

# **‘Medicine, Disease and Society in Britain, 1750-1950’**

## **Course Outline**

**Course Leader: Dr Hilary Marland**

Revised September 2001

**History Department**  
**1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Year Option**

**‘Medicine, Disease and Society in Britain, 1750-1950’**  
**Course Outline**

**Course Leader: Dr Hilary Marland (Room H315)**

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**Course Tutors: Jane Adams, Hilary Marland, Jonathan Reinarz**

**Office Hours (Hilary Marland) Tuesdays 3.00-4.00pm;**  
**Wednesdays 11.00-12.00am**

**Course Aims and Learning Outcomes**

**Academic Aims**

The module introduces students to a series of ongoing debates within the social history of medicine, and encourages them to situate sickness, disease and the provision of medical care in a broad social, demographic, economic, political and cultural context. It focuses on the plurality of medicine in the eighteenth century, the ‘medical marketplace’, and the rise of medical institutions within a philanthropic and social policy framework. It will look at the evolving relationship between doctors and patients, and the impact of poverty, class, gender and ethnicity on this relationship. The course will also cover population and urban growth and changing patterns of disease. Other themes include the rise of the medical profession and nursing professions, midwifery and childbirth, developments in medical science, the relationship between war and medicine, and the role of state medicine. The course will be based on British sources and will seek to give students a feel for regional difference, the role of the metropolis and centres of learning compared with provincial medical practice and medicine at the periphery. It will be based largely on secondary readings, but will aim to introduce students to a small selection of primary source material, including patients’ narratives, film and pictorial sources.

The module will be taught through weekly lectures and fortnightly seminars which students are **required** to attend. Emphasis will be on student-led seminars.

**Expected Learning Outcomes**

- a) to develop study, writing and communication skills.
- b) to provide the opportunity, through writing a 4,000-4,500 word essay, shorter essays and seminar discussions, to develop an understanding of medicine as part of broader changes in British society and as subject to the impact of cultural, demographic, political and economic forces.
- c) to develop critical skills through the assessment of a range of historical and inter-disciplinary approaches within the social history of medicine.
- d) to develop the ability to handle historical sources, and to evaluate a select range of primary sources and their potential use to historians.

**Lecture Times**

Tuesdays 9.00-10.00 (Room SO.09)

Term 1: Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10; Term 2: Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10; Term 3: Weeks 1, 2, 3

**Seminar Times**

Tuesdays 11.00-12.30 (HM, Room H404); 2.30-4.00 (JA, Room H301); Wednesdays 9.30-11.00, 12.00-1.30 (JR, Room H301)

Term 1: Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9; Term 2: Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9; Term 3: Week 1 + Revision seminar (TBA)

**Workload and Assessment**

3 short essays (1,500-2,000 words): due Term 1 Monday Week 8; Term 2 Monday Week 7; and Term 3 Monday Week 2

**First Year (and Part-time Level One) Students**

Assessment on the basis of the best of two out of three short essays and a long (4,000-4,500 word) essay.

**Second Year (and Part-time Honours-level) students**

A three hour Examination Paper

**OR**

A two hour Examination Paper **plus** a 4,000-4,500 word assessed essay

**Deadlines for assessed essay****First Year**

Term 3, Monday Week 5

**Second Year**

Term 3, Monday Week 5

(If students are submitting assessed essays for both options the deadlines are Term 3, Friday Week 1 and Term 3, Monday Week 5)

## **List of Lecture Topics**

1. The Medical Marketplace of the Eighteenth Century
2. Enlightenment and Medical Education
3. The Golden Age of Quackery
4. Medicine under the Old and New Poor Law
5. Medicine and Charity: the Dispensary and Voluntary Hospital Movement (JA)
6. Health for the Poor: Friendly Societies and Self-Help
7. Midwives, Men-Midwives and Childbirth
8. The Trade in Lunacy
9. The Patients' View
10. Disease and Demography
11. Smallpox and TB
12. The Rise of the Medical Profession
13. The Industrial Revolution and Occupational Health (JR)
14. From Public Health to Preventive Medicine (JR)
15. The Modernisation of Nursing
16. Institutions: the Public Asylum and Prison Medicine
17. Medical Science in the Nineteenth Century
18. War and Medicine
19. The Rise of State Medicine
20. The Making of the National Health Service

## Reading List

### Recommended Purchases

There are several books recommended for purchase, books that you will be able to refer to again and again during the course of the year (although make sure that you read widely and do not rely too heavily on a small range of books). Highly recommended (and all available in paperback) are:

- Joan Lane, *Social History of Medicine: Health, Healing and Disease in England, 1750-1950* (2001).
- Roy Porter, *Disease, Medicine and Society in England, 1550-1860* (1987, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn 1993).
- Anne Hardy, *Health and Medicine in Britain since 1860* (2001).
- Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine: A Scandalously Short Introduction* (1999).
- Roy Porter, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity from Antiquity to the Present* (1997).
- Charles Webster (ed.), *Caring for Health: History and Diversity* (Open University Press, 1985, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn 2001).

### Other Core Course Books (SRC indicates books in Student Reserve Collection)

#### \* Particularly useful

Peter Baldwin, *Contagion and the State in Europe, 1830-1930* (1999). **SRC**

\*Jonathan Barry and Colin Jones (eds), *Medicine and Charity Before the Welfare State* (1991). **SRC**

D. Baxby, *Jenner's Smallpox Vaccine* (1981).

\*Virginia Berridge, *Health and Society in Britain since 1939* (CUP, 1999).

#### **SRC**

\*W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine* (1993), 2 vols. **SRC**

W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *William Hunter and the Eighteenth Century Medical World* (1985).

W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *Medical Fringe & Medical Orthodoxy 1750-1850* (1987).

W.F. Bynum, *The Science and Practice of Medicine in the Nineteenth Century* (1994).

F.F. Cartwright, *A Social History of Medicine* (1977).

\*Steven Cherry, *Medical Services and the Hospitals in Britain, 1860-1939* (1996). **SRC**

Lawrence Conrad et al., *The Western Medical Tradition 800BC to AD1800* (1995). **SRC**

Roger Cooter, Mark Harrison and Steve Sturdy (eds), *Medicine and Modern Warfare* (1999).

\*Roger Cooter and John Pickstone (eds), *Medicine in the Twentieth Century* (2000). **SRC**

W.F. Richard Creese (ed.), *The Health of Prisoners: Historical Essays* (1995).

- Charles Creighton, *A History of Epidemics in Britain*, 2 vols. (1891-4, 1965).  
 Anne Crowther, *The Workhouse System 1834-1929* (1981).  
 \*Anne Digby, *Making a Medical Living: Doctors and Patients in the English Market for Medicine* (1994). **SRC**  
 Anne Digby, *The Evolution of British General Practice, 1850-1948* (1999).  
 Brian Dolan (ed.), *Malthus, Medicine and Morality* (2000).  
 M. Durey, *The Return of the Plague: British Society and the Cholera 1831-2* (1979).  
 Mary E. Fissell, *Patients, Power, and the Poor in Eighteenth-Century Bristol* (1991).  
 Lindsay Granshaw and Roy Porter (eds), *The Hospital in History* (1989). **SRC**  
 David Hamilton, *The Healers: A History of Medicine in Scotland* (1981).  
 Chris Hamlin, *Public Health and Social Justice in the Age of Chadwick: Britain, 1800-1854* (1998).  
 \*Anne Hardy, *The Epidemic Streets: Infectious Disease and the Rise of Preventive Medicine 1856-1900* (1993). **SRC**  
 Bernard Harris, *The Health of the Schoolchild* (1995).  
 G. Howe, *Man, Environment and Disease in Britain* (1976), and *People, Environment, Disease and Death: A Medical Geography of Britain throughout the Ages* (1997).  
 Steve King, *Poverty and Welfare in England 1700-1850* (2000).  
 \*Helen Jones, *Health and Society in Twentieth-Century Britain* (1994). **SRC**  
 Jane Lewis, *The Politics of Motherhood: Child and Maternal Welfare in England, 1900-1939* (1980).  
 Jane Lewis, *What Price Community Medicine?: The Philosophy, Practice and Politics of Public Health in Britain since 1919* (1986).  
 \*Joan Lane, *The Making of the English Patient* (2000). **SRC**  
 \*Christopher Lawrence, *Medicine in the Making of Modern Britain 1700-1920* (1994). **SRC**  
 \*Irvine Loudon, *Medical Care and the General Practitioner, 1750-1850* (1987). **SRC**  
 Irvine Loudon, *Western Medicine: An Illustrated History* (1997). **SRC**  
 Thomas McKeown, *The Modern Rise of Population* (1976).  
 Elizabeth Malcolm and Greta Jones (eds), *Medicine, Disease and the State in Ireland, 1650-1940* (1999).  
 \*Hilary Marland, *Medicine and Society in Wakefield and Huddersfield, 1780-1870* (1987). **SRC**  
 Hilary Marland (ed.), *The Art of Midwifery: Early Modern Midwives in Europe* (1993, 1994).  
 Joseph Melling and Bill Forsythe (eds), *Insanity, Institutions and Society, 1800-1914* (1999).  
 R.J. Morris, *Cholera 1832: The Social Response to an Epidemic* (1976).  
 William Ll. Parry-Jones, *The Trade in Lunacy* (1972).  
 Margaret Pelling, *Cholera, Fever and English Medicine 1825-1865* (Oxford, 1978).  
 M.J. Peterson, *The Medical Profession in Mid-Victorian London* (1978).  
 Dorothy Porter and Roy Porter (eds), *Doctors, Politics and Society: Historical Essays* (1993).  
 Roy Porter (ed.), *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Medicine* (1996). **SRC**  
 \*Roy Porter (ed.), *Patients and Practitioners* (1985). **SRC**

- Roy Porter (ed.), *Medicine in the Enlightenment* (1995).
- \*Roy Porter, *Health for Sale: Quackery in England, 1660-1850* (1988). **SRC**
- \*Roy Porter and Dorothy Porter, *In Sickness and in Health: The British Experience 1650-1850* (1988). **SRC**
- \*Roy Porter and Dorothy Porter, *Patient's Progress: Doctors and Doctoring in Eighteenth-Century England* (1989). **SRC**
- Roy Porter, *Quacks* (2000). **SRC**
- Roy Porter, *Mind-Forg'd Manacles: A History of Madness in England from the Restoration to the Regency* (1987, 1990).
- Peter Razzell, *The Conquest of Smallpox: The Impact of Inoculation on Smallpox Mortality in Eighteenth Century Britain* (1977).
- P. Razzell, *Edward Jenner's Cowpox Vaccine: The History of a Medical Myth* (1997).
- Ruth Richardson, *Disease, Dissection and the Destitute* (1987).
- James Riley, *Sick Not Dead: The Health of British Workingmen during the Mortality Decline* (1997).
- Guenter B. Risse, *Hospital Life in Enlightenment Scotland* (1986).
- Charles E. Rosenberg, *Explaining Epidemics and Other Studies in the History of Medicine* (1992). **SRC**
- Lisa Rosner, *Medical Education in the Age of Improvement: Edinburgh Students and Apprentices 1760-1826* (1990).
- \*Andrew Scull, *The Most Solitary of Afflictions: Madness and Society in Britain, 1700-1900* (1993). **SRC**
- F.B. Smith, *The People's Health 1830-1910* (1979, 1990). **SRC**
- J.R. Smith, *The Speckled Monster: Smallpox in England, 1670-1970, with Particular Reference to Essex* (1987).
- Ivan Waddington, *The Medical Profession in the Industrial Revolution* (1984).
- B. Watkin, *Documents on Health and Social Services* (1975).
- \*Andrew Wear, *Medicine in Society* (1992). **SRC**
- Paul Weindling (ed.), *The Social History of Occupational Health* (1985).
- John Welshman, *Municipal Medicine: Public Health in Twentieth-Century Britain* (2000).
- \*Andrew Wohl, *Endangered Lives: Public Health in Victorian Britain* (1983).
- R. Woods and J. Woodward (eds), *Urban Disease and Mortality* (1984).
- Robert Woods and Nicola Shelton, *An Atlas of Victorian Mortality* (1999).
- John Woodward, *To Do the Sick No Harm* (1974).
- Michael Worboys, *Spreading Germs: Disease Theories and Medical Practice in Britain, 1865-1900* (2001).
- A.J. Youngson, *The Scientific Revolution in Victorian Medicine* (1979).

## Seminar Topics and Reading

Items marked **SRC** are books in the Student Reserve Collection or articles in SRC (**SRC articles**) (under the author's name). At least one item a week will be in SRC. Try to read as much as possible of the assigned seminar reading. **All students taking the course will be expected to introduce at least one topic or address a question on the seminar list.**

The questions are to urge you to structure your reading, but students will be encouraged to come to seminars with their own points for discussion.

The course will be based largely on secondary sources, though we will be looking at selected primary sources and film material. **Make sure that you read widely.**

The seminar questions double as essay titles.

### TERM 1

#### Week 3, Seminar 1

#### **The Medical Marketplace: Varieties of Medical Practice in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

There will be some overlap in the topics covered in the seminars in Weeks 3 and 5.

The two seminars will introduce students to the concept of the 'medical marketplace' in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Britain, and explore the diversity of medical practice over the two centuries. We will also start to consider the doctor-patient relationship and how this might have changed over time.

#### **Seminar/Essay Questions**

1. Did a medical marketplace exist in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century Britain?
2. How can we explain the variety of medical practice in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
3. What factors allowed the general practitioner of medicine to emerge between 1750 and 1850?
4. 'He who pays the piper calls the tune'. Is this true of doctor-patient relationships in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?

#### **Seminar Reading:**

- Roy Porter, *Disease, Medicine and Society in England, 1550-1860* (1987, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn 1993), chs 4 and 5. **SRC**
- Joan Lane, *A Social History of Medicine* (2000), ch. 1. **SRC**
- Irvine Loudon, 'Medical Practitioners 1750-1850 and the Period of Medical Reform in Britain', in Andrew Wear (ed.), *Medicine in Society* (1992), 219-47. **SRC book and article**
- Irvine Loudon, "'The Vile Race of Quacks with which this Country is Infested'", in W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *Medical Fringe & Medical Orthodoxy 1750-1850* (1987), 106-28. **SRC article**

#### **Additional Reading:**

Joan Lane, 'The Medical Practitioners of Provincial England in 1783', *Medical History*, 28 (1984), 353-71.



Penelope J. Corfield, *Power and the Professions in Britain 1700-1850* (1995), ch. 6.

Anne Digby, *Making a Medical Living: Doctors and Patients in the English Market for Medicine, 1720-1911* (1994). **SRC**

Jacalyn Duffin, *History of Medicine* (1999), ch. 6. **SRC**

Irvine Loudon, *Medical Care and the General Practitioner, 1750-1850* (1986). **SRC**

Irvine Loudon, 'The Nature of Provincial Medical Practice in Eighteenth-Century England', *Medical History*, 20 (1985), 1-32.

Irvine Loudon, 'A Doctor's Cash Book: The Economy of General Practice in the 1830s', *Medical History*, 27 (1983), 249-68.

M.J. Peterson, *The Medical Profession in Mid-Victorian London* (1978).

Vivian Nutton and Roy Porter (eds), *History of Medical Education in Britain* (1993).

## **Week 5, Seminar 2**

### **'Quacks' and the Boundary between Orthodox and Unorthodox Medicine**

In Week 5 we will examine unqualified practitioners of medicine and 'quack' doctors, also looking at images of quackery. We will focus on two specific forms of 'alternative medicine': spa treatment and the services of chemists and druggists. While the 18<sup>th</sup> century is seen as the golden age of the spa, which is particularly associated with the well-to-do, the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw a phenomenal rise of chemists and druggists who catered mainly for the urban poor. The seminar will focus on explanations for the popularity of these two very different forms of treatment. (A visit (optional) will be organised to Leamington Spa Pump Rooms around Week 5.)

### **Seminar/Essays Questions**

1. Is it possible to define a borderline between orthodox and unorthodox medical practice?
2. How can we explain the continued popularity of alternatives to regular medical practitioners?
3. Why did the spa flourish in the 18<sup>th</sup> century?
4. Assess the importance of hydropathy in 19<sup>th</sup>-century medicine (with special reference, if you wish, to one town e.g. Bath, Matlock, Leamington Spa).
5. Did the chemist and druggist become the poor man's doctor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

### **Seminar Reading:**

- Roy Porter, 'Before the Fringe: "Quackery" and the Eighteenth-Century Medical Market', in Roger Cooter (ed.), *Studies in the History of Alternative Medicine* (1988), 1-27. **SRC article**
- Irvine Loudon, "'The Vile Race of Quacks with which this Country is Infested'", in W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *Medical Fringe & Medical Orthodoxy 1750-1850* (1987), 106-28. **SRC article**
- Roy Porter, *Quacks* (2000).
- Hilary Marland, *Medicine and Society in Wakefield and Huddersfield 1780-1870* (1987), ch. 6.

**Additional Reading:**

- Roy Porter, *Health for Sale: Quackery in England, 1660-1850* (1988). **SRC**
- F.B. Smith, *The People's Health 1830-1910* (1979, 1990), Part 2. **SRC**
- A.B. Granville, *Spas of England: vol. 2 The Midlands and the South* (1841, reprinted 1971).
- Phyllis Hembry, *The English Spa 1560-1815: A Social History* (1990).
- R. Price, 'Hydropathy in England 1840-70', *Medical History*, 25 (1981), 269-80.
- Kelvin Rees, 'Hydropathy in Matlock', in Roger Cooter (ed.), *Studies in the History of Alternative Medicine* (1988), 28-45.
- Roy Porter (ed.), *The Medical History of Waters and Spas*, *Medical History Supplement*, no. 10 (1990).
- Eric G. Baxter, *Dr. Jephson of Leamington Spa* (ed. by Joan Lane and Robert Bearman) (1980).
- Many of the essays in W.F Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *Medical Fringe and Medical Orthodoxy 1750-1850* and Roger Cooter (ed.), *Studies in the History of Alternative Medicine* will be useful.
- Hilary Marland, 'Chemists and Druggists with Special Reference to Wakefield and Huddersfield', *Medical History*, 31 (1987), 415-39. **SRC article**
- Stuart Anderson, "'I Remember it Well": Oral History in the History of Pharmacy', *Social History of Medicine*, 10 (1997), 331-43.

**Week 7, Seminar 3****Medical Charity and Self-Help Medicine**

Different approaches to medical care were embodied in the charitable voluntary hospitals and dispensaries and in self-help provisions, the most significant of which were the friendly societies of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Voluntary hospitals and dispensaries provided care paid for by the better off for the 'deserving' poor, with admissions being made as much on social as on medical grounds, while friendly societies allowed certain sections of the working class to set up their own systems of medical care and sickness benefits.

1. What drove the establishment of hospitals and dispensaries in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
2. Did voluntary hospitals serve their patients, their patrons or their doctors?
3. 'Gateways to Death': is this a fair description of hospitals in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
4. What were the benefits and limitations of friendly societies?

**Seminar Reading:**

- Joan Lane, *A Social History of Medicine* (2001), chs 4 and 5. **SRC**
- Hilary Marland, *Medicine and Society in Wakefield and Huddersfield, 1780-1870* (1987), chs 4 and 5. **Ch. 5 SRC article**
- Roy Porter, 'The Gift Relation: Philanthropy and Provincial Hospitals in Eighteenth-Century England', in L. Granshaw and Roy Porter (eds), *The Hospital in History* (1989), 149-78. **SRC article**
- Irvine Loudon, 'The Origins and Growth of the Dispensary Movement in England', *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 55 (1988), 322-42. **SRC article**

**Additional Reading:**

## Hospitals and Dispensaries:

Anne Borsay, *Medicine and Charity in Georgian Bath: A Social History of the General Infirmary, c. 1739-1830* (1999).

Steven Cherry, *Medical Services and the Hospital in Britain 1860-1939* (1996). **SRC**

Steven Cherry, 'The Role of a Provincial Hospital: The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, 1771-1880', *Population Studies*, 26 (1972), 291-306.

Lindsay Granshaw, 'The Rise of the Modern Hospital in Britain', in Andrew Wear (ed.), *Medicine in Society* (1992), 197-218. **SRC**

John V. Pickstone, *Medicine and Industrial Society: A History of Hospital Development in Manchester and its Region 1752-1946* (1985).

J. V. Pickstone and S.V.F. Butler, 'The Politics of Medicine in Manchester, 1788-1792: Hospital Reform and Public Health Services in the Early Industrial City', *Medical History*, 28 (1984), 227-49.

Guenter Risse, *Hospital Life in Enlightenment Scotland: Care and Teaching at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh* (1986).

Keir Waddington, *Charity and the London Hospitals, 1850-1898* (2000).

John Woodward, *To Do the Sick No Harm* (1974).

## Hospitals and the Mortality Debate:

E.M. Sigsworth, 'Gateways to Death? Medicine, Hospitals and Mortality, 1700-1850', in P. Mathias (ed.), *Science and Society 1600-1900* (1972), 97-110.

Simon Szreter, 'The Importance of Social Intervention in Britain's Mortality Decline c.1850-1914: A Re-interpretation of the Role of Public Health', *Social History of Medicine*, 1 (1988), 1-37.

T. McKeown and R.G. Brown, 'Medical Evidence Related to English Population Changes in the Eighteenth Century', *Population Studies*, 9 (1955), 119-41.

T. McKeown and R.G. Record, 'Reasons for the Decline of Mortality in England and Wales during the Nineteenth Century', *Population Studies*, 16 (1962), 94-122.

S. Cherry, 'The Hospitals and Population Growth: The Voluntary General Hospitals, Mortality and Local Populations in the English Provinces in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries', Pts 1 and 2, *Population Studies*, 34 (1980), 59-75, 251-66.

Graham Mooney, Bill Luckin and Andrea Tanner, 'Patient Pathways: Solving the Problem of Institutional Mortality in London during the Later Nineteenth Century', *Social History of Medicine*, 12 (1999), 227-69.

## Friendly Societies:

David G. Green, *Working Class Patients and the Medical Establishment: Self-Help in Britain from the Mid-Nineteenth Century to 1948* (1985).

James C. Riley, *Sick, Not Dead: The Health of British Workingmen during the Mortality Decline* (1997).

P.H.J.H. Gosden, *The Friendly Societies in England 1815-1875* (1961).

P.H.J.H. Gosden, *Self-Help Voluntary Associations in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* (1974).

**Week 9, Seminar 4****Midwives and Men-Midwives: Changes in Childbirth Practices**

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards competition stepped up between female midwives and male accoucheurs or men-midwives. Male practitioners, armed with instruments, especially obstetric forceps, began to attack midwives and to take over attendance at childbirth. Childbirth moved from being a traditional, female activity to a medical event. As part of the ferocious diatribe between the two groups, both accused the other of dangerous practices and particularly spreading infection, a risk especially linked to lying-in hospitals, which offered free care to unmarried women in return for providing clinical experience to medical students.

### Seminar/Essay Questions:

1. Why did midwifery become an area of conflict in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
2. What was the significance of the 'ceremony of childbirth'?
3. What changes took place in the training and registration of midwives up to 1936, and how did this affect their status?
4. What role did lying-in hospitals play in the 18<sup>th</sup> AND/OR 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
5. 'Sickness, pain and danger': was this an accurate portrayal of the risks of pregnancy and childbirth up to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?

### Seminar Reading:

- Margaret Connor Versluysen, 'Midwives, Medical Men and "Poor Women Labouring of Child": Lying-in Hospitals in Eighteenth-Century London', in H. Roberts (ed.), *Women, Health and Reproduction* (1981), 18-49. **SRC article**
- Adrian Wilson, 'The Ceremony of Childbirth and its Interpretation', in V. Fildes (ed.), *Women as Mothers in Pre-Industrial England* (1990), 68-107.
- Joan Lane, *A Social History of Medicine* (2001), ch. 7.
- Margaret DeLacy, 'Puerperal Fever in Eighteenth-Century Britain', *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 63 (1989), 521-56. **SRC article**
- Jean Donnison, 'Medical Women and Lady Midwives: A Case Study in Medical and Feminist Politics', *Women's Studies*, 1976 (3), 229-50. **SRC article**

### Additional Reading:

- Jean Donnison, *Midwives and Medical Men* (1977, 1988).
- Jean Towler and Joan Bramall, *Midwives in History and Society* (1986). **SRC**
- Brownyn Crosson, 'The Foundation and Evolution of the Middlesex Hospital's Lying-In Service, 1745-86', *Social History of Medicine*, 14 (2001), 27-57.
- J.S. Lewis, *In the Family Way: Childbearing in the British Aristocracy 1760-1860* (1986).
- Hilary Marland (ed.), *The Art of Midwifery: Early Modern Midwives in Europe* (1993, 1994).
- Adrian Wilson, *The Making of Man-Midwifery: Childbirth in England, 1660-1770* (1995).
- W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *William Hunter and the Eighteenth Century Medical World* (1985).
- B.B. Schnorrenberg, 'Is Childbirth any Place for a Woman? The Decline of Midwifery in Eighteenth-Century England', *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, 10 (1981), 393-408.
- Irvine Loudon, *The Tragedy of Childbed Fever* (2000).

Irvine Loudon, *Death in Childbirth: An International Study of Maternal Care and Maternal Mortality 1800-1950* (1992).

## TERM 2

### Week 1, Seminar 5

#### Madness and its Confinement

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries one change dominated the care and treatment of the insane: increased confinement in asylums. What started out as small-scale private institutions, were supplemented in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by public asylums, founded as part of the wave of charitable medical provisions. From the early 19<sup>th</sup> onwards county asylums were established in increasing numbers and on an ever larger scale, becoming massive 'warehouses' for the insane. Public asylums were driven by the urge to reform conditions for treating mental disorder, but were also a response to changing social and economic conditions and attitudes to 'deviant' forms of behaviour.

#### Seminar/Essay Questions

1. Were private asylums merely money-making enterprises?
2. How can we account for the rise of county asylums in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
3. 'A convenient place to get rid of inconvenient people'. Does this reflect patient admissions to 19<sup>th</sup>-century asylums?

#### Seminar Reading:

- W. Ll. Parry-Jones, *The Trade in Lunacy: A Study of Private Madhouses in England in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* (1972), esp. ch. 2. **Book and ch. in SRC**
- Len Smith, "'To Cure those Afflicted with the Disease of Insanity": Thomas Bakewell and Spring Vale Asylum', *History of Psychiatry*, 4 (1993), 107-27. **SRC article**
- Andrew Scull, *The Most Solitary of all Afflictions: Madness and Society in Britain, 1700-1900* (1993), ch. 6. **SRC**
- Richard Adair, Bill Forsythe and Joseph Melling, 'A Danger to the Public? Disposing of Pauper Lunatics in Late-Victorian and Edwardian England: Plympton St Mary Union and the Devon County Asylum, 1867-1914', *Medical History*, 42 (1998), 1-25. **SRC article**

#### Additional Reading:

Roy Porter, 'Madness and its Institutions', in Andrew Wear (ed.), *Medicine in Society* (1992), 277-301. **SRC**

Roy Porter, *Mind-Forg'd Manacles: A History of Madness in England from the Restoration to the Regency* (1987, 1990). **SRC**

Leonard D. Smith, 'Cure, Comfort and Safe Custody': *Public Lunatic Asylums in Early Nineteenth-Century England* (1999).

Andrew Scull, *Museums of Madness: The Social Organization of Insanity in 19<sup>th</sup> Century England* (1979).

David Wright, 'The Certification of Insanity in Nineteenth-Century England and Wales', *History of Psychiatry*, 9 (1998), 267-90. **SRC article**

Joseph Melling and Bill Forsythe (eds), *Insanity, Institutions and Society, 1800-1914* (1999). **SRC**

Peter Bartlett, *The Poor Law of Lunacy: The Administration of Pauper Lunatics in Mid-Nineteenth-Century England* (1999). **SRC**

Joseph Melling, Bill Forsythe and Richard Adair, 'Families, Communities and the Legal Regulation of Lunacy in Victorian England: Assessments of Crime, Violence and Welfare in Admissions to the Devon Asylum, 1845-1914', in Peter Bartlett and David Wright (eds), *Outside the Walls of the Asylum: The History of Care in the Community 1750-2000* (1999), 153-80. **SRC**

John Walton, 'The Treatment of Pauper Lunatics in Victorian England: The Case of Lancaster Asylum, 1816-70', in Andrew Scull (ed.), *Madhouses, Mad-Doctors, and Madmen: The Social History of Psychiatry in the Victorian Era* (1981), 166-97. **SRC**

SRC is well-stocked with items of this week's seminar: see the course outline (on the Web) for my 'Madness and Society from Bedlam to the Present' reading list.

### **Week 3, Seminar 6**

#### **The Patient's View**

During the last two decades historians have attempted to provide a new perspective on the history of health and illness, reconstructing the patient's view. This week's seminar will look at this approach, and discuss some of the documentation on patients' perspectives, how they explained the cause of their disorders, and how they attempted to cure themselves.

#### **Seminar/Essay Questions**

1. How can we attempt a history of medicine 'from below', and what can this add to our understanding of medicine in the past?
2. Using specific examples, describe how sufferers explained and dealt with illness in pre-industrial society.
3. Does the patient's narrative disappear in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?

#### **Seminar Reading:**

- Joan Lane, 'Patients' Own Accounts of Illness', in *idem, The Making of the English Patient* (2000), 43-58. **SRC** Part of the seminar will be devoted to a discussion of these documents.
- Roy Porter, 'The Patient's View: Doing Medical History from Below', *Theory and Society*, 14 (1985), 175-98. **SRC article**
- Joan Lane, "'The Doctor Scolds Me'": The Diaries and Correspondence of Patients in Eighteenth Century England', in Roy Porter (ed.), *Patients and Practitioners: Lay Perceptions of Medicine in Pre-Industrial Society*, (1985), 205-48. **SRC book and article**
- Mary E. Fissell, 'The Disappearance of the Patient's Narrative and the Invention of Hospital Medicine', in Roger French and Andrew Wear (eds), *British Medicine in an Age of Reform* (1991), 92-109.

#### **Additional Reading:**

L.M Beier, *Sufferers and Healers: The Experience of Illness in Seventeenth-Century England* (1987).

N.D. Jewson, 'The Disappearance of the Sick Man from Medical Cosmology, 1770-1870', *Sociology*, 10 (1976), 225-44.

N.D. Jewson, 'Medical Knowledge and the Patronage System in Eighteenth Century England', *Sociology*, 12 (1974), 369-85.

Roy Porter and Dorothy Porter, *Patient's Progress: Doctors and Doctoring in Eighteenth-Century England* (1989). **SRC**

Roy Porter and Dorothy Porter, *In Sickness and in Health: The British Experience 1650-1850* (1988). **SRC**

Roy Porter (ed.), *Patients and Practitioners: Lay Perceptions of Medicine in Pre-Industrial Society* (1985), 205-48. **SRC**

Roy Porter, 'Lay Medical Knowledge in the Eighteenth Century: The Evidence of the *Gentleman's Magazine*', *Medical History*, 29 (1985), 138-68.

## **Week 5, Seminar 7**

### **Occupational Medicine**

This week's seminar will focus on the history of the relationship between working conditions and sickness, including specific diseases, and at the impact of industrialisation on worker's health. We will also look more specifically at women and occupational health and during the seminar we will view archive film on the working conditions of children.

If there is sufficient interest, we will also organise a visit to the Modern Records Centre at Warwick to look at material on occupational health and sickness (at a separate time from the seminar).

### **Seminar/Essay Questions**

1. In what ways did industrialisation affect the health of British workers?
2. 'Not 10 per cent of the inhabitants of large towns enjoy full health': Discuss Charles Turner Thackeray's verdict.
3. What is the relationship between technology and workplace injury?
4. What (if anything) was unique about women's experiences of occupational health?

### **Seminar Reading:**

- Extracts from Charles Turner Thackeray, *The Effects of Arts, Trades & Professions on Health & Longevity* (1831, reprinted 1999). **Extracts SRC**
- Frederick Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England* (1<sup>st</sup> pub. in Britain 1892, numerous reprints). **Extracts SRC**
- Andrew Wohl, *Endangered Lives: Public Health in Victorian Britain* (1983), ch. 10, 'The Canker of Industrial Diseases', 257-84. **SRC article**
- Barbara Harrison, "'Some of Them Gets Lead Poisoned': Occupational Lead Exposure in Women, 1880-1914', *Social History of Medicine*, 2 (1989), 171-95. **SRC article**

### **Additional Reading:**

Paul Weindling (ed.), *The Social History of Occupational Health* (1985).

Steve Sturdy, 'The Industrial Body', in Roger Cooter and John Pickstone (eds), *Medicine in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (2000), 217-34.

Helen Jones, 'Employers Welfare Schemes and Industrial Relations in Inter-War Britain', *Business History*, 25 (1983), 61-75.

A.J. McIvor, 'Manual Work, Technology, and Industrial Health, 1918-39', *Medical History*, 31 (1987), 160-89.

Linda Bryder, 'Tuberculosis, Silicosis and the Slate Industry in North Wales, 1827-1939', in Paul Weindling (ed.), *The Social History of Occupational Health* (1985), 108-26.

Roger Cooter (ed.), *Accidents in History: Injuries, Fatalities and Social Relations* (1997).

#### Women and Occupational Health:

Barbara Harrison, *Not Only the Dangerous Trades: Women's Work and Health in Britain, 1880-1914* (1996).

Helen Jones, 'Women Health Workers: The Case of the First Women Factory Inspectors in Britain', *Social History of Medicine*, 1 (1988), 165-81.

Antonia Ineson and Deborah Thom, 'T.N.T. Poisoning and the Employment of Women Workers in the First World War', in Paul Weindling (ed.), *The Social History of Occupational Health* (1985), 89-107.

## Week 7, Seminar 8

### Tuberculosis

The single worst disease of large towns and cities was tuberculosis or consumption, a massive cause of death throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup>. In this seminar we will examine the debate on the causes of TB, reflected in changing therapeutic approaches, focusing particularly on rise of sanatoria. We will use the example of TB as a way of looking at the impact of and responses to medical developments and discoveries and of examining the role of the State in combating disease. The seminar will also focus on the contrasting imagery of TB, on the one hand a disease of poverty, poor living conditions and degeneration, and on the other a romanticised wasting disease, captured in contemporary art and literature.

### Seminar/Essay Questions

1. What form did the debate on the causes of TB take, and how did this change over the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?
2. Tuberculosis was not a new disease, but it festered as the population grew denser and poorer. Discuss.
3. What therapies were used to tackle tuberculosis in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and how successful were they?
4. Discuss and assess the contrasting literary images of TB.

### Seminar Reading:

- Andrew Motion, *Keats* (1997), and Robert Tressell, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* (1955). **Extracts SRC**
- L. Bryder, *Below the Magic Mountain: A Social History of Tuberculosis in the Twentieth Century* (Oxford, 1988).
- Gillian Cronje, 'Tuberculosis and Mortality Decline in England and Wales, 1851-1900', in R.I. Woods and J. Woodward (eds), *Urban Disease and Mortality* (1984), 79-102. **SRC article**
- Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor* (1977, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn 1991).



**Additional Reading:**

Anne Hardy, *The Epidemic Streets: Infectious Disease and the Rise of Preventive Medicine 1856-1900* (1993), ch. 8. **SRC**

T. Dormandy, *The White Death* (1999).

F.B. Smith, *The Retreat of Tuberculosis 1850-1950* (1988).

Peter Baldwin, *Contagion and the State in Europe, 1830-1930* (1999). **SRC**

René Dubos and Jean Dubos, *The White Plague: Tuberculosis, Man and Society* (1952, 1987).

Neil McFarlane, 'Hospitals, Housing and Tuberculosis in Glasgow', *Social History of Medicine*, 2 (1989), 59-85.

**Week 9, Seminar 9****'Infant Doping', Infanticide and Infant Welfare: Infants, Medicine and State Intervention in the 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

This week's seminar will focus on infants and their welfare in Victorian society and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will examine social and medical responses to infant doping with opiates. Infanticide, the murder of new-born babies, was another major form of concern and public disgrace especially in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The campaign to save infant lives, a response to the fact that, while general mortality rates had fallen, infant deaths remained at shockingly high levels, took off early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and serves as an example of the nature of the involvement of local and national government in health and welfare.

**Seminar/Essay Questions**

1. Why did infant doping become such a cause for concern in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and who was blamed for it?
2. In 1858 the *Lancet* declared that mortality from infanticide 'out Herods Herod'. Discuss.
3. What steps were taken to combat the deaths of infants in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and what impact did they have?

**Seminar Reading:**

- Virginia Berridge, *Opium and the People* (1981, 1999), ch. 9. **SRC**
- George K. Behlmer, 'Deadly Motherhood: Infanticide and Medical Opinion in Mid-Victorian England', *Journal of the History of Medicine*, 34 (1979), 403-27. **SRC article**
- Elizabeth Peretz, 'A Maternity Service for England and Wales: Local Authority Maternity Care in the Inter-War Period in Oxfordshire and Tottenham', in J. Garcia et al., *The Politics of Maternity Care* (1990), 30-46. **SRC article**

**Additional Reading:**

Meg Arnot, 'Infant Death, Child Care and the State: The Baby-Farming Scandal and the First Infant Life Protection Legislation of 1872', *Continuity and Change*, 9 (1994) 271-311.

George K. Behlmer, *Child Abuse and Moral Reform in England, 1870-1908* (1982).

Mark Jackson, *New-Born Child Murder* (1996).

Lionel Rose, *Massacre of the Innocents: Infanticide in Great Britain 1800-1939* (1986).

Mark Jackson (ed.), *Historical Perspectives on Child Murder and Its Concealment, 1550-2000* (2001).

Christine L. Kreuger, 'Literary Defenses and Medical Prosecutions: Representing Infanticide in Nineteenth-Century Britain', *Victorian Studies*, 40 (1997), 271-94.

Jane Lewis, *The Politics of Motherhood: Child and Maternal Welfare in England, 1900-1939* (1980).

Anna Davin, 'Imperialism and Motherhood', *Historical Workshop*, 5 (1978), 9-66

Deborah Dwork, *War is Good for Babies and Other Young Children: A History of the Infant and Child Welfare Movement in England, 1898-1918* (1987).

J.M. Winter, *The Great War and the British People* (1986).

J.M. Winter, 'Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Public Health in Britain in the 1930s', *Journal of European Economic History*, 8 (1979), 439-62.

V. Fildes, L. Marks and H. Marland (eds), *Women and Children First: International Maternal and Infant Welfare, 1870-1945* (1992).

H. Marland, "'A Pioneer in Infant Welfare: The Huddersfield Scheme 1903-1920', *Social History of Medicine*, 5 (1993), 25-49.

### **TERM 3**

#### **Week 1, Seminar 10**

##### **War and Medicine: Surgery and Shell-Shock**

During the seminar we will focus particularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and the relationship between war, surgery and the treatment of mental disorder. We will view the film 'Medicine and War' (BBC Education and Wellcome Trust, 1998). More generally we will seek to answer the question whether the experience of war had any beneficial impact on medical treatment and care. We will also consider Jay Winter's thesis that war may have improved civilian health (this also relates back to the seminar on infant welfare).

##### **Seminar/Essay Questions**

1. Is it possible to draw up a 'medical balance sheet of war'?
2. What were the experiences of nurses during wartime?
3. How did the military and doctors respond to shell-shock during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and subsequently?
4. Did civilian health improve during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War?

##### **Seminar Reading:**

- Roger Cooter, 'War and Medicine', in W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds), *Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine* (1993), vol. 2, 1536-73. **SRC article**
- Anne Hardy, *Health and Medicine in Britain since 1860* (2001), chs. 2 and 4. **SRC**
- Joanna Bourke, 'Wartime', in Roger Cooter and John Pickstone (eds), *Medicine in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (2000), 589-600.

- J.M. Winter, 'The Impact of the First World War on Civilian Health in Britain', *Economic History Review*, 2<sup>nd</sup> series, 30 (1977), 489-504.  
**SRC article**

**Additional Reading:**

Roger Cooter, Mark Harrison and Steve Sturdy (eds), *Medicine and Modern Warfare* (1999).

Roger Cooter, *War, Medicine and Modernity* (1998).

Roger Cooter, *Surgery and Society in Peace and War: Orthopaedics and the Organisation of Modern Warfare 1880-1948* (1993).

Helen Jones, *Health and Society in Twentieth-Century Britain* (1994), esp. chs 2-5.

J.M. Winter, *The Great War and the British People* (1986).

Jay Winter, 'Military Fitness and Public Health in Britain in the First World War', *Journal of Contemporary History*, 15 (1980), 211-44.

Joan Lane, *A Social History of Medicine* (2001), ch. 10. **SRC**

L. MacDonald, *The Roses of No Man's Land* (1980).

Anne Summers, *Angels and Citizens: British Women as Military Nurses 1854-1914* (1988, 2000).

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth* (1933, many re-prints).

Ted Bogacz, 'War Neurosis and Cultural Change in England, 1914-22: The Work of the War Office Committee of Inquiry into "Shell-Shock"', *Journal of Contemporary History*, 24 (1989), 227-56. **SRC article**

Harold Merksey, 'After Shell-Shock: Aspects of Hysteria since 1922', in Hugh Freeman and German Berrios (eds), *150 Years of British Psychiatry 1841-1991* (1991), 245-67. **SRC**

*Journal of Contemporary History*, shell-shock issue edited by Jay Winter, 35, no. 1 (Jan. 2000). **Journal in SRC**

Hans Binneveld, *From Shellshock to Combat Stress: A Comparative History of Military Psychiatry* (1997). **Ch. vi SRC article**

Ben Shephard, *A War of Nerves: Soldiers and Psychiatrists 1914-1994* (2000). **SRC**

Use references given in footnotes and bibliographies to find other books and articles to read. Roy Porter's *The Greatest Benefit and Disease, Medicine and Society* have especially good reading lists.