

The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals And Nursing In Ancien Regime And Revolutionary France

Book Reviews

sometimes meagre, this is because the descriptions were probably sent to the consultant and were not written by him. Consultants compensated for this by attempting to explain every phenomenon connected with the illness and, when unable to give complete descriptions of diseases, by relying on doctrine and experience. It is the tempering of established doctrine with contemporary developments and personal observation that is perhaps the most interesting aspect of the consultations. For example, iatrophysical and iatrochemical ideas were used to revise Greek concepts of humoral harmony. Likewise, with regard to Albertini, weakness in contemporary physical and supplementary chemical diagnosis was partially made up for by experience gained at autopsy. A last example is the occasional expression of doubt regarding the efficacy of prescribed remedies and, in one case, the recommended use of a placebo, or "some apparent remedy that is at least harmless if not useful, since God, the weather, and the very nature of things changes matters, as sometimes happens, to our consternation" (p. 26).

This ably translated collection is thus a useful and intriguing work of reference, and Jarcho's introduction, notes, and index are detailed and informative.

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COLIN JONES, *The charitable imperative: hospitals and nursing in ancien régime and Revolutionary France*, The Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine, London and New York, Routledge, 1989, pp. xiii, 317, £35.00 (0-415-02133-2).

In recent years, studies of medicine in *ancien régime* France have presented us with the image of a radical transformation of the role of the hospital. From the late eighteenth century, under the pressure of new ideas about the practice and teaching of medicine and the ambitions of the rising medical profession, the hospital allegedly shifted from a shelter aimed at the relief of various categories of the needy to a medical institution primarily devoted to the treatment of the sick and to the education and training of medical students. A challenge to this unproblematic picture of "medicalization" is the core of Colin Jones's book. Arguing that historians have restricted their analysis to changes at the level of medical ideas and aspirations of medical men, and have assumed that practices in the hospital changed accordingly, Jones focuses on what was actually going on in the hospital. He also points out the exceptionality of the well-worn case of the Parisian *Hôtel-Dieu*, turning instead to the under-explored provincial hospitals. He revises the medicalization argument through a critical reconsideration of the usual variables employed to assess the level of medical identity of the hospital. Jones shows that, despite the establishment of separate institutions for the relief of the poor (the *Hôpitaux Généraux*) in the seventeenth century, the clientele of the *Hôtels-Dieu* continued to be largely constituted by the poor, migrants, and homeless, looking for relief and rest, rather than by the clinically sick. However, this is not presented as a failure of the hospital to perform its medical role, but as a result of a definition of illness which embraced physical exertion deriving from labour, travelling or exposure to harsh weather. In this context the treatment that the religious personnel running the hospital dispensed, based on plenty of food and the opportunity to rest, appears not so unreasonable as doctors tried to suggest. The author is thus well aware of the anachronisms implicit in the distinctions between poverty and disease, or cure and care, on which the notion of medicalization widely relies. Another element, usually regarded as crucial in the transformation of the hospital into a health-factory, is the involvement of medical men in its management. Jones argues, however, that the growth of attendance by surgeons, physicians, and medical apprentices, from the mid-seventeenth century, cannot be taken as evidence for their control over the hospital. The authority of the doctor was challenged above all by the nursing staff (made up of women who had committed their life to the care of the sick under a religious rule), who succeeded in maintaining their formidable grip on hospital administration for most of the nineteenth century. In the central part of the book, Jones brings to light the key role performed by these communities of women within the system of medical provision (they controlled admissions, performed surgery, ran the pharmacy). Usually seen with condescension, and neglected by historians of medicine, the nursing sisters are fully restored,

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The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France. By Colin Jones. London: Routledge. xi + . pp. ? The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancient Regime and Revolutionary France (Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine). The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France (The Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine) by Colin Jones. The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France (London: Routledge,). Ibid., On conditions in hospitals in Ancien Regime France, see Colin Jones, The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France. The Early History of the Daughters of Charity Susan E. Dinan of Charity in and the religious opinion on the eve of the French Revolution is highly suspect. in The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France. These discoveries suggest that lay sororities - like the nurses of the Hotel-Dieu - deserve far closer attention. See, for example, A. Chastel, French Art: The Renaissance (Paris,). ; C. Jones, The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France (London,). APA (6th ed.) Jones, C. (). The charitable imperative: Hospitals and nursing in ancien régime and revolutionary France. London: Routledge. The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France largely upon the ancien régime Paris Hotel-Dieu, which, Jones writes. Official Publication of the American Association for the History of Nursing Patricia Health Care as Product: Catholic Sisters Confront Charity and the Hospital Colin Jones, The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France (London Jones, Charitable Imperative, 43, 68, The traditional role of the hospital; The development of the hospital as a site For the most part, the course concentrates on the history of the clinic in France, but students The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and The Citizen-Patient in Revolutionary and Imperial Paris (Baltimore,). This community did inspire imitators in France in the late seventeenth and before the French Revolution', and 'The Daughters of Charity in Hospitals from in his The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France. COLIN JONES, The charitable imperative: hospitals and nursing in ancien régime and Revolutionary France, The Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine. The administration of medicine and welfare in late eighteenth-century France," Social L. S. Greenbaum, "Nurses and doctors

in conflict: Piety and medicine in the Institution of Paris Hospitals under the Old Regime and Revolution, Madison, in Hospitals from Louis XIII to Louis Philippe," in *The Charitable Imperative*, ed. traditional association as a refuge of Christian charity, indigence and University Press, , and his *The charitable imperative. Hospitals and nursing in Ancien. Regime and Revolutionary France*, London and New York. *The Smile Revolution in Eighteenth-Century Paris* (); *Paris: The* (); *The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and their Tellers in 16th-century France* by Natalie. The history of hospitals has stretched over years. Contents. [hide]. 1 Early examples; 2 . (An old French term for hospital is hotel-Dieu, "hostel of God. .. Additionally, the secular revolution led to the nationalization of hospitals previously .. *The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancient Regime and*. The rhetoric of rupture: Nursing as a practice with a history? 18 Jones, C. *The charitable imperative. Hospital and nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France*. 35 Summers, A. The cost and benefits of caring (Nursing charities, c.). in: J. Barry, C. Jones (Eds.) *Medicine and charity before the welfare* . *The Charitable Imperative: Hospitals and Nursing in Ancien Regime and Revolutionary France*, London: Routledge, November , xiii + pp. A4.

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