of self-sacrificing devotion to science; of perseverance under difficulties, and obstacles next to insurmountable — of unremitting, unrelaxing toil, in pursuit of that knowledge, so important to, and yet so rarely possessed by her sex — and all this for the purpose of mitigating human misery, relieving the sick, and extending her sphere of usefulness in the world this, I say, deserves as it will receive, the heart-felt approbation of every generous and humane mind. This event will stand forth hereafter as a memorable example of what woman can undertake and accomplish, too, when stimulated by the love of science and a noble spirit of philanthropy. Why should medical science be monopolized by us alone? Why should

woman be prohibited from fulfilling her mission as a ministering angel to the sick, furnished not only with the softer and kindlier attributes of her sex, but with all the appliances and resources of science? If she feels called to this life of toil and responsibility, and gives evidence of her qualifications for such a calling, in humanity's name, let her take her rank among the disciples of Aësculapius, and be honored for her self-sacrificing choice. Such cases must ever be too few, to disturb the existing relations of society, or excite any other feeling on our part than admiration at the heroism displayed, and sympathy, for the sufferings voluntarily assumed! God speed her, then, in her errand of mercy, and crown her efforts with abundant success! (pp. 27-28; italics added)

The actuality of Lee's position, however, is not what he indicated in this speech. He and most of his colleagues would have been quite happy if Blackwell had been not only the first, but also the *last* woman ever to receive a degree in medicine. The published version of Lee's valediction contained this footnote to the exact passage quoted above:

> Since the above discourse was delivered an article has appeared in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, condemning in very severe terms, the conduct of the Faculty of Geneva College, in allowing Miss B. admission to their courses of lectures, and of the Trustees in conferring upon her the degree of M.D. The writer, while he acknowledges the validity of the argument, so far as it is founded on the general physical disqualifications of the sex for the medical profession, and the incompatibility of its duties, with those properly belonging to the female portion of society, believes, nevertheless, that instances occasionally happen, where females display such a combination of moral, physical, and intellectual qualifications for discharging creditably and skilfully the duties belonging to our calling, that it would seem equally unwise and unjust, to withhold from them those advantages and those honors, which are open to nearly all

others, whether deserving of them or not. While he holds this opinion, he at the same time feels bound to say, that the inconveniences attending the admission of females to all the lectures in a medical school, are so great, that he will feel compelled on all future occasions, to oppose such a practice, although by so doing, he may be subjected to the charge of inconsistency.

In other words, Lee would rather be both "unwise and unjust" than participate in creating any further "inconveniences" for men. His pronouncement on Blackwell's behalf was really just a defense of his institution for having admitted and graduated a woman and a thinly disguised apology to male medical students for having "inconvenienced" them with her. For Lee (as also for "Justus"²¹ below), the only way in which a woman could legitimately become a doctor would be to first "defeminize" herself and assume instead the purely "masculine" moral and intellectual characteristics of medical men, since women are "generally supposed to be wanting in the physical, if not moral qualifications necessary for the successful practice of the Healing Art" (pp. 26-27). Of course, such a process of "defeminization" is contrary to nature, and is thus to be condemned.

The "argument" in *BMSJ* of which Lee acknowledged the validity was contained in a particularly venomous letter to the editor²² in reply to the journal's simple reporting,²³ without judgment, of Blackwell's commencement:

Whatever may be the character and acquirements of this individual, it is much to be regretted that she has been induced to depart from the appropriate sphere of her own sex, and led to aspire to honors and duties which by the order of nature and the common consent of the world devolve alone upon men. And I am sorry that Geneva Medical College should be the first to commence the nefarious process of amalgamation. Hitherto an intuitive sense of propriety has induced all civilized nations to regard the professions of law, medicine and divinity as masculine duties, and by the universal acceptation of both sexes, the sterner offices and responsibilities incident to these vocations have been considered

most compatible with the physical and mental constitution of the male sex.... The distaff, the needle and the pencil look better in [a woman's] hand than the hoe or the scythe, the trephine or the gorget. The course of "domina Blackwell" cannot be justified by any urgent necessity. The profession was quite too full before, and could well afford to dispense with her services. I know we sometimes hear of runaway maidens serving in disguise in the army or on shipboard, but such heroines deserve very little commendation, and the rudest commander has always had a sufficient sense of propriety to discharge such "dominae" as soon as their sex was known. Would either of the other learned professions have received and graduated a female? Would any amount of study or learning have gained her admittance to the bar or the desk? Certainly not. Then why desecrate the profession of medicine, and publicly disparage it? If a clique of pseudoreformers, or some mushroom Thomsonian or hydropathic association, had conferred this degree, it would have been a matter of no surprise, because it would be in perfect keeping with their transactions. As this is the first case of the kind that has been perpetrated either in Europe or America, I hope, for the honor of humanity, that it will be the last. And I trust that the high-minded members of the profession will so manifest their disapprobation of the transaction, as to teach other similar institutions the impropriety of following the example.

This letter, signed only "D.K.," was answered the following week by the pseudonymous "Justus":

D.K. ... seems shocked at the conferring of the degree of M.D. upon a female at the recent commencement at Geneva College. Your correspondent is decidedly behind the age. How long is it since the leading physicians of Boston sent out a circular, recommending the establishment of an institution for the education of females in the art and science of Midwifery? ... Are there no female accoucheurs in this country? Are there none in France and Great Britain? Were

there none in Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs, about the period of Moses' birth? How was it in New England, in the time of our forefathers? ... Has D.K. never heard of Madame Boivin, M.D. [sic], of Paris, the distinguished lecturer and writer on obstetric science? The fact is, there are, and always will be, female accoucheurs; the only question is, shall they be educated? There can be but one opinion on this point. As to females engaging in the general practice of medicine, the idea is absurd; D.K. need have no fears of a rivalry, which he seems to dread, as about to jostle him uncomfortably. ... D.K. talks of "the professions of law, medicine and divinity, as masculine duties." Are there no masculine females? ... I see no reason, why, if a female has made the proper acquisitions, and proved herself worthy of the honor, she should not receive the degree of M.D., as well as Mr. D.K., or any other person. ... We honor [GMC] for its liberality; and we believe the profession will sustain it still more generously for the disinterested bestowal of its honors on the deserving, irrespective of sex or condition. Even admitting the correctness of D.K.'s remarks in general, with respect to woman's unfitness for engaging in the practice of medicine, it would be strange indeed if exceptions did not occasionally occur. From all we have been able to learn respecting Miss B., she is emphatically an exception. "Exceptio probat Regulam."

The names 'D.K.' and 'Justus' are both phonetic puns on the word 'justice', the latter directly, the former indirectly by way of the Greek *dikê*. Why did these two authors, presumably each secure in the courage of conviction, yet feel the need to hide behind the veil of *noms de plume*? Plainly the greatest "next to insurmountable obstacle" that Blackwell had to overcome was neither the alleged physical, intellectual, and moral limitations of her sex nor even the open hostility of conservatives such as "D.K.," but rather the entrenched hypocrisy or cryptomisogyny of liberals like Lee, "Justus," and their fellow "gentlemen."

In the second appendix to her autobiography,²⁴ Blackwell quoted a satirical poem about her from an 1849 issue of the British humor magazine *Punch*. 48 East 57th Street *Phone* 212.308.0018



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Among the images in this poem is "a gold-handled parasol," the reference being to the gold-handled cane as a traditional emblem of the medical and surgical professions. If, in the nineteenth century, a woman doctor were to carry a gold-handled cane, she might be taken seriously as a doctor, but at the cost of undermining her feminity by assuming a distinctly male accessory.²⁵ By the same token, if she were to attempt to preserve her idea of her own femininity by carrying a gold-handled parasol as the emblem of *her* profession, then she would certainly not have been taken seriously as a doctor. This metaphor speaks volumes.

The struggle of women physicians since the time of Elizabeth Blackwell has been not only to gain acceptance as doctors, i.e., allowed to earn and receive M.D. degrees, to be licensed as physicians, to become members of medical societies,²⁶ to be listed in medical directories,²⁷ to specialize in any field they choose, and to live up to their medical credentials, but also to gain acceptance as women, rather than being regarded merely as freaks of nature, male minds in female bodies, "masculine females," or the like. In the nineteenth century, both the proponents and opponents of women's medical education typically agreed on at least this point: A woman as a woman cannot become a doctor; in order to become a doctor she must first become "manlike" in the appropriate ways. Moreover, such "defeminization" must always remain the exception. Exceptio probat regulam. As long as the consensus of the medical community remained that women doctors were to be "exceptions," every woman doctor was placed by society in the demeaning psychological dilemma of having to choose between her success as a doctor and her identity as a woman. She could not have both. She could either deny her femininity and gain some measure of respect as a

physician in a male world, or be true to herself as a woman and lose a proportionate degree of the trust of her patients.²⁸

NOTES:

1. Different versions of this article were presented at the Geneva, New York, meeting of the Upstate New York and Ontario Chapter (UNYOC) of the Medical Library Association (MLA), October 15, 1998; at the 14th Elizabeth Blackwell Day ceremony, SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse, February 10, 1999; at the "Women's History in Central New York" conference sponsored by the Central New York Library Resources Council Documentary Heritage Program, Le Moyne College, March 19, 1999; at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia as a Seminar of the Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, March 23, 1999; and at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies (INCS) conference, Ohio State University, April 9, 1999. Two other articles have emerged from these five talks: "150 Years of Women in Medicine: From Midwives to Physicians," ACOG Clinical Review (forthcoming); and "Celebrating 150 Years of Women in Medicine: The Medical Graduation of Elizabeth Blackwell, January 23, 1849," Alumni Journal, published by the SUNY HSC/Syracuse Medical Alumni Association (Summer 1999): 18-23.

2. Eric v. d. Luft, Ph.D., M.L.S., is Curator of Historical Collections at Elizabeth Blackwell's alma mater. When Geneva Medical College was about to fold in 1871, it sold its assets to two of its professors, John Towler, M.D., and Frederick Hyde, M.D., who then immediately transferred them to Syracuse University in order to keep the medical school alive. The Syracuse University College of Medicine opened in 1872 with Hyde as Dean. The State University of New York bought it in 1950 and renamed it the SUNY College of Medicine at Syracuse. From 1953 to 1986 it was called the SUNY Upstate Medical Center College of Medicine, and from 1986 to 1999 it has been called the SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse College of Medicine. It was recently announced that henceforth it will be known an SUNY Upstate Medical University.

3. Some information about Blackwell is available from people who knew her, for example: Sarah J. McNutt, *Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell: Her Character and Personality*, reprinted from *The Medical Record*, November 19, 1921 (New York: William Wood, 1921); Eliza M. Mosher, "Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell," *Woman's Medical Journal* 20 (1910): 155-157, 174-177, 188-190, 208-210; "[Obituary]: Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D. Geneva, N.Y.," *Lancet* (June 11, 1910): 1657-1658.

4. Frederick C. Waite, "The Medical Education of Women in Cleve-

land, 1850-1930," *Western Reserve University Bulletin* 16 (September 15, 1930): 37-63. Linda Lehmann Goldstein, "Without Compromising in Any Particular: The Success of Medical Coeducation in Cleveland, 1850-1856," *Caduceus: A Humanities Journal for Medicine and the Health Sciences* 10, 2 (Autumn 1994): 101-115.

5. Kate Campbell Hurd-Mead, *A History of Women in Medicine from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century* (Haddam: Conn.: Haddam Press, 1938).

6. Kate Campbell Hurd-Mead, Medical Women of America: A Short History of the Pioneer Medical Women of America and a Few of Their Colleagues in England (New York: Froben, 1933).

7. Harriot Kesia Hunt, Glances and Glimpses; or, Fifty Years Social, Including Twenty Years Professional Life (Boston: Jewett, 1856).

8. Clara Marshall, *The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania: An Historical Outline* (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, 1897).

9. Elizabeth Blackwell, [manuscript letter to] Dr. Joseph Perkins, Castleton, Vermont (Philadelphia: Oct. 8th, 1847); in the collection of the Johns Hopkins University. Cf. Frederick C. Waite, "Two Early Letters by Elizabeth Blackwell," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 21, 1 (1947): 110-112.

10. M.P. Russell, "James Barry - 1792(?)-1865: Inspector-General of Army Hospitals," *Edinburgh Medical Journal* 50 (1943): 558-567. Jean Binnie, "First Among Women," *British Medical Journal* 304, 6821 (January 25, 1992): 257.

11. Jonathan Hutchinson, "A Review of Current Topics of Medical and Social Interest [including] the Propriety of Allowing Women to Qualify Themselves for the Practice of the Medical Art," *British Medical Journal* 2 (1876): 231-235. "Females as Physicians," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 53 (1855): 292-294. "Female Physicians," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 54 (1856): 169-174. "Female Practitioners of Medicine," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 76 (1867): 272-275.

12. Stephen Smith, "The Medical Co-Education of the Sexes," in: Elizabeth Blackwell, *Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women; Autobiographical Sketches* (London: Longmans, Green, 1895), pp. 255-259.

13. Edward H. Clarke, Sex in Education; or, a Fair Chance for Girls (Boston: James R. Osgood, 1874). Cf. George F. Comfort and Anna Manning Comfort, Woman's Education and Woman's Health (Syracuse: Thos. W. Durstan, 1874); Julia Ward Howe (ed.), Sex and Education: A Reply to Dr. E.H. Clarke's "Sex in Education" (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1874); and Anna C. Brackett (ed.), The Education of American Girls, Considered in a Series of Essays (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1874).

14. Edward H. Clarke, "Medical Education of Women," Boston Medical and Surgical Journal 81 (1869): 345-346.

15. For example: Benjamin Colby, *A Guide to Health* (Nashua, N.H.: Gill, 1844). Samuel Gregory, *Letter to Ladies in Favor of Female Physicians* (Boston: American Medical Education Society, 1850).

16. Jonathan Stainback Wilson, "Female Medical Education," *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal* 10, 1 (January 1854): 1-17. Samuel Gregory, "Female Physicians," *Living Age* 73 (May 3, 1862): 243-249. Samuel Gregory, *Doctor or Doctress*? (Boston: Pratt Brothers, 1868).

17. Gregoria Fraser Goins, "Miss Doc," book-length typescript biography of her mother, Sarah Loguen Fraser, contained in Box 36-4, Folders 51-52, of the Goins Papers in the Manuscript Division of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.

18. Caroline Schultze, *La femme-médecin au XIXe siècle* (Paris: Ollier-Henry, 1888); *Die Aerztin in XIX Jahrhundert* (Leipzig: Peter Hobbing, 1889).

19. One curious consequence of her seeking professional refuge in Europe was that, in addition to being the first woman doctor in America, Blackwell herself was also the first woman doctor in Great Britain. That is, in 1858 she became the first woman to be entered in the *British Medical Register*. Cf. Annis Gillie, "Elizabeth Blackwell and the Medical Register from 1858," *British Medical Journal* (November 22, 1958): 1253-1257.

20. Charles Alfred Lee, Valedictory Address to the Graduating Class of Geneva Medical College at the Public Commencement, January 23, 1849; Published by Request of the Class (Buffalo: Jewett, Thomas & Co., 1849), pp. 26-28.

21. Justus [pseudonym]: "The Late Medical Degree at Geneva," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 40, 4 (February 28, 1849): 87.

22. D.K., "The Late Medical Degree to a Female," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 40, 3 (February 21, 1849): 58-59.

23. "Doctress in Medicine," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 40, 1 (February 7, 1849): 25-26.

24. Elizabeth Blackwell, Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women; Autobiographical Sketches (London: Longmans, Green, 1895), p. 261.

25. Notwithstanding Mary E. Walker, M.D. (1832-1919), a feminist who dressed as a man for a completely different set of reasons, i.e., not to undermine her own feminity, but rather to protest against the unhealthy and inconvenient clothes that women were expected to wear in that era. Cf. her *Hit* (New York: American News Company, 1871), Ch. 2, "Dress Reform," pp. 58-84.

26. For example: "The Admission of Women to the State Society," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 101 (1879): 527-528; "The Admission of Women to the Massachusetts Medical Society," *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* 102 (1880): 501.

27. For example: Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, "The History of a Movement," *Fortnightly Review* 59 (March 1893): 404-417.

28. Representative of the contemporary literature in the mid-nineteenth century debate about women physicians are: Austin Flint [published anonymously], "Female Medical Students," Buffalo Medical Journal 3 (1848): 575. Austin Flint [published anonymously], "Female Physicians," Buffalo Medical Journal 3 (1848): 494-496. Paulina Wright Davis, "Female Physicians," Boston Medical and Surgical Journal 41 (1849): 520-522. N. Williams, "A Dissertation on 'Female Physicians'," Boston Medical and Surgical Journal 43, 4 (August 28, 1850): 69-75. An Appeal in Behalf of the Medical Education of Women (New York: [s.n.], 1856). Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, Medicine as a Profession for Women (New York: Trustees of the New York Infirmary for Women, 1860). Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, Address on the Medical Education of Women, Read Before a Meeting Held at the New York Infirmary, December 19th, 1863 (New York: Baptist & Taylor, 1864). Ann Preston, "Women as Physicians," Medical and Surgical Reporter 16 (1867): 391-394. Georgiana Glenn, "Are Women as Capable of Becoming Physicians as Men?" Clinic (Cincinnati) 9 (1875): 243-245. Elizabeth Blackwell, The Moral Education of the Young in Relation to Sex, Under Medical and Social Aspects — 2nd ed., rev. — (London: Hatchards, Piccadilly, 1879). Emily F. Pope, Emma L. Call, and C. Augusta Pope, The Practice of Medicine by Women in the United States (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1881). Elizabeth Blackwell, The Influence of Women in the Profession of Medicine: Address Given at the Opening of the Winter Session of the London School of Medicine for Women (London: George Bell and Sons, 1889).



Carol Clausen, Librarian, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, in front of the Elizabeth Blackwell Exhibit Photograph by Marion Hunt

EB and Me, or, That Girl There Is Doing an Exhibit

By Carol Clausen History of Medicine Division National Library of Medicine

Just outside of the History of Medicine reading room in the National Library of Medicine stand two small exhibit cases. These cases, permanently fixed in place and set apart from the main exhibit area, have not been needed for the NLM's major exhibits (e.g. "Frankenstein", "Breath of Life"). Several years ago, I took on the responsibility of seeing that something attractive, informative, and relevant to the mission of the NLM and the History of Medicine Division was installed in these cases twice a year or so - the "miniexhibit" program.

Last year, a scholar in the history of medicine proposed that the NLM mark the 150th anniversary of Elizabeth Blackwell's graduation from medical school, January 23, 1849, with an exhibit, which she would curate. The subject was appealing and the miniexhibit space available for the relevant date, so her offer was accepted. The scholar would do the research, select the material, and write the text; I would help out as needed. I wasn't anxious to work on an exhibit just then, having just completed one on the history of the site on which the NLM stands. But acting as a consultant and assistant while someone else did the real work didn't sound too onerous. A couple of months later the would-be curator was asked to work on an upcoming major exhibit, precluding her work on this one, and Elizabeth Blackwell landed in my lap with a thump.

I wasn't entirely unhappy with the prospect. I knew very little about EB - first woman M.D, Geneva Medical College, 1849 - but I was predisposed to be sympathetic to the woman who had stormed the fortress of medical exclusivity. I also foresaw the need for a pleasant little research trip to New York City and Cambridge, MA, where major collections of Blackwell family papers resided.

My first step was to see what the NLM had in its collections. We had many secondary sources, most of them brief and hagiographic. Fortunately, we also had one scholarly biography, Nancy Ann Sahli's *Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D. (1821-1910): A Biography,* published in 1982. That, along with Blackwell's own *Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women: Autobiographical Sketches,* published in 1895, became my open door to the subject of the exhibit.

I decided at the outset that I would focus on Blackwell's medical education and graduation, since that, after all, was the occasion for the exhibit. I would include a small section on the 20 years following her graduation, when she practiced medicine in New York City. I would omit all but the briefest reference to the last 40 years of her life (1869-1910), which she spent in England. This period was too far removed from the primary theme. Besides, it's hard to fit an entire life into two 24-square-foot exhibit cases.

With some background reading done, I began to develop an idea of the story I wanted the exhibit to tell. I would concentrate on the barriers Blackwell encountered and how she faced them. I wanted to show the pervasive and determined opposition encountered by a woman who wished to gain a medical education and practice medicine, and the many forms it took. I wished to show the determination and moral courage and shrewdness with which she met this opposition. But I would try to show, too, that she was not invariably successful. She wished to open medical education more generally to women, but after she received her degree from Geneva College the dean announced that he would not admit another woman student. Blackwell believed in medical coeducation, but when her own female "pre-med" students at the New York Infirmary were unable to gain admission to medical schools, she founded a women's medical college. The exhibit text could tell this story. But an exhibit needs pictures and interesting-looking documents to illuminate the words. These I had still to find.

I knew from the start that there were three items I especially wanted for this exhibit: Blackwell's diaries, the acceptance letter she received from Geneva Medical College, and, most of all, her diploma. At the outset I had no idea where or if any of them existed. NUCMC showed that major collections of Blackwell family papers resided at Library of Congress, Columbia University, and Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library. I began with LC. The first entry in the finding guide under the "Elizabeth Blackwell Papers" was "Diaries, 1836-1909. Bound volumes. Arranged chronologically." Bingo! Blackwell had quoted extensively from the diaries in her autobiography, so I knew they were full of revealing and pertinent commentary on her medical school career. I could display the entry showing her reaction when she received the acceptance letter or her impressions during her first few student days. However, I found that the microfilm reels contained only the diaries from 1836 to 1839 (age 15-18), then resumed with 1869, the year she left the United States. I asked to see the collection itself, but that only confirmed what the microfilm showed: the years I was most interested in were not there. I never did locate the relevant diaries and apparently her biographer, Sahli, had not seen them, either. This was the first of several chimaeras that I fruitlessly sought.

However, the LC collection contained a wealth of other materials. Blackwell's family was large, literate, and geographically separated for most of their adult lives, a perfect situation for the creation of long, meaty letters, and these indeed existed in abundance. The most exciting find was a detailed first-hand account of the graduation ceremony, written by her brother Henry to the family back in Cincinnati. Though I did not display the letter, I quoted the text extensively.

Through the Blackwell letters at LC, and later finds at Columbia, The New York Academy of Medicine, and the Schlesinger Library, I felt myself privy to Elizabeth's doubts and disappointments, hopes and successes, as she shared them with her family. Though I used only a couple of items from

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these collections in the exhibit, they provided a depth of knowledge and a sense of immediacy with Blackwell's life, and sparked an enthusiasm that kept me going through the several disappointments and frustrations of my own during the exhibit planning process. And LC did provide two items that appeared in the exhibit: Blackwell's manuscript notes from a Geneva College class in materia medica and the sought-after acceptance letter. The latter was not precisely what I had hoped for. The acceptance letter signed by the Dean had been accompanied by a formal statement from the Geneva medical students, declaring their support of Blackwell's admission. These, she states in her autobiography, "I had afterwards copied on parchment, and esteem one of my most valued possessions." It was the parchment copy that I found and LC generously lent, along with the class notes, for the exhibit.

The NLM collections had plenty of primary printed material that I could use: the Dean's address to Blackwell's graduating class (serendipitously discovered in a pamphlet cataloguing project two years ago), her own publications, including her graduation thesis, published in the *Buffalo Medical Journal* of Telephone (212) 772-6211 and 772-6212

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February 1849, and annual reports and announcements of the two institutions she founded, the New York Infirmary for Women and Children and the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary.

When I broadened my search to include the faculty of Geneva Medical College, I made a wonderful find in the NLM manuscript collection. James Webster, professor of anatomy and Blackwell's favorite faculty member, whom she affectionately referred to as the "fat little fairy," had kept a day-byday record of his class syllabus. NLM had the notebook that covered 1846-48. Though the entries are brief and formal and make no mention of the woman student who took her place in his classroom during this time, there was one entry that particularly interested me. In Blackwell's autobiography she quotes a diary entry from a few weeks after her arrival when she describes great tension and embarrassment among the members of the anatomy class in which dissection was performed. "Some of the students blushed, some were hysterical ... My delicacy was certainly shocked ..." I looked for the entry for that day, Nov. 22, and found confirmation of what I had imagined - the objects of dissection were penis and testicles.

The title of the exhibit presented itself. Blackwell's biographies all had titles like "Elizabeth Blackwell, First Woman M.D.," succinct and informative, but lacking pizzazz. I wanted a title that expressed something more than the obvious and I found what I was looking for in Blackwell's autobiography. She described a visit to England, her childhood home, soon after her graduation, during which she called on the pastor of the church her family had attended in Bristol. When she told him what she had been doing for the past several years, he exclaimed to his wife, "Why, my dear, that girl there is Doctor in Medicine!" There, with its suggestion of amazement, admiration, and a touch of condescension, was my title.

Several months into exhibit planning, I still had no idea of the whereabouts of Blackwell's diploma. The Schlesinger Library had a photograph of it, but they did not know who had the original. I could make use of their photograph, but I was still hoping for the real thing. A letter to the archivist of Hobart and William Smith College, the descendent of Geneva College, brought the disappointing information that they had no material from the medical school, which had separated from the College in the 1870s. But my query did elicit a copy of a newspaper article from 1911, describing the gift of the diploma, given by Elizabeth Blackwell's adopted daughter and heir to a university in the United Kingdom.

I immediately wrote a letter to the library in Great Britain. I received the reply that the library did not have the diploma, but my query had been forwarded to the archivist. A few weeks later, I received a message from the archivist. They had the diploma and, while they would prefer to supply a slide or a scanned image, they would consider lending it! They had also the original of a pencil drawing of Blackwell, made when she was in her 30s - the earliest portrait of her that I had seen and a very attractive one — which they would also lend. They made, however, one stipulation: the items had to be hand-carried. Plane fare from the British Isles to Washington seemed a small price to procure the principal document of the occasion, but the NLM demurred. My suggestion to the archivist that the

materials could safely be sent by commercial shipper was ignored. Then I realized that I already had the making of a solution. I would be traveling to India later in the fall, returning in December with an overnight stop in Amsterdam. Plane fare between the U.K. and Amsterdam was significantly cheaper than the trans-Atlantic fare. Someone from the university could carry the items to Amsterdam and hand them over to me and I would carry them back to Washington. The NLM agreed to fund this scheme and my British correspondent readily agreed. With just a few weeks to complete the arrangements before I left for India, a flurry of e-mails, faxes, and phone calls ensued. My colleagues, with whom I had joyfully shared the news of my discovery of the diploma, were treated to daily updates on my progress. But my British correspondent seemed strangely reluctant to provide the information I needed or to confirm details. I was also puzzled by her insistence that a two-night stay was needed to get the lowest airfare. I checked the airlines again and confirmed that one night was sufficient. Was someone getting greedy? By the week before my departure nothing definite was in place and I was becoming increasingly frantic.

Then, just a few days before my departure date, I opened my e-mail and was greeted by a message from the U.K. There was a small hitch: they could not find the diploma! As best anyone could remember, it had been lent to a local museum in 1995 and had not been seen since. There was some vague recollection that someone had staked claim and taken possession of it, but who or where, no one now knew. Would I still like them to fly to Amsterdam with the portrait sketch? My colleagues were alerted to this new development by my howls, dismay and hilarity combined. Of course, that explained the havering and the unreasonable demands. No doubt they were hoping I'd give up and settle for a photograph. I could imagine



their alarm as I stubbornly persisted in my quest. No, I replied, I couldn't justify the expense for the portrait alone. I would settle for photographs of both.

The exhibit went up on schedule on January 23, 1999, the anniversary of Blackwell's graduation day. Since it fell on a Saturday, I spent the day alone in the Library, silently communing with the spirit of EB. I placed in the cases many fine and interesting things: text, images, books from NLM's collection, the acceptance letter borrowed from Library of Congress, a group of Geneva Medical College class admission tickets provided by SUNY Upstate Medical University at Syracuse, photographs provided by the Schlesinger Library and the Geneva Historical Society. Lastly, I placed the central item in place: a digitized image of Elizabeth Blackwell's diploma ("Curatores Collegii Genevensis, quod Genevae in Republica Neo-Eboraco conditum ..."), colorized to resemble parchment and tastefully adorned with a blue ribbon and fake red seal. I had done my best, I had struggled and persevered. I had, at the end, made the most of a partial success. EB, I thought, would have approved.

The exhibit, "That Girl There Is Doctor in Medicine: Elizabeth Blackwell, America's First Woman M.D.," in celebration of the 150th anniversary of her M.D. degree, was displayed at the National Library of Medicine from January 23-September 4, 1999. A poster version of the exhibit is now available for loan for display at libraries, conferences, etc. A version of the exhibit will be displayed on NLM's Web site reasonably soon.

Researchers may be interested in the biobibliographical essay by Sharon Murphy on Elizabeth Blackwell in American Women Civil Rights Activists: Biobibliographies of 68 Leaders, 1825-1992, edited by Gayle J. Hardy. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1993 (pages 55-66).

This thorough listing of resources includes a substantial chronological biography and comprehensive bibliographical information. The latter includes biographical sketches, books, and shorter works, by and about Elizabeth Blackwell. (It should be noted that the book's Editor determined that in the Books By or the Books About categories, an item is included if it is a stand-alone piece, regardless of length. Therefore, a 16-page pamphlet is considered to be a book. Blackwell was a prolific pamphlet writer as attested to in this category!) Other works are also included - her thesis, a music score, and doctoral dissertations of which she is the subject, and all manner of media material (filmstrips, slides, and sound recordings). Of special interest is the listing of primary source materials relating to Blackwell. This significant category lists numerous archival collections and describes the scope of each collection.

EX LIBRIS

By Lucretia W. McClure

CONGRATULATIONS

To Michael A. Flannery on his appointment as Associate Director for Historical collections at the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In his position he will be responsible for the Reynolds Historical Library, the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, and the UAB archives.

He comes to the Lister Hill Library from the Lloyd Library and Museum, a 200,000-volume library of historical and current materials in pharmacy, botany, and botanical medicine in Cincinnati, where he has been director since 1994. Mr. Flannery is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University. He received a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Kentucky and a Master's degree in history from California State University at Dominguez Hills.

He has served on the adjunct faculties of Northern Kentucky University and the University of Cincinnati's College of Pharmacy, where he taught American history and the history of pharmacy respectively. His publications include two books: *John Uri Lloyd. The Great American Eclectic*, 1998, and *VOX Populi: The American Botanico-Medical Movements* (in press). He is a member of the American Library Association, the American Association for the History of Medicine, the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, and Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences.



AND TO

John Parascandola, Public Health Service Historian, who received the Assistant Secretary for Health's Award for Superior Service "for exceptional contributions to the celebration of the U.S. Public Health Service Bicentennial." The award was presented by Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General David Satcher at a ceremony held on March 11.

GOOD NEWS

From the New York Academy of Medicine on the receipt of two grants. The Academy Library has won a grant of \$435,000 from the Mellon Foundation to be used for the following: (1) eliminate a backlog of some two thousand uncataloged rare books, (2) complete the retrospective conversion of records for monographs with imprints from 1801 to 1955, (3) upgrade serials records to full MARC standards, and (4) enhance authority control of the online catalog.

The Academy Library has also won an award of \$20,000 from the Conservation/Preservation Grant Program of the New York State Library for rehousing and minor conservation work on the Michael Davis Collection on Social and Economic Aspects of Health Care. Davis, who died in the 1970s, was a major contributor to the health policy debates in the United States for most of the twentieth century. The collection in-

cludes manuscript material as well as hard-to-find reports, pamphlets, and other printed matter.

From Ed Morman comes an announcement of the new librarian of the New York Academy. He is David King of the University of California at San Francisco who holds a doctorate in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois. Dr. King also holds the title Director of the Division of Information Management at the Academy. He has a strong avocational interest in history and likes books. The Historical Collections Staff looks forward to working with him.

GOOD READING

From Jonathon Erlen comes word of a recent gift of some twenty rare books from the estate of Dr. Alvin Shapiro, a noted expert in hypertension and a longtime friend of the history of medicine. Of particular interest are these titles:

Stephen Hales. Statical Essays: Containing Haemastatics. 2nd ed., 1740.

William Cullen. A Treatise of the Material Medica, 1752.

Wooster Beach. The Family Physician, 1842.

Peter Shaw. The Dispensatory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 1727.

And several works by the noted mid-nineteenth century Boston physician, Jacob Bigelow.

*** A new newsletter, *Favourite Edition*, is announced



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tel 715-384-8128 fax 715-389-2990 e-mail bfye@tznet.com www.fyebooks.com by the Friends of the Rare Book Room of the New York Academy of Medicine. It supersedes the *Malloch Room Newsletter*. Featured in the first issue of *Favourite Edition* is an article by Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts Lois Black, abstracted from her recent master's thesis. It is an analysis of the "receipt book" of George Teeple, a rural practitioner in Upstate New York in the late nineteenth century. The receipt book is a recent gift to the Academy Library.

ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Comes from Christine Ruggere concerning this significant year at the Johns Hopkins University. 1999 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir William Osler (1849-1919), the first physician-in-chief of the Hospital (1889-1905) and the first professor of medicine at the School of Medicine (1893-1905). Osler donated a number of rare medical volumes to Hopkins, along with the entire literary library of his son, Revere, who died in 1917. It was also in his memory that Sir William and Lady Osler provided Hopkins with the endowment for the Stuart and Tudor Club, a part of its English Department.

Osler had proposed that the Hospital and Medical School construct a building to house a medical library and provide space for instruction in medical history. His wish was fulfilled finally in 1929 when the William H. Welch Medical Library was opened on October 17th. On the following day, the Institute of the History of Medicine was dedicated. Located on the top floor of Welch Library, the Institute was the first academic program for medical history in the United States.

A number of activities have been planned to honor these anniversaries by the Department of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology, along with its components, the Historical Collection of the Institute of the History of Medicine and the Allan Mason Chesney Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

The Hideyo Noguchi Lectures (endowed also in 1929) will be given by University of Toronto Professor Michael Bliss, the author of the new biography of Sir William Osler just published by Oxford University Press. On October 13, Professor Bliss will talk on "We



All Worshipped Him: Osler, Medical Students and Women at Johns Hopkins" and on October 14 by "What's a Doctor? How William Osler Practiced Medicine." The lectures will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Mountcastle Auditorium, Preclinical Teaching Building, at the corner of Monument and Wolfe Streets, behind the Welch Library. All are invited to the lectures.

Two other features will add to the Osler celebration. On October 14 an exhibition of rare books, photographs, and manuscripts celebrating the anniversaries of Osler, the Institute and the Welch Library will be opened by the Historical Collection of the Institute of the History of Medicine. A Web site, "Celebrating the Contributions of Sir William Osler," will soon be available. Developed by the Alan Mason Chesney Archives in collaboration with the Historical Collection of the Institute of the History of Medicine, it will provide access to photographs, manuscripts, and correspondence from the large Osler collection in the Chesney Archives along with the full searchable text of a number of Osler's essays and clinical papers. The site may be previewed at http://www.med.jhu.edu/ medarchives/osler/osler150/htm

GOOD LISTENING

The C. F. Reynolds Medical History Society at the University of Pittsburgh announces the 1999-2000 schedule of meetings:

September 14: Nancy J. Tomes, Ph.D., Professor of History at SUNY Stony Brook, speaking on "The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women & the Microbe."

November 11: Sixth Annual Sylvan E. Stool History of Medicine Lecture. Keith A. Wailoo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Social Medicine, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, speaking on "Detecting Negro Blood: Black and White Identities and the Reconstruction of Sickle Cell Anemia."

January 25: Christopher Evans, Ph.D., Buckmeister Brown Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Harvard Medical School, speaking on "The Brief History of Gene Therapy."

March 9: Twelfth Annual Mark M. Ravitch History of Medicine Lecture. Samuel Greenblatt, M.D., Professor and Assistant Chair, Neurosurgery, Brown University School of Medicine, speaking on "Harvey Cushing's Paradynamic Contributions to Neurosurgery and to Specialization."

April 6: Clark T. Sawin, M.D., Deputy Medical Inspector, Veterans Hospital Administration, Washington, D.C., speaking on "The Discovery of a Hormone: Thyrotropin."

All lectures will be held in Lecture Room #5, Scaife Hall, University of Pittsburgh at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner for members and their guests following the lectures.

The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library of the University of Virginia announces the 1999/2000 History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series slate:

Wednesday, 27 October 1999, 5 to 6 p.m. Jordan Hall Conference Center Auditorium SUSAN E. LEDERER, Ph.D. Yale University School of Medicine "Making Monsters: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and Medical Science" Dr. Lederer was the Visiting Curator for the exhibit, *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*, at the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health in 1997. Dr. Lederer wrote *Subjected to Science: Human Experimentation in America before the Second World War.* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995).

Wednesday, 1 December 1999, 5 to 6 p.m. Jordan Hall Conference Center Auditorium

GREGORY MICHAEL DORR, Ph.D. Candidate University of Virginia Corcoran Department of History, "Raising Human Thoroughbreds: Eugenics, Public Health, and Medical Education at UVA". Mr. Dorr is a Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellow and an Honorary Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellow. His dissertation extensively utilizes primary resources from University of Virginia Library Special Collections and The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library Historical Collections and Services.

Wednesday, 9 February 2000, 5 to 7 p.m.

Jordan Hall Conference Center Auditorium

MARTIN S. PERNICK, Ph.D. University of Michigan at Ann Arbor Department of History, "The Black Stork: Eugenic Euthanasia in Early 20th Century." As part of his presentation Dr. Pernick will show excerpts from the only known print of the historic film, *The Black Stork* (1927). The movie explicitly advocates death for the "unfit." Dr. Pernick wrote *The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of "Defective" Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures since 1915* (Oxford University Press, 1996, paperback 1999).

Wednesday, 29 March 1999, 5 to 6 p.m.

Jordan Hall Conference Center Auditorium KEITH WAILOO, Ph.D. University of North Carolina Department of Social Medicine, "Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Disease and the Politics of Health Care in the South." Fourth Annual Kenneth R. Crispell Memorial History Lecture Dr. Wailoo received a \$1 million James S. McDonnell Centennial Fellowship, one of two awarded in the History and Philosophy of Science. The Fellowship targets early career scientists-scholars for work that will contribute substantially to the development of knowledge and its responsible application in the next century. Dr. Wailoo will use the award to pursue an extended historical study of disease and the biomedical sciences in the 20th century. Dr. Wailoo wrote Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in Twentieth-Century

America (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997). His new book, *Dying in the City of the Blues*, a study of sickle cell anemia and African American health in Memphis that has received exceptional pre-publication reviews, will be published by the University of North Carolina Press.

A'l lectures are open to the public. The History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series is sponsored each year by The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library and the University of Virginia School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education Program as an educational service for the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center and interested citizens in the community. The Library hopes that the speakers and topics selected will promote a greater understanding of the historical and philosophical underpinnings of today's health care disciplines.

"Seeing is Believing: 700 Years of Scientific and Medical Illustration" is the title of the 1999 Pforzheimer Lectures on Printing and the Book Arts at the New York Public Library (Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street, New York City). A series of six illustrated lectures in which scholars explore the history and future of scientific and medical concepts is offered in conjunction with the New York Public Library's fall exhibition of the same title. Information is available at http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/pep/current.htm

The series includes:

October 18: Christine Ruggere, The Johns Hopkins University, speaking on "Image and Information: A History of the Form and Function of Scientific Book Illustration."

October 25: Edward Tufte, Yale University, speaking on "Visual Explanations."

November 9: William B. Ashworth, Jr., University of Missouri, Kansas City, speaking on "Visual Arguments in the Scientific Revolution: The Emblematic Title Page as Battlefield."

November 16: Nancy Siraisi, Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, speaking on "Body, Text, and Image: Vesalius and Rare Books & Manuscripts in the History of Medicine & the Sciences Bought • Sold • Appraised



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the Discipline of Renaissance Anatomy."

November 22: Michio Kaku, City College and the Graduate Center of City University of New York, speaking on "Visualizing the Invisible: Hyperspace and the Origin of the Universe."

January 24: Roger Gaskell, Roger Gaskell Rare Books, speaking on "Don't Trust Words: The Importance of Illustration for the Early Royal Society."

All lectures are held at 6 p.m.

Pegge L. Bell, Ph.D., R. N., an associate dean of the College of Nursing, lectured on "Arkansas' Nurse Midwife: Mamie O. Hale (Making Do with the Midwife Situation)" at the eighteenth meeting of the History of Medicine Associates of the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Library on September 23.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis offers visiting research fellowships for the purpose of facilitating scholarly research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, prints, and instruments. The focus of the Bakken's collection is on the history of electricity and magnetism and their applications in the life sciences and medicine. Related materials include mesmerism and animal magnetism, nineteenth-century ephemera concerning alternative electromedical therapies, letters of various scientists, and trade catalogues. The instruments include electrostatic generators, magneto-electric generators, induction coils, physiological instruments, recording devices, and accessories.

The fellowship is a maximum of \$1,300 and is to be used for travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is one week. The next application deadline is March 1, 2000. For further information, please contact David J. Rhees, Executive Director, The Bakken Library and Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416. E-mail: rhees@thebakken.org.

MISCELLANY

Edwina Walls Mann reports that six additional books have been adopted in the History of Medicine Associates' Adopt-A-Book program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library. The books were shown at the annual meeting of the Associates in September. Commemorative packets were presented to those who adopted books.

The Oskar Diethelm Collection, perhaps the world's most important library in the history of psychiatry, has returned to its home in new state-of-the-art quarters in the Psychiatry Department of Cornell University Medical College. It had been housed at the New York Academy of Medicine Library for several years following the demolition of the old Payne Whitney Clinic Building. The move has provided the Academy Library some breathing space, although the Library remains severely overtaxed for book storage. During the summer of 1999, Historical Collections Staff worked with other library employees in relocating several thousand volumes to the vacated space. Besides allowing room for growth of the rapidly expanding collection of secondary source material in medical history, this shift has also resulted in the consolidation of various collections that had been dispersed throughout the Academy building.

ON EXHIBIT

From the Cincinnati Medical Heritage Center comes word of the permanent exhibit entitled Medical Research: Albert B. Sabin, M.D., A Case Study. After nearly two years of writing, researching, and designing (in mockup), the exhibit opened September 22, 1999. The exhibit illustrates the process of medical research through a display about Dr. Sabin, his career, achievements and the world's response to the virtual elimination of poliomyelitis through the use of his vaccine. Set in the context of the history of polio and the many researchers who helped conquer it, Dr. Sabin's story emerges as a model for future efforts to eradicate even more diseases. The exhibit employs images, documents, explanatory text, and a small portion of Dr. Sabin's many awards, medals, and honors to examine the career of this prominent twentieth-century medical researcher. It is located in the foyer of the new Vontz Center for Molecular Studies on the University of Cincinnati's Medical Campus and will serve as an introduction to the future biomedical research that will be carried out within the building.

Maggie Yax reports that the organization of the Sabin papers is progressing nicely. The materials have been arranged into thirty-one series and several subseries. She attended the EAD class at the Rare Book School this summer and is investigating the possibility of creating an EAD inventory for the Sabin Collection. Ms. Yax is undertaking research on Dr. Sabin's wartime experiences and the effect it had on his subsequent development of the oral poliovirus vaccine. She presented a paper, "Beyond Polio: Albert B. Sabin, World War II and Tropical Medicine," at the annual meeting of the Ohio Academy for Medical History held at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in April and an updated version to the Miami Valley Association of Health Sciences Libraries in June. She will present her most current interpretation in November to the Washington (DC) Society for the History of Medicine. Billie Broaddus presided at the annual meeting in her role of President of the Ohio Academy for Medical History.

As part of its move to newly renovated space in the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine (see *The*

Watermark, Summer 1999), the Rare Books and Special Collections Department has launched a rotating exhibit program to bring some of the collection's holdings and research strengths to the attention of the public. The first of these exhibits, Magical Stones and Imperial Bones: Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Photographs from the Collections of the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, opened to the public in June in a small gallery space adjoining the department's new reading room and office area.

While *Magical Stones* contains some items - such as one of the Countway's four copies of Andreas Vesalius' *De humani corporis fabrica* (1543) only to be expected in a display of rare items in the history of medicine, the exhibit also includes a few eyeopening surprises.

The title of the exhibit refers to some of its more unusual components. One of the most popular scientific and medical treatises of the Middle Ages was the *De lapidibus* of Bishop Marbode of Rennes (1035-1123). The *De lapidibus* describes the magical and therapeutic properties of over sixty jewels and gemstones. Translations of the work into English, French, German, Hebrew, and Irish are known, and over one hundred Latin manuscripts have survived, but the Countway holds one of only three copies of the *De lapidibus* in the United States - ours a fine early 13th century specimen.

The "imperial bones" of the exhibit title refer to the most arresting items in the display: two photographs of X-rays taken of the hands and wrists of Nicholas II and Alexandra, the last Czars of Russia. Taken in 1898, just after the beginning of Nicholas' reign, these striking and beautiful images, with cufflinks and jewelry visible, take on an additional resonance of pathos in light of the deaths of the imperial couple and their children twenty years later.

Rarities of early American medicine are represented by a copy of Thomas Thacher's smallpox treatise, *A* brief rule to guide the common people of New England (1702), the second edition of the first medical publication in this country, and John Morgan's *A dis*course upon the institution of medical schools in America (1765), the first American publication on medical education. The Countway's copy has a particularly notable association value, since Morgan, the founder of America's first medical school, inscribed and presented this volume to John Warren in 1783 the year Warren delivered the first course of lectures at Harvard Medical School. The Countway Library also holds a rich collection of material from Benjamin Waterhouse, who was instrumental in promoting the smallpox vaccination work of Edward Jenner in this country. *Magical Stones* includes a fine letter to Waterhouse from Thomas Jefferson, thanking him for sending some vaccine matter and describing his own experiments with it, and also a silver snuff box, presented by Jenner to Waterhouse in recognition of his friendship.

Although not remembered as often as the deaths of Abraham Lincoln or John F. Kennedy, the assassination of President James A. Garfield had important ramifications for the development of the insanity defense in American law. Garfield was shot in the arm and back by Charles Guiteau on July 2, 1881, and died on September 19. Despite considerable medical and legal debate over his sanity and accountability, Charles Guiteau was executed the following June. *Magical Stones* recalls these events with autopsy photographs of Garfield's spinal vertebrae, showing the bullet hole, and the manuscript of a poem on fame, written by Guiteau in prison just a few days before his execution.

Other items from the more modern period of medicine in the exhibit include a page of 1921 laboratory notes of Frederick Grant Banting and Charles Herbert Best, describing a key experiment in the administration of a pancreatic extract that would later become

> Books concerning the History of Medicine, Natural, Pure and Applied Science

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development of modern antibiotics, this selection of books, manuscripts, and artifacts represents just a fraction of the holdings in the Countway's Rare Books and Special Collections department. Ranging over 700 years in time, and moving from the Winter Palace of the last Czars of Russia to an American prison cell and then a Canadian laboratory, Magical Stones and Imperial Bones is designed to give the public a taste of some of the extraordinary riches of the collections of the Countway Library. The exhibit will be on display through the end of the year, but a virtual version will appear as part of the department's Web page in the summer of 2000. For further information about the exhibit, please contact Jack Eckert, Rare Books and Special Collections, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine (617) 432-6207 or jack eckert @hms.harvard.edu). (Editor's note: Jack Eckert prepared and mounted the exhibit.)

refined as insulin; a colony of Penicillium notatum mold, grown in the laboratory of Sir Alexander

Fleming, who discovered its antibacterial properties;

and one of the first of Harvey Cushing's famous "ether

ANNOUNCEMENT

Toby Appel is chair of the Shryock Medal Committee. Interested students can obtain guidelines and an application form by contacting Toby Anita Appel, Ph.D., M.L.S., Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University, P.O. Box 208014, New Haven, CT 06520-8014. Essays must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2000.

Graduate students in the United States and Canada are invited to enter the Shryock Medal Essay Contest. The medal honors Richard Harrison Shryock (1893-1972), a pioneer among historians interested in the history of medicine. The award is given for an outstanding, unpublished essay on any topic in the history of medicine. The essay must be the result of original research or show an unusual appreciation and understanding of problems in the history of medicine. The winner will be invited to attend the 2000 meeting length. Therefore, a 16-page pamphlet is considered to be a book. Blackwell was a prolific pamphlet writer as attested to in this category!) Other works are also included - her thesis, a music score, and doctoral dissertations of which she is the subject, and all manner of media material (filmstrips, slides, and sound recordings). Of special interest is the listing of primary source materials relating to Blackwell. This significant category lists numerous archival collections and describes the scope of each collection.

EX LIBRIS

By Lucretia W. McClure

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Michael A. Flannery on his appointment as Associate Director for Historical collections at the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In his position he will be responsible for the Reynolds Historical Library, the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, and the UAB archives.

He comes to the Lister Hill Library from the Lloyd Library and Museum, a 200,000-volume library of historical and current materials in pharmacy, botany, and botanical medicine in Cincinnati, where he has been director since 1994. Mr. Flannery is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University. He received a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Kentucky and a Master's degree in history from California State University at Dominguez Hills.

He has served on the adjunct faculties of Northern Kentucky University and the University of Cincinnati's College of Pharmacy, where he taught American history and the history of pharmacy respectively. His publications include two books: *John Uri Lloyd. The Great American Eclectic*, 1998, and *VOX Populi: The American Botanico-Medical Movements* (in press). He is a member of the American Library Association, the American Association for the History of Medicine, the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, and Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences.

AND TO

John Parascandola, Public Health Service Historian, who received the Assistant Secretary for Health's Award for Superior Service "for exceptional contributions to the celebration of the U.S. Public Health Service Bicentennial." The award was presented by Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General David Satcher at a ceremony held on March 11.

GOOD NEWS

From the New York Academy of Medicine on the receipt of two grants. The Academy Library has won a grant of \$435,000 from the Mellon Foundation to be used for the following: (1) eliminate a backlog of some two thousand uncataloged rare books, (2) complete the retrospective conversion of records for monographs with imprints from 1801 to 1955, (3) upgrade serials records to full MARC standards, and (4) enhance authority control of the online catalog.

The Academy Library has also won an award of \$20,000 from the Conservation/Preservation Grant Program of the New York State Library for rehousing and minor conservation work on the Michael Davis Collection on Social and Economic Aspects of Health Care. Davis, who died in the 1970s, was a major contributor to the health policy debates in the United States for most of the twentieth century. The collection in-

plan a celebration of the manuscript and other early works in the collection. The celebration is to be held during the annual American Association for the History of Medicine meetings in Bethesda, May 2000.

Among the other volumes receiving conservation treatment was a 1563 Nuremberg pamphlet on anatomy, with two plates of a male and female figure in which a flap can be lifted to show the internal organs. The plates had been folded to fit the size of the book and some of the organs had become detached. The conservators detached the plates, cleaned and mended them, reattached the organs, and built a box to hold the pamphlet and the detached and unfolded plates. This is one of four sets of rare 16th-century anatomical broadsides owned by the NLM and the only one for which we have both the plates and the descriptive text. It is currently on display as part of the *Breath of Life* exhibition.

HMD is using marking ink developed by Library of Congress to property stamp rare books. A backlog of approximately 600 volumes has been stamped and bookplated before releasing their preliminary records to Voyager.

IMAGES IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Lillian Kozuma tracked the number of searches on the Images in the History of Medicine and found that there were 148,827 searches from 21,639 Web addresses.

An article, "Cool Images: Old Medicine," published in *Science*, 284, 2 April 1999 is expected to further publicize the availability of this Web site. Some 300 images, in the form of color slides, were added to the collection through photography from books, based chiefly on selections of Michael Sappol. These cover popular medical images of the nineteenth century.

AUDIOVISUALS

Walter Cybulski of Preservation and Nancy Dosch and Jane Karakashian of HMD conducted a "degradation survey" of 250 historic films (all films before 1930; a random sample of those since then), determining levels of acetate degradation of the film stock. Most are in good shape, although a few films are in stages of advanced deterioration. Preservation and HMD will design an intervention strategy.

The collections were augmented by donations of photographs of NIH, photographs of Native American nurses, and AIDS cards, and by the purchase of two World-War-II-era venereal disease posters. Formal deeds of gift were signed for the splendid donations of public health posters by Edward C. Atwater and William H. Helfand.

EXHIBITION PROGRAM

Breath of Life, the largest exhibition the Library has yet produced, opened to the public on March 23, 1999. The exhibition features fourteen audiovisuals and interactive displays, over 500 objects, photographs, graphics, and text panels; for the online version, see h t t p : // w w w . n l m . n i h . g o v / h m d / b r e a t h / breathhome.html.

The exhibition curators, Robert Aronowitz and Carla Keirns, devoted endless hours to the creation of the exhibition as did members of the HMD staff.

The staff of the exhibition program have conducted training sessions for over twenty volunteer tour guides. Staff from HMD led tours for members of the Board of Regents, members of the Medline Literature Search Committee, Montgomery County Air - a coalition of health professionals and patient advocates - and the National Native American Youth Initiative, among other groups.

Carol Clausen's exhibit on Elizabeth Blackwell, 'That Girl There Is Doctor in Medicine': Elizabeth Blackwell, American's First Woman M.D., went on display on January 23, 1999, the 150th anniversary of the award of Blackwell's medical degree. Carol wrote an article for the NIH Record, prepared a flyer to go with the exhibit, and presented a poster for the MLA and AAHM conferences. The poster version is currently on tour. Young Rhee, with the assistance of Margaret Feng and Yoshiko Doherty, prepared a new exhibit on The Classics of Chinese Medicine.

The exhibition team is currently developing a major exhibition that examines and compares the social history and impact of the telegraph and the internet, exploring themes presented in Tom Standage's *Victorian Internet*. The tentative title is *E-Medicine* and the schedule calls for opening in early 2001. The exhibition curators will be Michael Sappol and David Serlin.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE SEMINARS

Jerrold M. Post, "When Illness Strikes the Leader," January 14, 1999

Carlos H. Espinel, "ArtMedicine: Discoveries in Medicine through the Scientific Study of Art," February 17, 1999

Claire Sherman, "The Hand, The Body, and The Mind: Visual Representation in Early Modern Europe," March 17, 1999

Harry Marks, "Pellagra Revisited: The Social History of Death," April 14, 1999

Nicholas Casner, "The Rockefeller Foundation and Public Health in the Western United States," June 9, 1999

Michael Sappol, "The First Sex Education Book for Children, 1875," July 10, 1999

SPECIAL EVENTS

African American History Month Lecture: Dr. David McBride, "The African-American Medical Experience: Perspectives and Prospects," February 11, 1999.

Woman's History Month Lecture: Dr. Regina Morantz-Sanchez, "Dr. Mary Dixon Jones on Trial: Historical Reflections on the Problem of the Difficult Woman," March 24, 1999.

ON THE WEB

By Lisa A. Mix

Short Cuts in the Health Sciences

This edition of *On the Web* reviews several Web sites that link to resources in the health sciences. These

sites direct users to libraries, repositories, news, and topical information. The information from these sites should be helpful to librarians, archivists, and to our patrons.

First, an addition to the last issue's column about the Wellcome Institute's Web pages. I've since been informed that there is a direct URL to all the Wellcome Libraries' Web sites: http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/library. From this URL, one can access the History of Medicine Library, the Information Service, the Medical Photographic Library, and the Medical Film and Video Library.

U.S. National Network of Libraries of Medicine http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/

This site is part of the National Library of Medicine's domain. As such, there are direct links to NLM services such as Internet Grateful Med, PubMed, and Docline. There are also links to the Online Training Center, which offers classes in how to use NLM's databases. Strong points of this site are the links to regional sites and the "Guide to Internet Discovery Tools". At the bottom of the home page is a map, showing eight regions of the U.S.: Middle Atlantic, Southeastern Atlantic, Greater Midwest, Midcontinental, South Central, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southeast, and New England. Clicking on a portion of the map will bring the user to the Web site for that region. Regional sites differ in scope and quality, depending on the resources available in that area. All of them contain reports, news, training information, and some contact information. Some of the more extensive regional sites include directories and lists of libraries. The "Internet Discovery Tools" page <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/tools.html>provides a short list of important links, divided into "Guides to Health Resources", "Whole Web Search Tools", "Internet Discussion Finders", and "NN/LM Subject Lists". NNLM's site also includes a search function, which is useful for finding information on a specific topic. The search function includes only pages on NNLM's site (which is vast); it does not search external Web sites.

Medical/Health Sciences Libraries on the Web http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin-www/hslibs.html

This site, maintained at the Hardin Library for the

Health Sciences <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardinwww/home.html> at the University of Iowa, is a comprehensive list of medical libraries in the U.S., plus an extensive list of foreign links. This list is an excellent resource for finding Web sites of specific libraries, or for finding health science libraries in a certain area. The American libraries are listed first, grouped by state, followed by foreign libraries. There are groupings for Australia, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, and "other countries", including Italy, Spain, Israel, and several Asian and South American Countries. The list is updated regularly. At the bottom of the page is a section called "Related Resources", providing links to a number of Internet resources in the health sciences. One of the most useful links on this page is to the Hardin Meta Directory of Internet Health Sources http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/ md/index.html>, which lists the "best of the Web" in various health fields and specialties.

Canada Wide Health and Medical Archives Information Network http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/research/ams/chmain/

The Network is administered by the Centre for Research in Information Studies, in the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. This site is "designed to assist researchers and custodians of health care and medical archives in Canada". It is an excellent starting point for anyone working in a health care archives in Canada, particularly for archivists who are new to the field, or those who are establishing a new archives program. The network lists contact information for individuals, in each province of Canada, who have agreed to serve as advisors on issues such as "access policy", "conservation", "education/training" "general archives", and "medical archives". Reference archivists are also available to help with research questions. While the site is mainly a resource for Canadian professionals and researchers, it has some useful information for those of us south of the border (or around the world) — especially the "Print References" and "Internet Resources" sections. "Print References" lists key publications on health care archives; "Internet Resources" is a selective directory of relevant Web sites (most, though not all, of the Web sites listed are directory sites).

MedWebPlus http://www.medwebplus.com

MedWebPlus "is a free service designed to help users sift through the ever growing amounts of data of/on/ about or in any way regarding, the health sciences." It succeeds in its mission. The site uses NLM's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), and List of Serials Indexed for Online Users (LSI). Subject and location (i.e., geographical) listings are presented in MeSH tree structure. Those familiar with these tools will find MedWebPlus very easy to use. In searching for Web sites, one can browse by subject or location, or use the search function. The search function is forgiving (i.e., it doesn't demand that you enter the precise MeSH term) and returns a manageable list of relevant Web sites. Users have a choice of going directly to the Web sites, or viewing MedWebPlus's rating of each site. The ratings include "access grades", which assess how easy (or difficult) it is to get to a site, and also give location and subject headings. I've found it useful to look at the rating page before going to a Web site. The location and subject headings are active links, which bring up a list of more Web sites in that location or subject. (The "danger" here is that you can just keep surfing.) Other useful links from the MedWebPlus home page are "What's New Today" and "What's New This Week", each presenting Web sites recently added to MedWebPlus's database.

Other Web sites of interest

Remember to E-mail the URLs of any relevant Web sites to <lmix@jhmi.edu>. Note that my E-mail address has changed yet again; hopefully this will be the last time.

Academy of Certified Archivists — *new URL http://www.certifiedarchivists.org

American Psychological Association, Archives http://www.apa.org/archives/

American Society of Anesthesiologists http:// www.asahq.org/

Archival Elements (newsletter of SAA's Science, Technology, Health Care Roundtable) http:// www.archivists.org/units/ae.html Archives of the History of American Psychology http://www.uakron.edu/archival/psychology/

The Electronic Nobel Museum Project http:// www.nobel.se/enm-index.html

Electronic Records Section (SAA) http:// www.tc.umn.edu/~thoma134/ers/

Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) http://www.fens.org/

'Foundations of Science' http://www.vub.ac.be/ CLEA/FOS/

Human Nature Information eGroup http:// www.egroups.com/group/human-nature-info/

Institute of Museum and Library Services http:// www.imls.gov

Library and Archival Exhibitions on the Web — *new URL http://www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Online-Exhibitions/online-exhibitions-title.htm

Library of Virginia — *new URL http:// www.lva.lib.va.us

Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy http:// www.merck.com/pubs/mmanual/

New Dictionary of National Biography http:// www.oup.co.uk/newdnb

Online Dictionary of Mental Health http:// www.human-nature.com/odmh/index.html

Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/pewscholar.html

Queen's University's School of Anthropological Studies (Belfast, Northern Ireland) http:// www.qub.ac.uk/pas/sa/

Science magazine http://www.sciencemag.org

University of Pittsburgh, Falk Library of the Health Sciences, history of medicine division http:// www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/histmed/history.html University of Toronto Archives and Records Management Services — *new URL http:// www.library.utoronto.ca/utarms/index.html

FROM THE 'NET

By Eric v.d. Luft

Call for Papers: "Writing the Past, Claiming the Future: Women and Gender in Science, Medicine, and Technology," October 12-15, 2000, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO

"Writing the past, claiming the future" is being designed to further conversations begun at previous conferences among historians of science, medicine, and technology. These discussions made explicit how much historians of science, medicine, and technology can learn from each other. It is is intended to invite greater interchange among the disciplines, while recognizing the uniqueness of each.

Conference themes will include, but not be limited to, personal and external factors that empower or inhibit women's participation in the scientific, medical, and technological disciplines; scientific, medical, and technological ideas that have influenced ideas about gender and gender roles in the disciplines and in the wider society; and the relationship between gender and conceptions of knowledge and the practice of science, medicine, and technology.

Individual papers and panels are solicited on topics that explore the interdisciplinary relationships of women and gender and science, medicine, and technology. Conference organizers strongly encourage the submission of panels of two or three papers. We are particularly interested in panels that encompass a range of perspectives and stimulate "crosstalk" among scholars of different disciplines.

Proposals must include two copies of a one-page abstract and a one-page curriculum vitae. For proposals submitted as a panel, an abstract and vitae are required for each panel member. Proposals are due by January 1, 2000. If you have any questions or would like to be put on the mailing list to receive the conference brochure, please contact Charlotte G. Borst, Chair, Local Arrangements Committee (address below). Conference materials will be available after August 1, 2000.

Send proposals to: Charlotte G. Borst, Ph.D., Department of History, Saint Louis University, 3800 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63156

(caduceus-l@list.umaryland.edu, 4 June 1999)

AHA2000 Call for Abstracts: Anesthesia History Association, Annual Spring Meeting, March 29, 2000, Dolphin Hotel, Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida

The Anesthesia History Association invites the submission of abstracts for presentations at its 8th annual spring meeting. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the 25th annual meeting of the American Society of Regional Anesthesia. Presentations should be twenty minutes in length and relate in some way to the history of anesthesia, pain management or critical care medicine. Abstracts should be no longer than what can fit on one 8 and 1/ 2 by 11 sheet of paper. If possible, abstracts should indicate the research problem, sources and methodological approach used and may contain no more than ten references. Abstracts may be submitted by mail, fax or email. Disk submission in Wordcompatible format is also permitted. All accepted abstracts will be distributed in some form to all meeting registrants. Individuals who wish to organize a paper session around a theme should contact us as soon as possible. Abstracts must be submitted by December 15, 1999, to: A.J. Wright, MLS, AHA Annual Spring Meeting Organizing Committee, Department of Anesthesiology Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 619 19th Street South, JT965, Birmingham AL 35249-6810; 205/934-4696 [voice]; 205/975-5963 [fax]; <a.j.wright@ccc. uab.edu>.

Further announcements will be made as details for the program develop.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the American Society of Regional Anesthesia will offer a full day's program devoted to the history of regional anesthesia during its annual meeting March 30-April 2, 2000, at the Dolphin Hotel Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. A morning program will be devoted to a panel of invited speakers; an afternoon program will offer free papers on topics related to regional anesthesia history. Deadline for the submission of abstracts for the afternoon free papers session is October 16, 1999. Accepted abstracts will appear in the ASRA abstract supplement of the journal *Regional Anesthesia*.

To obtain the call for papers for the ASRA2000 meeting, contact: American Society of Regional Anesthesia, PO Box 11086, 1910 Byrd Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond VA 23230-1086.

Meeting organizer is: Dave Mackey, M.D., Mayo Clinic Department of Anesthesia; 904-296-5288 [voice]; <mackey.david@mayo.edu>.

(anes-hist@harpo.med.yale.edu, 4 June 1999; caduceus-l@list.umaryland.edu, ishm@creighton.edu, 7 June 1999)

Blackwell Exhibit for Loan

When Elizabeth Blackwell graduated from Geneva Medical College in Geneva, N.Y., in 1849, she became the first woman to complete a medical course and receive the degree of M.D. The National Library of Medicine has prepared an attractive poster exhibit to celebrate this noteworthy occasion. It has been displayed at recent meetings of the American Association for the History of Medicine and the Medical Library Association and is now available for loan. The poster is 8' x 4' and can be attached to an easel with Velcro strips. For more information, contact Carol Clausen, exhibit curator, by e-mail <carol_clausen@nlm.nih.gov> or phone 301 435-4993.

(caduceus-l@list.umaryland.edu, 6 July 1999)

STHC-L: "Science, Technology and Health Care Archives Forum" ... a listserv which is available for the posting/cross-posting of queries and announcements pertaining to Science, Technology, and Health Care archives and archivists.

STHC-L is a relatively quiet list, so don't worry about being overwhelmed by messages once you subscribe.

List archives are maintained on the Web (and thus are readable even if you don't subscribe) at <http:// www.medsch.ucla.edu/som/bri/archives/sthc/ msgsthc.htm>

Purpose: STHC-L provides a forum for archivists working at institutions in the natural, physical, and social sciences, technology, and the health sciences. It includes announcements, inquiries, and discussion on access to historical sources and their use and interpretation.

Audience: Membership is open to archivists and users of archives in the history of science, technology, and health care. The listserv is maintained for the benefit of the Science, Technology and Health Care Roundtable (STHC) of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), but it is open to all (anyone with an e-mail account can subscribe without restriction).

How to subscribe: To join the list (even though the term "subscribe" is used, there is not and will not be a fee), send an e-mail message to listproc@library.ucla.edu with the following request in the message area: subscribe STHC-L Yourfirstname Yourlastname, institution (Example: subscribe STHC-L Russell Johnson, UCLA)

Be sure the message is contained in a single line in the message area; the subject line should be blank. You need not include the comma and the institutional identification, but the latter is helpful to the list moderator and other subscribers. Note that you do "NOT" include your e-mail address, only your full name. This is because ListProc, the listserv software, automatically reads the return address on your subscription message and uses that as your e-mail address. Because of this, be sure to be logged on and to send the subscription request from the account or address to which you want STHC-L messages sent!

For more information, or if you have problems subscribing or issuing other commands, please contact the List Administrator: Russell A. Johnson <rjohnson@library.ucla.edu>

(alhhs-l@list.hscsyr.edu, 7 July 1999)

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions for its 1999 prize essay competition. This prize is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine as judged by the SSHM's assessment panel. The winner will be awarded 200 pounds, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal, Social History of Medicine.

The competition is open to students and recently qualified postdoctoral scholars. The deadline for submissions is 31 December 1999.

Further details and an entry form can be obtained from the membership secretary: David Cantor, Department of History and Economic History, Manchester Metropolitan University, Geoffrey Manton Building, Rosamond Street West, Manchester M15 6LL. England. <d.cantor@mmu.ac.uk or dcantor@fs4. ma.man.ac.uk>

SSHM website: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ ~ahzwww/SSHM/homesshm.htm>

(histneur-l@library.ucla.edu, 7 July 1999)

For those of you who may not know ... the first edition of the "Recent Science Newsletter" [Vol. 1 No. 1 -Spring 1999] was recently published by the relatively newly formed Center for History of Recent Science and the The George Washington University, Washington DC. It can be found at <http:// www.gwu.edu/~recsci/RSN/index.html>

Leading the newsletter is an article by the founder of the Center, Horace Freeland Judson, on "Why history of recent science?". It sets out a bit of the history behind the establishment of the Center but mainly looks at the intellectual basis of the Centre and what it hopes to contribute.

I found this article (as well as the rest of THE high quality contributions) quite inspiring - in a time when it has become increasingly difficult to sustain commitment to history and heritage activities with relation to science, technology and medicine, the new energy and enthusiasm of the Centre is most welcome. If you are looking for well worded arguments to support your activities, this may be the best source in recent times. I wish them well.

Further information about the Centre for History of Recent Science can be found at: <http:// www.gwu.edu/~recsci/index.html>. To subscribe email or write to: Steven C. Weiss, Managing Editor, Recent Science Newsletter, Center for History of Recent Science, George Washington University, Washington DC 20052; <scweiss@gwu.edu>.

(histneur-l@library.ucla.edu, 15 July 1999; stama@asap.unimelb.edu.au, 16 July 1999)

Cheryl Warsh <warshc@faculty.mala.bc.ca> writes: Manuscript reviewers wanted.

The Canadian Bulletin of Medical History appears twice a year, and publishes scholarly articles, short research notes, methodological discussions, review essays, book reviews and descriptions of archival or museological holdings.

The journal welcomes manuscripts on all aspects of the history of medicine and health care. Authors should submit four copies of article manuscripts to the Editor. With the submission, they should state that the manuscript has neither been published nor is being considered for publication elsewhere.

Scholarly articles must include an abstract, in English and French versions if possible. References should appear at the end of the manuscript. Articles may be in English or French. Contact the Editor for examples of the format for references.

Those wishing to act as anonymous reviewers of manuscripts or as book reviewers should contact the Editor, noting area(s) of expertise.

Cheryl Krasnick Warsh, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Bulletin of Medical History, Department of History, Malaspina University College, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo, British Columbia, V9R 5S5 Canada; phone: 250-753-3245 local 2113; fax: 250-741-2667; email: <warshc@mala.bc.ca>; hist dept homepage: <http://www.mala.bc.ca/www/history/histweb.htm>.

(anes-hist@harpo.med.yale.edu, 20 July 1999)

The Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia each year offers fellowships for conducting research in the College's Library and/or Mütter Museum. These short-term grants are awarded to scholars engaged in projects requiring personal use of the historical collections of the library and/or museum during the spring/summer/fall of each year. The Wood Institute was established in 1976 to share with the scholarly community the rich resources of the library and the museum and to encourage the study of developments in health care using these resources.

The College of Physicians is pleased to announce the following 1999 Francis C. Wood Institute Fellows and their research topics:

James D. Alsop, Ph.D., McMaster University, "Anglo-American Maritime and Colonial Medicine."

M. Rene Burmeister, M.A., Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, "For the Profession or the Public? Medical Museums and Artificial Anatomy."

Eric v.d. Luft, Ph.D., M.L.S., SUNY Health Science Center, Syracuse, "The Evolution of Attitudes of American Physicians Toward Their Women Patients in the Nineteenth Century."

Christine Kleinegger, Ph.D., New York State Museum, "Study of Sleep from a Historical Perspective."

Erin McLeary, M.A., University of Pennsylvania, "Organize, Classify, Arrange, and Display': The Medical Museum in American Culture, 1859-1951."

David Serlin, M.A., New York University, History of Organotherapy and Its Relationship to the History of Endocrinology.

Ann Starr, M.A., Her Studio - Wellesley, MA, The Body's Interior as Visualized Through Medicine and Individual Fantasy.

Lana Thompson, B.A., Medical & Scientific Word Services, "Down the Tubes: Images of Women in Printed Medical Illustrations of the Hand-Press Era." George Weisz, Ph.D., McGill University, "Rethinking Medical Specialization in Comparative Perspective, 1800-1960."

Ann Hopkins Wilson, Plymouth Meeting, Penn., "Visual Hallucinations as Portrayed in Artworks."

(caduceus-l@list.umaryland.edu, 20 July 1999)

The Bibliographical Society of America (BSA) invites applications for its annual short-term fellowship program, which supports bibliographical inquiry as well as research in the history of the book trades and in publishing history. Eligible topics may concentrate on books and documents in any field, but should focus on the book or manuscript (the physical object) as historical evidence. Such topics may include establishing a text or studying the history of book production, publication, distribution, collecting, or reading. Enumerative listings do not fall within the scope of this program.

BSA fellowships may be held for one or two months. The program is open to applicants of any nationality. Fellows will be paid a stipend of up to \$1,500 per month in support of travel, living, and research expenses. In 1999 the BSA awarded eleven months of support to nine scholars from a variety of disciplines.

Applications, including three letters of reference, for this program will be due on December 1, 1999. Prospective applicants are invited to download an application directly from our web-site or, contact the BSA Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 1537, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021, for application forms and additional information about the program.

(sharp-l@listserv.indiana.edu, 27 July 1999)

Notice of Conference, 7th-9th April 2000, International Colloquium on Cranial Trepanation in Human History, University of Birmingham, Birmingham (UK), organised by the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology of the University of Birmingham (UK), the Institute of Ancient History of the University of Salzburg (Austria) and the Russian Postgraduate Medical Academy, Moscow (Russia).

This international colloquium, the first of its kind, aims

to bring together a group of specialists, human palaeopathologists, clinical neurologists, neurosurgeons, archaeologists and medical historians with the aim of discussing all aspects of cranial trepanation from the ancient world to modern ethnographic examples. The multi-disciplinary programme will include sessions on (a) the pathological identification of trepanation; (b) the evolution of techniques; (c) The interpretation of cranial trepanation - medicine or magic; (d) the future direction of study.

For further information and a copy of the second circular contact: Robert Arnott, Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK; Telephone: +44(0)121-414 5511/5497; Fax: +44(0) 121-414 3595; E-mail: <R.G.Arnott@bham.ac.uk>.

(ishm@creighton.edu, histneur-l@library.ucla.edu, 28 July 1999)

Conference Announcement: "From Liturgy to Therapy: The Hospital in History," 12-13 November 1999.

Conference organised by the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine and the Centre of East Anglian Studies (University of East Anglia) and the International Network for the History of Hospitals (INHH) to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the Great Hospital in Norwich.

Speakers include: Dr Carole Rawcliffe (East Anglia), Professor Kevin Robbins (Indiana), Dr Peregrine Horden (All Souls, Oxford), Professor Olwen Hufton (Merton College, Oxford) Professor Guenter Risse (California, San Francisco), Dr Elsbeth Heaman (Imperial College, London), Dr Steven Cherry (East Anglia), Ms Helen Bettinson (East Anglia).

Financial support gratefully received from:, The Wellcome Trust, The International Network for the History of Hospitals, Centre of East Anglian Studies

Conference to be held at the Great Hospital (1249-1999) and UEA, Norwich, 12-13 November 1999, to mark the 750th anniversary of the Great Hospital. Staged jointly by the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, UEA, the International Network for the History of Hospitals (INHH) and the Centre of East Anglian Studies, UEA.

This will not only be the first conference to be mounted by the new Unit, but also by the INHH. It is interdisciplinary and international, going far beyond institutional history to examine themes of religion, architecture, medical education, charity and social policy. It also aims to reflect the importance of the region and regional studies in the History of Medicine and of The Hospital.

Because of seating capacity and insurance cover at the Great Hospital, numbers will be restricted to just over seventy.

Booking forms and information from Becky Fitt, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, School of History, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ; Telephone: 01603 593878; Fax: 01603 593285; E-mail: <R.Fitt@uea.ac.uk>.

(anes-hist@harpo.med.yale.edu, 19 Aug 1999)

Robert Maxwell Young <robert@rmyl.demon.co.uk> writes: New eGroup: "Human Nature Information" <human-nature-info@egroups.com>.

For some time I have felt that the web sites are unsatisfactory to which I regularly contribute information about email forums, web sites and other information of potential interest to people concerned with various aspects of human nature, the human sciences, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, philosophy of science, medicine and related matters. The two main sites are the Guides to the Internet at the Sheffield Centre for Psychotherapeutic Studies http:// www.shef.ac.uk/~psysc/guides.html> (largely compiled by me and with many entries which are dated or obsolete) and The Online Dictionary of Mental Health<http://www.human-nature.com/odmh/ index.html> (largely compiled by Ian Pitchford). I expect those sites to remain valuable, but I now intend to complement them with a new one which has the advantage that it is very easy to add new entries to it. It takes the form of a web-based eGroup with an archive which is easy of access. From now on I will archive any new information there which I think may be of specialist interest, as well as other items which

may be of general interest, e.g., cultural publications, free software, conferences, etc. Subscribers will receive each announcement as it is posted, and they will all be archived at the eGroup's web site. Over time this is likely to build into a considerable resource.

To join the eGroup, send an e-mail with no message to: <human-nature-info-subscribe@egroups.com>.

The eGroup's messages, calendar, document vault, and more are available on the web at: <http:// www.egroups.com/group/human-nature-info/>. I will act as the forum moderator. Suggested items for inclusion on the forum and for placement in the archive will be submitted for my consideration. Anyone wishing to set up their own forum and archive, with their own rules and procedures, can do so free of charge at <http://www.egroups.com>.

Here is the eGroup description: This forum is an archive of information about email forums, web sites, archives and other information of potential interest to people working or interested in human nature. It includes the human sciences, philosophy, psychoanalysis and psychotherapy, psychiatry, philosophy of science, issues in medicine and the history of medicine, social studies of science, cultural studies, brain science and any other topic which appears to be relevant, including publications and information of general interest to internet users. Subscribers can also raise issues with me directly at <robert@rmy1.demon.co.uk>...<http://www.humannature.com>.

(h-sci-med-tech@h-net.msu.edu, 19 August 1999; histneur-l@library.ucla.edu, 20 August 1999)

The New York Academy of Medicine Research Fellowships in the Academy Library (academic year 2000-01): The Paul Klemperer Fellowship in the History of Medicine; The Audrey and William H. Helfand Fellowship in the Medical Humanities

Each year the New York Academy of Medicine offers the Paul Klemperer Fellowship and the Audrey and William H. Helfand Fellowship to support work in history and the humanities as they relate to medicine, the biomedical sciences, and health.

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The Klemperer Fellowship supports research using the Academy Library as a historical resource. It is intended specifically for a scholar in residence in the collections of the Academy Library.

The Helfand Fellowship more broadly supports work in the humanities, including both creative projects dealing with health and the medical enterprise, and scholarly research in a humanistic discipline as applied to medicine and health. Although residence is not obligatory, preference in the selection process will be given applicants whose projects require use of the resources of the Academy Library and who plan to spend time at the Academy.

The Helfand Fellowship and the Klemperer Fellowship each provide stipends of up to \$5,000 to support travel, lodging and incidental expenses for a flexible period between June 1, 2000 and May 31, 2001. Besides completing research or a creative project, each Fellow will be expected to make a presentation at the Academy and submit a final report on the project. We invite applications from anyone - regardless of citizenship, academic discipline, or academic status — who wishes to use the Academy's collections for historical research or for a scholarly or creative project in the medical humanities. Preference will be given to (1) those who show the need to use resources that are uniquely available at the Academy, and (2) scholars or creative artists in the early stages of their careers.

Applicants may compete for either the Klemperer or the Helfand Fellowship, but not both. These fellowships are awarded directly to the individual applicant and not to the institution where he or she may normally be employed. None of the fellowship money is to be used for institutional overhead.

Applications must be received by the Academy by February 4, 2000; candidates will be informed of the results by May 15, 2000.

The application form and instructions for completing it are available on the World Wide Web, at <www.nyam.org/history/histinstr.html>. Potential applicants for either fellowship are advised to visit the Academy website (www.nyam.org) to further acquaint themselves with the Academy and its library. When using the online catalog of the Academy Library, please be aware that entries for a considerable portion of the collections have not yet been converted to electronic form.

Requests for application forms (for those unable to access the forms through the web) or further information should be addressed to: Office of the Associate Librarian for Historical Collections and Programs, New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029. E-mail: <history@nyam.org>. Telephone: 212-822-7314.

(caduceus-l@list.umaryland.edu,alhhsl@list.hscsyr.edu, 1 Sept. 1999)

When/if you attend the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida (USA), 23-28 October 1999, please be sure to visit the History of Neuroscience poster session, which will be up all week (authors will be present for two scheduled times on Sunday and some may be found near their posters at various times throughout the week).

(histneur-l@library.ucla.edu, 1 Sept. 1999)

At URL <http://www.schistory.org/getty/> is an online introduction to the principles of organization and description used in archives. It is a first-step towards acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to provide access to the rich cultural heritage information in archival collections. The site also includes links to additional resources for further archival training such as workshops, readings, professional organizations, archival education programs and conferences.

Authors: Michael J. Fox, Minnesota Historical Society; Peter L. Wilkerson, South Carolina Historical Society; Editor: Susanne R. Warren, Lanzi/Warren Associates; Reviewers: Timothy Ericson, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee; Kris Kiesling, University of Texas, Austin; Helen Tibbo, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

(archives@listserv.muohio.edu, 1 Sept. 1999)

CONGRATULATIONS

The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia, has received a gift of \$1.04 million, the largest in the library's history. Alvin V. Baird, Jr. and his wife Nancy of Harrisonburg, VA, donated the funds which are expected to generate more than \$1 million dollars over the next sixteen years. The gift will create and fund the Alvin V. and Nancy Baird Professorship in Historical Collections.

"We are pleased to make this gift to the health sciences library because we realize the importance of properly archiving historical materials," said Nancy Baird. "In addition, some of Al's happiest years were spent at the university." The Baird's gift will establish an endowed professorship for the library's curator of historical collections, ensuring continuing professional oversight for the rare books, manuscripts, archival records and photographs that comprise the collection. The gift will enable the library's historical collections and services department, which already has a national reputation for excellence, to better serve an audience that includes medical and nursing students, undergraduates, faculty, staff, scholars, and researchers.

The Bairds have a generous record of giving to UVA, especially to the health sciences library. "In the past three years, Alvin and Nancy Baird contributed more than \$100,000 to create a collection endowment and support the library's renovation," said Library Director Linda Watson. "We are thrilled to use the Baird's latest gift to celebrate their passion for history. Few medical institutions have an endowed curator position for their historical collections. This gift places UVA in a rare and privileged position."

NEW MEMBERS

ALHHS welcomes

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The Watermark is issued quarterly to members of Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences and is edited by Lilli Sentz.

Membership information may be obtained from Stephen C. Wagner, ALHHS Secretary-Treasurer, Department of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma, 455 West Lindsey Street, Room 605, Norman, OK 73019-2006; (405) 325-6324 or (405) 325-1830; FAX: (405) 325-2660; E-MAIL: swagner@ou.edu

Production deadlines are 1 December, 1 March, 1 June and 1 September.

Submissions may be sent to: Lilli Sentz, Special Projects Librarian, New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10029-5293; (212) 822-7313; FAX (212) 722-7650; E-MAIL lsentz@health.nyam.org.

Submissions for Ex Libris should be sent to: Lucretia W. McClure, 164 Elmore Road, Rochester, NY 14618-3651; (716) 244-8703; E-MAIL lucretiaru@earthlink.net