



*Max Dupain, Humidicrib, c1952. Gelatin silver photograph.*

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY

## CHAPTER 44

# MEDICINE AND HEALTH

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B. GANDEVIA

THE PREPARATION of a representative bibliography of medicine and health, even if restricted to one country or society, is necessarily a complex task because these two subjects embrace an enormous range of human activity. The reciprocal relationship between health and disease is an index of a society's adaptation to its physical and socioeconomic environment, and the factors that influence the balance between physical and psychological health and ill-health make up a very considerable component of what is often termed social history. There are thus problems in defining the scope of the following bibliography and many items which might have been included here will be found in other chapters of this volume, such as 'Welfare' (chapter 43), 'Domestic life' (chapter 40), 'Aborigines' (chapter 14 and 15) and in the overviews included in 'Social history' (chapter 38).

Furthermore, each of the states has its own independent history of medicine, influenced by Federation only in certain areas from about 1920. The colonies were founded at different times with different populations, economic and occupational bases in widely different geographic and climatic environments; their growth rates also varied. The differences lessened with changing demographic patterns (notably in regard to age and sex distribution and population density), economic and industrial development and a reduction in the isolation of remote areas. Before the early decades of this century the differences are reflected in morbidity and mortality data as well as in differences in legislation relating to health. Similarities were present also, particularly if allowance is made for the various stages of development.

Just as each colony had its own medical history, each state has tended to have its own medical historians. Mostly medically qualified 'amateurs', they understandably and appropriately restricted the scope of their studies. Social histories in more recent years have taken a broader view, particularly when dealing with the twentieth century where the similarities perhaps outweigh the differences. Although there are exceptions to both these generalisations, the fact remains that few studies of medical and health topics relate to the whole of Australia from its earliest settlement; the formidable but rewarding task of critically evaluating these differences and similarities has yet to be undertaken. There is, unfortunately, not even a conventional history of medicine in Australia which might at least provide a sound technical basis for historians with a wider perspective. A corollary to all these observations is that most of the reference material is to be found in journals rather than books.

The present literature survey is thus highly selective, and often only examples of a certain type

of study have been cited. To make this clear, to indicate the full scope of material which the reader might wish to consult, and because a simple alphabetical listing proved incongruous by juxtaposing items on widely disparate subjects, it was found preferable to list items in seventeen broad categories as follows:

- From 1788 to 1900
- Public health and administration
- Specific diseases and problems
- Aerial medical services
- Specialised aspects of medicine
- Birth control and population growth
- Research and research institutions
- Popular and folk medicine
- Biography and autobiography
- Military medicine
- Medicine and health through 100 years
- Contemporary health care
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Bibliographies
- Reference works

This approach also permits the annotations to comment on the literature of the subject rather than on the content of an individual item which might have been selected from many others on rather arbitrary grounds and which, in many cases, is adequately described by title. The selection criteria are not easily specified; attention was paid to quality and effective documentation and reference as much as to content or viewpoint, and some attempt has been made to make the bibliography representative of different periods and different colonies.

The choice of items for the sections on nursing, dentistry and pharmacy posed additional problems in that very little attention has been paid to these subjects on a national basis or in terms of their social context.

The peculiar fascination of the first century or more of Australian medicine is its reflection of the adaptation of an essentially European society to a wholly different physical, social and demographic environment. This interaction was reflected not only in the diseases encountered and the ways in which they manifested themselves but also in the manner of medical practice and the nature of its practitioners, as well as the relationship of both to community needs. The Europeans' way of life, and especially their occupation of land, as much as their diseases, had a major impact on Aboriginal morbidity, mortality and welfare, initiating a major population decline which has been arrested only in recent years; this question is more fully examined in section IV of this volume.

Although the surgeons White, Bowes and Worgan accompanying the first fleet contributed significantly to the literature of the first settlement, their accounts contain little more information of a medical kind than is to be found in Collins or even Tench. Details of their journals are given in chapter 22 on the 'First European settlements'. Thereafter there is a relative dearth of medical sources, official or otherwise, until towards the middle of the nineteenth century. Archival sources, for practical purposes, emerge with the independence of the several colonies, although some penal records of medical interest exist, notably in Tasmania and Western Australia. Practitioners in medicine, like their colleagues in art and literature, took some decades to adapt to the Australian environment and to accept it as 'home'. This acceptance is reflected in the establishment of medical journals and societies from the late 1850s. Both also served to enhance the status and influence of the profession, significant ever since the beneficial effects of appropriate medical care and shipboard hygiene had been demonstrated early in the penal era.

As the independent colonies began to mature, in a social and legislative sense, and especially in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first decade or so of the twentieth, an increasing interest in public health and welfare became manifest. In part this was a reflection of developments in the 'Old Country', but it was also a reflection of local problems, varying in character and severity from one state to another and perhaps stimulated in some cases by the economic recession of the 1890s. Local problems of sanitation and water supply were rendered urgent by the high prevalence of gastrointestinal disorders in children and typhoid fever in adults. The frequency of psychiatric disorders from a variety of causes aroused considerable concern, and questions were raised about their institutional management. Mining accidents and working conditions in factories and shops demanded investigation, as did problems of poverty associated especially with a shift of the population to the cities. The decline in the birth rate, from a high level after the gold rush, evoked alarm over the health status of potential mothers as well as the use of contraception.

These matters were subject to governmental inquiries or royal commissions too numerous to list here, but invaluable in providing anecdotal, and sometimes objective and statistical, information about conditions at that period. An index to those can be found in the *Checklist of royal commissions, select committees of parliament and boards of inquiry* compiled by D.H. Borchardt *et al* (see chapter 8). Health departments and their precursors (often 'Boards of Health') have produced annual reports for a century or more.

Federation did not immediately affect state independence on health matters, except quarantine, but the influence of the commonwealth extended progressively, and eventually rapidly, from the 1920s. Today its role, through its financial control, is paramount in the provision of hospital care and medical services. The vacillations of various federal governments have produced an unprecedented and regrettable instability in the administration of medical care in the past two decades.

Australian medical literature developed slowly from the first journals and separate publications in the mid-nineteenth century (see Ford, 1976), but rapidly after World War II. There are now not only general medical journals, sponsored in various ways, but also a wide range of specialist journals publishing material of international standard. Scientific monographs and student textbooks are now frequently produced locally although, for reasons of wider distribution, a publisher with international connections is often selected, especially if there exists a local branch of a large international publishing house.

My thanks are due to Alison Holster, Librarian, History of Medicine Library, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, for her assistance in the preparation of this bibliography.



Sydney Mail, 12 Feb 1919. Influenza was brought to Australia by troops returning from Europe at the end of World War I. It quickly became an epidemic. In an attempt to control the spread of the virus, governments banned mass spectator sports and insisted that masks be worn in public to minimise the risk of infection. These youngsters are on their way to a church in Melbourne which urged parishioners to 'Obey the law' and 'wear masks while in Church'. Newspaper pictures like this can provide a great deal of information to historians.

## FROM 1788 TO 1900

BATESON, C. *The convict ships 1787–1868*. Sydney, Library of Australian History, 1983. 434 p, illus.

First published in 1959.

BOWDEN, K.M. *Doctors and diggers on the Mount Alexander goldfields*. Maryborough, Vic, The Author, 1974. 215 p, illus, map.

BROWN, K.S.M. *Medical practice in old Parramatta: a historical review of village doctoring in the colony of New South Wales*. A & R, 1937. 136 p, illus.

GANDEVIA, B. 'The medico-historical significance of young and developing countries, illustrated by Australian experience', in E. Clarke, ed, *Modern methods in the history of medicine*. London, Athlone Press, 1971, 75–98.

GANDEVIA, B. 'Socio-medical factors in the evolution of the first settlement at Sydney Cove 1788–1803', *J R Aust Hist Soc* 61, 1, 1975, 1–25.

GORDON, D. "'The waiting years": 1842–1959', *Medical J of Australia* 1, 1966, 249–53, 288–90, 336–40.

MORGAN, E.S. *A short history of medical women in Australia*. Melbourne, Burroughs Wellcome and Co for the Australian Federation of Medical Women, 1970. 56 p, illus.

NEVE, M.H. *'This mad folly!' The history of Australia's pioneer women doctors*. Sydney, Library of Australian History, 1980. 174 p, illus.

PEARN, H.J. AND O'CARRIGAN, C. eds, *Australia's quest for colonial health: some influences on early health and medicine in Australia*. Brisbane, Dept of Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital, 1983. 318 p, illus.

PENSABENE, T.S. *The rise of the medical practitioner in Victoria*. Canberra, Australian National University, 1980. 219 p, illus. (Health Research Project. Research monograph, 2.) Gandevia's paper (1971) is a suitable introduction to this whole chapter because it aims not only to relate Australian physical and social environments to the pattern of disease and the evolution of medical practice, mainly in the nineteenth century, but also to define a possible role for the study of Australian medical history within the history of medicine generally. Although more detailed studies are available in relation to overall mortality and individual voyages, Bateson's (1969) general review of the convict migration is excellent, especially in relation to medical administrative aspects. Gandevia (1975) and Gordon (1966) examine the medical history of two settlements in their early phases. Macarthur Brown (1937) is a reliable account of medical practice in what was initially a rural area in 1789 up to about the turn of the century. Bowden (1974) is the most detailed survey of medical practice during a unique era in colonial development; in a later work he dealt with medical practice in Ballarat (*Goldrush doctors at Ballarat*, Melbourne, The Author, 1977). Pensabene (1980) usefully reviews medical and non-medical literature in an evaluation of the changing status of the medical practitioner, although some of his observations and the addendum on a later period must be treated with reserve. In this context, see also the article by David G. Green 'Primary medical care and the friendly societies in nineteenth and early twentieth century Victoria' in *J R Aust Hist Soc* (69, 4, 1984, 263–73). Women entered medicine towards the end of the nineteenth century, and Morgan (1970) and Neve (1980) are general surveys of their activities; more detailed information is available in individual papers and biographies.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADMINISTRATION

CILENTO, R.W. 'Medicine in Queensland', *J of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland* 6, 4, 1961–62, 866–941.

CUMMINS, C.J. *A history of medical administration in New South Wales 1788–1973*. Sydney, Health Commission of NSW, 1979. 223 p.

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. *The health of the people: a study in federalism*. Canberra, Roebuck, 1978. 148 p, illus.

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. 'Public health in Australia: the first forty-two years; the second period, 1830–1850; developments after 1850', *Medical J of Australia* 1931, 1, 491–500, 591–97, 679–865.

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. *Quarantine: Australian maritime quarantine and the evolution of international agreements concerning quarantine*. Melbourne, Government Printer, 1913. 14 p.

SNOW, D.J.R. *The progress of public health in Western Australia, 1829–1977*. Perth, Public Health Dept, 1981. 185 p, illus, map.

The reviews by Cummins (1979) and by Cumpston (1931) are complementary; the former depicts medical administration in a single colony and state over an extensive period, while the latter deals in greater detail with the more medical aspects over a limited period. The items by Snow (1981) and Cilento (1961–62) are included to illustrate development in different colonies with different problems; Qld developed a hospital care system then unique in Australia. Cumpston's (1978) survey was written many years before it was published posthumously, but the reflections of a man who exercised a remarkable influence on many aspects of public health during his long career are of more than historical interest. This book includes Michael Roe's history of the Australian Department of Health, first published in *Hist stud* (17, 67, 1976, 176–92), and serves to place Cumpston's contribution in some perspective. Cumpston (1913) on quarantine is included because of its special interest in relation to the medical history of an isolated continent, although its influence on disease in Australia is examined in more detail in papers included in the following section. The most important account of government intervention in health care is Claudia Thame's PhD thesis (ANU 1974) 'Health and the State' which traces the development of collective responsibility for health in the commonwealth and in the states from 1900 to 1950.

## SPECIFIC DISEASES AND PROBLEMS

CAMPBELL, W.A. 'The use and abuse of stimulants in the early days of settlement in New South Wales, with reference to the historical ti plant and the Australian tea trees', *J and proceedings of the Royal Australian Historical Society* 18, 1, 1932, 74–9.

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. *The history of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough in Australia 1788–1925*. Canberra, Government Printer, 1927. 617 p. (Australia. Department of Health. Service publication, 37.)

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. *The history of smallpox in Australia, 1788–1908*. Melbourne, Government Printer, 1914. 182 p, maps. (Australia. Quarantine Service. Publication, 3.)

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. AND McCALLUM, F. *The history of intestinal infections and typhus fever in Australia, 1788–1923*. Melbourne, Government Printer, 1927. 738 p. (Australia. Department of Health. Service publication, 36.)

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. AND McCALLUM, F. *The history of plague in Australia, 1900–1925*. Melbourne, Government Printer, 1926. 238 p, maps. (Australia. Department of Health. Service publication, 32.)

CUMPSTON, J.H.L. AND McCALLUM, F. *The history of smallpox in Australia, 1909–1923*. Melbourne, Government Printer, 1925. 243 p. (Australia. Department of Health. Service publication, 29.)

DINGLE, A.E. "The truly magnificent thirst": an historical survey of Australian drinking habits', *Hist stud* 19, 75, 1980, 227-49.

FORBES, J.A. 'Rubella: historical aspects', *American J of diseases of children* 118, 1, 1969, 5-11.

WALKER, R.B. 'Tobacco smoking in Australia, 1788-1914' *Hist stud* 19, 75, 1980, 267-85.

Plague has a relatively short history in Australia but it had a radical impact on the redevelopment of historic areas of Sydney. The histories of smallpox, the intestinal infections and the formerly common infectious diseases of childhood are among the most comprehensive medicohistorical studies made in this country. Although much of the approach is technical, each contains an extensive bibliography with meticulous attention to non-medical sources, especially for the nineteenth century. The paper on rubella is included because Australian contributions showed that rubella in pregnancy might cause a variety of congenital defects. Alcoholism and tobacco smoking are common in Australian society.

### AERIAL MEDICAL SERVICE

BILTON, J. *The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia: its origin, growth and development*. Ed by J. Macdonald Holmes. Sydney, Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia Federal Council, 1961. 257 p, illus, map.

HILL, E. *Flying doctor calling: the Flying Doctor Service of Australia*. A & R, 1947. 156 p, illus, map.

Aerial medical services were an original Australian development, and there is quite an extensive range of publications on this theme.

### SPECIALISED ASPECTS OF MEDICINE

BOSTOCK, J. *The dawn of Australian psychiatry: an account of the measures taken for the care of mental invalids from the time of the first fleet, 1788 to the year 1850, including a survey of the overseas background and the casenotes of Dr F. Campbell*. Sydney, Australian Medical Association, 1968. 219 p, illus. Originally issued as duplicated typescript in 1951.

BROTHERS, C.R.D. *Early Victorian psychiatry 1835-1905*. Melbourne, Government Printer, 1962. 254 p, illus, maps.

DAX, E.C. *Asylum to community: the development of the mental hygiene service in Victoria, Australia*. Melbourne, Cheshire, 1961. 230 p, illus, maps.

GANDEVIA, B. 'Annual post-graduate oration: occupation and disease in Australia since 1788', *Bulletin of the Post-graduate Committee in Medicine, University of Sydney* 27, 1971-72, 157-228.

GANDEVIA, B. *Tears often shed: child health and welfare in Australia from 1788*. With the research assistance of Sheila Simpson. Sydney, Pergamon, 1978. 151 p, illus.

The items listed in this section are highly selective. There have been numerous publications, usually in journal form, dealing with a wide range of specialties in medicine, particularly surveys related to technical advances, educational developments and institutional or organisational histories. Those primarily of professional interest have been omitted. However, the history of psychiatry and of the medical and institutional management of mental disease are of contemporary interest and have been well documented. Similarly, the studies on paediatrics and occupational health are included because they attempt to link these problems with sociohistorical issues and thereby gain greater interest outside the purely technical aspects of their subject matter. The last mentioned offers an extensive bibliography.

### BIRTH CONTROL AND POPULATION GROWTH

CALDWELL, J.C. AND WARE, H. 'The evolution of family planning in Australia', *Population studies* 27, 1, 1973, 7-31.

HICKS, N. *This sin and scandal: Australia's population debate 1891-1911*. ANUP, 1978. 208 p, illus.

This section should be considered in conjunction with other chapters in this volume, notably chapter 39 on 'Immigration and demography'. The problems of birth control and population growth occupied the minds of many authorities, particularly at the turn of the century.

### RESEARCH AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

BURNET, F.M. *Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, 1915-1965*. MUP, 1971. 193 p, illus.

*DOCTORS and Australian science: an exhibition ...* Sydney, Royal Australasian College of Physicians Library, 1980. 40 p.

DOHERTY, R.L. 'The Bancroft tradition in infectious disease research in Queensland', *Medical J of Australia* 1978, 2, 12, 560-3; 1978, 2, 13, 591-4.

FENNER, F.J. 'The history of the John Curtin School of Medical Research, a centre for research and postgraduate education in the basic medical sciences', *Medical J of Australia* 2, 4, 1971, 177-86.

GORDON-TAYLOR, G. 'The debt of surgical science to Australia', *Australian and New Zealand J of surgery* 17, 2, 1947, 75-111.

INGLIS, K.S. *Hospital and community: a history of the Royal Melbourne Hospital*. MUP, 1958. 226 p, illus.

KRUPINSKI, J. *et al, The history and achievements of the Mental Health Research Institute, 1956-1981*. Melbourne, Mental Health Research Institute, Health Commission of Vic, 1981. 224 p, illus.

RUSSELL, K.F. *The Melbourne Medical School 1862-1962*. MUP, 1977. 277 p, illus.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY. School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. *School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, 1930-1980*. Sydney, The School, 1980. 179 p, illus.

This section is intended to be representative of as wide a field as possible within a limited scope. Gordon-Taylor, a distinguished British surgeon, provides a review (1947-48) more wideranging than its title might suggest, while Doherty's (1978) paper deals with particularly important problems in the settlement of tropical areas. The contribution of doctors to relatively 'pure' science is reflected in the publication from the History of Medicine Library of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (1980). The remainder is a select series of publications concerned with the history of individual organisations. Russell (1977) on the medical school at Melbourne University is a comprehensive and meticulously documented history; lesser histories are available related to most other medical schools. Medical research has not been a feature of Australian hospitals, except insofar as university departments and the efforts of individuals are concerned, but Inglis (1958) is included because it attempts to place a hospital in its social setting. Burnet (1971) is exceptional in that the book represents the reflections of an eminent scientist who was also the director of an organisation which achieved the highest international standing. The John Curtin School of Medical Research has a unique background in Australian medicine, in that it was established in a university solely as a research centre, with no undergraduate responsibilities, and achieved similar academic renown.

POPULAR AND FOLK MEDICINE

CRIBB, AB. AND CRIBB, J.W. *Wild medicine in Australia*. Sydney, Collins, 1981. 228 p, illus.

HAGGER, J. *Australian colonial medicine*. Adelaide, Rigby, 1979. 219 p, illus.

PHILLIPS, P.J. *Kill or cure? Lotions, potions, characters and quacks of early Australia*. Adelaide, Rigby, 1978. 157 p, illus.

These three works are different in their scope. Hagger (1979) reviews remedies, including Aboriginal medicine, for a range of common complaints, while Phillips (1978) looks particularly at popular remedies and quackery. Cribb and Cribb (1981) is an invaluable reference work for botanical remedies, classified, as far as possible, by their traditional origin.

BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY

BICKEL, L. *Rise up to life: a biography of Howard Walter Florey who gave penicillin to the world*. London, A & R, 1972. 314 p, illus.

BROWNE, D.D. *The wind and the book: memoirs of a country doctor*. MUP, 1976. 161 p.

BURNET, F.M. *Changing patterns: an atypical autobiography*. Melbourne, Heinemann, 1968. 282 p, illus.

GILLISON, J.M. *Colonial doctor and his town*. Melbourne, Cypress Books, 1974. 292 p, illus, map.

MORAN, H.M. *Viewless winds, being the recollections and digressions of an Australian surgeon*. London, Peter Davies, 1939. 352 p.

Despite a considerable number of examples, outstanding biographies and autobiographies of Australian doctors are lacking. Browne (1976) and Gillison (1974) perhaps best reflect general practice, while Moran's (1939) work covers a wider field with a background of broader medical experience. The biography of Florey and the autobiography of Burnet are selected to reflect the lives of two Australian doctors who achieved international eminence.

MILITARY MEDICINE

BARTON, G.B. et al, *The story of South Africa*. Vol 2. *An account of the despatch of contingents from Australia and New Zealand and their exploits on the battle fields*. Sydney, World Publishing Co, 1900[?]. 498 p, illus, maps.

BUTLER, A.G. ed, *The Australian army medical services in the war of 1914-1918*. Canberra, Australian War Memorial, 1930-43. 3 vols, illus, maps.

GURNER, J. *The origins of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps*. Melbourne, Hawthorn, 1970. 66 p, illus.

McINTOSH, A.M. 'Army medical services in New South Wales prior to Federation', *Medical J of Australia* 1, 1948, 485-92.

WALKER, AS. *Australia in the war of 1939-1945*. Series 5 (medical). Canberra, Australian War Memorial, 1952-61. 4 vols, illus.

These are the medical volumes of the official war history.

Australia as a nation takes pride and a measure of its nationhood from its military achievements in World War I, but the genesis of this tradition may be seen in the South African War. This is true of the medical services, although the fact that there was no great background of training or experience before either of these wars is revealed, at least as far as NSW is concerned, by McIntosh's paper. The medical histories of World War I and World War II (Butler, 1930-43, and Walker, 1952-61) are detailed and closely related to the individual campaigns, and they also provide information on relevant medical research. The

subsidiary literature is extensive, and the archival resources of the Australian War Memorial deserve emphasis.

MEDICINE AND HEALTH THROUGH 100 YEARS

GORDON, D. *Health, sickness and society: theoretical concepts in social and preventive medicine*. UQP, 1976. 954 p, illus.

HETZEL, BS. *Health and Australian society*. Ringwood, Vic, Penguin, 1980. 314 p, illus.

First published in 1974.

SPRINGTHORPE, J.W. *Therapeutics, dietetics and hygiene: an Australian textbook*. Melbourne, James Little, 1914. 2 vols, illus.

WALPOLE, R. ed, *Community health in Australia*. Ringwood, Vic, Penguin, 1979. 226 p, illus.

A 'slice' picture of medicine in Australia in the nineteenth century can only be obtained by reference to the medical and lay journals and to a wide range of individual publications. There were George Fullarton's *Family medical guide*, (first published in Sydney in 1870, and reaching its eighth edition in the 1880s) and Phillip Muskett's two-volume *Illustrated Australian medical guide*, (Sydney, Brooks, 1903), but these are not really indicative of Australian medical practice and problems of the time, although Muskett did publish other works more specifically Australian in content but in relatively specialised fields. On the other hand, we have two well-documented and detailed reviews of most aspects of Australian medicine, separated by some seventy years, in the works of Springthorpe (1914) and Gordon (1976). These are essential reference works and both have a significant measure of historical perspective, with appropriate references to earlier literature. The remaining two works are of a more popular kind and deal more particularly with contemporary problems of community health care.

CONTEMPORARY HEALTH CARE

DEWDNEY, J.CH. *Australian health services*. Sydney, Wiley, 1972. 384 p, illus.

GRANT, C AND LAPSLEY, H.M. *The Australian health care system 1981*. Sydney, School of Health Administration, University of NSW, 1981. 234 p, illus.

LAWSON, JS. *Australian hospital services: a critical review*. Melbourne, Gardner Printing and Publishing, 1968. 102 p.

SAX, S. *Medical care in the melting pot: an Australian review*. A & R, 1972. 217 p.

SCOTTON, R.B. *Medical care in Australia: an economic diagnosis*. Melbourne, Sun Books for the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne, 1974. 260 p.

WILLIS, E. *Medical dominance: the division of labour in Australian health care*. Sydney, Allen & Unwin, 1983. 235 p.

The works selected for this section represent studies which have had some impact on contemporary problems in the provision of a national health service. There is some bias towards those with a historical background—to some extent this means some bias towards those who advocate change, as the more conservative element tends to publish less. There is a considerable measure of overlap between social services, the provision of hospital and diagnostic services, the provision of primary ('doctor of first call') care and the continuation or extension of preventive measures, formerly comprehended by 'public health', and the economic and financial aspects in regard to all four. The issues have sadly been further clouded by the fact that questions of medicine,



The Doctor: You're in a bad way. To get back to your old form you'll have to swing those dumb-bells. Hard work is what you need.

Brisbane Courier, 5 July 1930. Cartoonist E.S. Watson draws a parallel between the health of the nation and the health of the individual. By July 1930, when this cartoon was drawn, unemployment had risen, in the space of six months, from 10 to 15 per cent of breadwinners.

health and the provision of health care have become polarised on the basis of political philosophy rather than rational and objective consideration. (See also the preceding chapter on 'Welfare')

## DENTISTRY

HALLIDAY, R.W. *A history of dentistry in New South Wales 1788-1945*. Ed by A.O. Watson. Sydney, Australian Dental Association, NSW Branch, 1977. 261 p, illus.

LEVINE, S. 'Early Australian dental literature: prior to 1900', *Australian dental J* 19, 5, 1974, 349-58.

MARLAY, E. *A history of dental education in Queensland 1863-1964*. Brisbane, Dept of Dentistry, University of Qld, 1979. 226 p, illus.

WILKINSON, W.S. 'The Ernest Joske Memorial Oration: Dentistry in the national economy of Australia', *Australian J of dentistry* 55, 6, 1951, 425-31.

## NURSING

ANDERSEN, C.E. *The story of bush nursing in Victoria*. Melbourne, Victorian Bush Nursing Association, 1951. 24 p, illus.

ARMSTRONG, D.M. *The first fifty years: a history of nursing at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, from 1882 to 1932*. Sydney, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Graduate Nurses' Association, 1965. 181 p, illus.

ARMSTRONG, M.G. 'A brief history of the first 50 years of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing, 1901-1951', *UNA nursing J* 49, 1951, 185-215.

HERRING, ED. *They wanted to be nightingales: a story of the VAD/AAMWS in World War II*. Adelaide, Investigator Press, 1982. 215 p, illus.

HOBBS, V.A.M. *But westward look: nursing in Western Australia, 1829-1979*. UWAP for the Royal Australian Nursing Federation, WA Branch, 1980. 256 p, illus.

MacDONNELL, F. *Miss Nightingale's young ladies: the story of Lucy Osburn and Sydney Hospital*. A & R, 1970. 113 p, illus.

MINCHIN, M.K. *Revolutions and rosewater: the evolution of nurse registration in Victoria, 1923-1973*. Melbourne, Victorian Nursing Council, 1977. 120 p, illus.

ROYAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, Melbourne. *The centenary of nurse training in Australia, 1862-1962*. Melbourne, The Hospital, 1963. 57 p, illus.

SIMONS, J.E. *While history passed: the story of the Australian nurses who were prisoners of the Japanese for three and a half years*. Melbourne, Heinemann, 1954. xvii, 131 p, illus.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRAINED NURSES' CENTENARY COMMITTEE. *Nursing in South Australia: first hundred years, 1837-1937*. Adelaide, The Committee, 1938. 348 p, illus.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRAINED NURSES' CENTENARY COMMITTEE. *South Australian nurses: their work at home and abroad during the Second World War, 1939-1945*. Adelaide, The Committee, 1946. 146 p, illus.

WALSH, A.M.M. *Life in her hands: the Matron Walsh story told to Ruth Allen*. Melbourne, Georgian House, 1955. 139 p, illus.

WEBSTER, M.E. 'The history of trained nursing in Victoria' *Victorian historical magazine* 19, 4, 1942, 121-32.

WHITE, R.P. *The role of the nurse in Australia: an annotated bibliography and report*. Sydney, Tertiary Education Research Centre, University of NSW, 1972. 48, 96 p.

## PHARMACY

FEEHAN, H.V. *Bond and link: pharmacy organisations and education in Victoria, Australia, 1857-1977*. Melbourne, Pharmaceutical Society of Vic, 1978. 64 p.

HAINES, G. *The grains and threepenn'orths of pharmacy: pharmacy in New South Wales, 1788-1976*. Kilmore, Vic, Lowden, 1976. 335 p, illus.

McWHINNEY, A. *A history of pharmacy in Western Australia*. Perth, Pharmaceutical Council of WA, 1975. 334 p, illus.

Virtually no studies in these areas deal with the history of professional activities on a national basis. An effort has been made to list reasonably authoritative works relating to professional organisation, legislation and education, as well as to professional activity and development, but it is not possible, within reasonable scope, to provide a thorough overview for each state.

Nursing has received considerable attention, partly because the revolutionary influence of Florence Nightingale gave the occupation its special status, requiring specific training, and partly because it affected hospital practice (hospital histories invariably consider nursing staff and standards). The wartime contribution of nurses was considerable and deserves mention; in this connection the work of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service merits recognition, although its members were not qualified nurses.

As with nursing, dentistry and pharmacy have a more extensive literature than the list here suggests but the subject matter of individual items tends to be too narrow to justify inclusion. Pharmacy, more than dentistry, has been well served

by some detailed surveys; the series of papers by K. Attiwell on the history of pharmacy in Australia which appeared in the *Australian J of pharmacy* in 1956–57 and the history of women pharmacists in New South Wales by E. Wunsch, also published in that journal in 1962–64, indicate the kind of material to be found in serial articles relating to all three professions.

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In some respects the history of medicine in Australia has been well served by bibliographers, although the list given here is very selective. Sir Edward Ford (1976) is comprehensive in his approach and by no means limited to medicine in the professional sense. While this provides a fundamental reference work in regard to publications relating to medicine and many para-medical subjects, the bibliography by Gandevia *et al* (1984) offers reasonably ready access to the secondary literature on the history of medicine in Australia, comprising as it does some 2500 references. For those seeking more detailed and technical references, Lancaster's (1964–73) bibliography is essential, and its range extends beyond Australia. The other cited bibliographies reflect some of a range of specialist bibliographies which are available.

**REFERENCE WORKS**

BRUCK, L. *The Australasian medical directory and hand book ... Editions 1–5*. Sydney, Australasian Medical Gazette, 1883–1900.

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It is regrettable that there are no useful comprehensive reference works on the history of Australian medicine. The most important reference works are the medical directories, of which two major series are listed here.



*The interior of the children's ward at Launceston hospital, c1900. Unknown photographer.*

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