

IRELAND AND MEDICINE IN THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES. Edited by James Kelly with Fiona Clark. Pp. xiv, 227. Farnham: Ashgate. 2010. £55.

There is a substantial body of work on the history of medicine in Ireland, as the editors of this volume point out in their introduction. Yet there are also large gaps in this literature. One of the most striking of these gaps has been the early modern period. Compared with what is known about the world of Irish medicine from 1800 to 2000, our knowledge of that world from 1600 to 1800 is very limited indeed. This collection is therefore a most welcome addition to Irish medical historiography. It is the product of a symposium held at Queen's University, Belfast, in April 2008. The editors are to be commended for speedily getting these nine valuable papers into print in such a nicely produced volume. Moreover, the collection, unlike many, is coherent: the essays link together in a satisfying manner, with common themes running through most of them.

Charles Dillon, in a wide-ranging study, traces the decline of the Gaelic medical schools during the sixteenth century, and shows how during the following century significant numbers of Irish students were attending Continental schools, some of whom may have been members of hereditary medical families. Dillon chooses to investigate students at Charles University in Prague, where he finds that a number went on to pursue careers abroad with Irish regiments. He is unsure, though, how many graduates returned to Ireland, and he speculates that with the decline of the indigenous schools, Irish popular medicine must have flourished.

Other essays examine the careers of European-trained doctors who did return to Ireland, as well as aspects of popular medicine, thus filling in some of the gaps identified by Dillon. Mary Ann Lyons, for example, looks at the careers of four graduates of the University of Reims between 1614 and 1619: Gerald Fennell, Dermot O'Meara, Christopher Talbot and Thomas Arthur. All returned to Ireland and played a significant role in medical politics, even into the 1650s. Liam Chambers also considers the life of a Reims graduate, Bernard O'Connor, who during a short career in the 1690s trained in France before working in Poland and England, where he brought his medical expertise to bear on the problem of miracles.

Perhaps the most impressive essay among these fine offerings is that by Laurence Brockliss. He provides an invaluable statistical analysis of the Irish graduates of European, English and Scottish medical schools between 1640 and 1799. He examines where they came from in Ireland, why so many took their degree from Reims (it was cheap), the qualifications of Dublin physicians in the late eighteenth century, and, finally, the careers of the disproportionate number of Irish medical men who served in the British army and navy during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Another essay that will doubtless be mined by future researchers is that by Andrew Sneddon: this discusses the successes and failures of Irish medical legislation. Drawing on Queen's University's online eighteenth-century Irish Legislation Database, Sneddon provides a helpful appendix listing sixty-five bills introduced into the Irish Parliament during 1695 to 1800 that aimed to regulate institutional medicine.

Doctors and laws are fairly traditional areas of medical history, but this book also contains essays on less conventional topics. James Kelly surveys the wide range of eighteenth-century 'domestic medication'. Wendy D. Churchill raises important issues about gender and the patient by examining letters written during the 1730s by a Church of Ireland bishop to a leading London physician seeking advice about his wife's health. Toby Barnard, in a short contribution, highlights the important role that both Catholic and Protestant doctors played in the intellectual life of eighteenth-century Ireland. He shows that it is no coincidence that two of the country's most significant Catholic historians, John Curry and Sylvester O'Halloran, were both doctors. Finally, Fiona Clark discusses the life of Daniel O'Sullivan, who, after medical training in France, joined the Spanish army and pursued a brief and not very successful career in Mexico during the 1790s. The essay illustrates some of the problems of practice abroad, at the same time highlighting the fact that colonial medicine represents another major gap in current Irish medical history.

The book reminds us what a remarkably varied field early modern Irish medicine was. Patients could treat themselves, relying upon family medical knowledge; if they had the money, they could call upon – either in person or by letter – the services of Catholic and Protestant practitioners trained in the best medical schools in France, Holland, Scotland, England or Ireland; they could employ cures recommended by traditional rural healers; if poor, they might seek care in a provincial infirmary or an urban charity hospital; or, especially from the late eighteenth century, they could purchase commercial remedies advertised in their local newspapers.

This is a much-needed study. It shines some clear light into the murky gloom that has tended to shroud early modern Irish medicine for far too long, and in doing so lights up some fascinating individuals and issues. One can only congratulate the editors and contributors on their efforts, and hope to see more such work from them in the near future.

ELIZABETH MALCOLM

*School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne*

TRAVELLERS' ACCOUNTS AS SOURCE-MATERIAL FOR IRISH HISTORIANS. Edited by C. J. Woods. Pp 256, illus. Dublin: Four Courts Press. 2009. €50 hardback; €24.95 paperback. (Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History)

C. J. Woods, in this valuable volume – part of the Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History series – culls his large, authoritative and as-yet-unpublished bibliography of Irish travel narratives for a selection of 209 accounts. They encompass tours taken from 1635 to 1948. For each narrative, Woods provides a wealth of bibliographic detail in illuminating and systematic annotations. In the structure and breadth of his annotations, Woods has developed a fine resource for the Irish historian, his format extending beyond the bibliographic surveys undertaken by such writers as John McVeagh, and the collections of excerpts edited by Glenn Hooper, John P. Harrington and others – highly serviceable research tools in their own right, now benefitting from the content analysis provided by Woods.

Woods has organised his bibliography chronologically. For each entry, he provides a short biographical sketch of the author where the identity can be discerned; where it cannot, Woods often explores wider questions of authorship, based on the accounts, to elucidate a general profile of the writer. He then offers, wherever possible, details of the narrative under the subtitles of 'Purpose', 'Date', 'Itinerary', 'Mode', 'Content' (a more expansive category providing a cursory overview of the account) and 'Persons' whom the writer met while touring, as well as any accompanying travellers. Some travellers' stays in Ireland were lengthy: Henry D. Inglis toured from the spring to the autumn of 1834. Others were decidedly brief: the English schoolmaster Stuart Petre Brodie Mais, who appears in two entries, spent only a fortnight's holiday in Kerry and Connemara with his wife in 1948. Often, Ireland was incorporated within wider-ranging tours, such as the celebrated French historian Jules Michelet's 1834 travels encompassing England, Flanders, Switzerland and other countries; in Ireland, Michelet drew intriguing comparisons between the capital and its French counterpart, finding the people of Dublin decidedly wanting.

In addition to well-known accounts (that of Arthur Young, for instance), Woods includes such narratives as the collection of serialised accounts authored by 'J. K.' (writing in 1836 for the *Ulster Times*). Examining a copy of that volume held in the Bodleian Library, Woods remarks on manuscript notations that suggest the author could be James Emerson Tennent, a Belfast M.P. and author of later travel narratives on Greece and Ceylon. Woods's efforts to provide this level of detail in a systematic way (he also notes any illustrations) and his valuable incorporation of international travellers' accounts – from the famous work of the American Asenath Nicholson to that of the German geographer Johann Georg Khol – make