

as the basis for a re-evaluation of the relationship between religion and medicine in the middle ages. Historians have tended to study miracles from either a medical or a religious perspective, but McCleery convincingly argues that this is an anachronistic division and thus a more integrated approach is needed. She also demonstrates the potential of socio-statistical approaches to miracle collections: it is hard to disagree with her claim that ‘there is something inherently countable about miracles’ (140).

Irina Metzler’s contribution is also inspired by a numbers-based observation. Her essay ‘Indiscriminate healing miracles in decline: how social realities affect religious perception’ asks why ‘healing miracles, which had been so popular and numerous during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, take a numerical nosedive from the fourteenth century onwards’ (155). Some indication of the scale of this supposed decline would have been useful; Metzler refers to ‘interesting statistics’ in the work of André Vauchez and Pierre-André Sigal, but fails to quote them, or even to give detailed references for the interested reader to follow. Furthermore, whilst Metzler posits some interesting cultural explanations for this shift, she neglects to consider the possibility that the ‘nosedive’ might actually reflect a decline in the recording of miraculous cures rather than a decline in claims that such cures had taken place.

The last medically-focused contribution takes as its subject ‘St Edmund of East Anglia: “martir, mayde and kynge”, and midwife?’. Rebecca Pinner investigates the only childbirth miracle attributed to St Edmund, the beneficiary of which was Eleanor of Provence, queen of Henry III of England. Pinner’s discussion of the miracle and its context is engaging, ranging from antiphons to bull-based fertility rituals, but ultimately provides a somewhat overcomplicated solution to the problem of why a king might appeal to one of his favourite saints when his wife was experiencing a difficult labour.

The final essay (‘John Foxe’s golden saints? Ways of reading Foxe’s female martyrs in light of Voragine’s *Golden Legend*’) moves forward in time to the late sixteenth century. Fiona Kao’s study of Foxe’s portrayal of female martyrs is an interesting one, and her contention that his work was influenced by medieval hagiography appears plausible. But the essay has little to say about medieval miracles, and consequently it sits somewhat awkwardly alongside the rest of the collection.

Overall, *Contextualizing Miracles* is a welcome addition to the ever-growing body of literature on medieval miracles. Its breadth of approach ensures that it is useful to a wide range of readers, and there is certainly much here to interest medical historians. Although the quality of the essays is somewhat variable, the volume demonstrates both the vibrancy of current research and the great potential for further work in this field.

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doi:10.1017/mdh.2016.46

Linda Palfreeman, *Spain Bleeds: The Development of Battlefield Blood Transfusion during the Civil War* (Brighton, Chicago, Toronto: Sussex Academic Press, 2015), pp. xviii, 204, \$64.95, hardback, ISBN: 978-1-84519-717-9.

Unfortunately, during the twentieth century we had to wait for a war to see a significant breakthrough in the technology involved in Transfusion Medicine. This occurred during the First World War where sodium citrate started to be used as an anti-coagulant for the first indirect blood transfusions, or during the Second World War when hundreds of thousands

of blood donations collected from civilian donors in the rearguard were brought to the front to try to save injured soldiers. But before Second World War broke out, there was what many have considered a terrible rehearsal in Spain of what would occur later, the Spanish Civil War. A fratricidal fight between the Republican Government and the Nationalists, a group of army officers and politicians led by Francisco Franco who organised a coup d'état to remove the republican government elected in the 1933 elections. What initially was just a confrontation between Spaniards soon became an international conflict with the involvement of other countries. For instance, Germany and Italy sent warships or provided air force units that fought together with Nationalist army, carrying out what have been considered the first raids on a defenceless civilian population by a modern air force (Guernica 1937, Barcelona 1938). By contrast, the support that the Republican army received was in form of military equipment (mainly from the Soviet Union) and voluntary soldiers (the International Brigades) gathered through the Communist Parties of different countries in Europe and North America whose governments officially followed a policy of non-intervention.

Dr Linda Palfreeman's book describes one of the aspects of modern war that was developed in the Spanish Civil War, blood transfusion at the battle front. Until then, blood transfusion was performed using direct techniques which involved the connection of the blood donor to the recipient or, at most, the drawing of blood from the donor and its immediate infusion into the recipient. For the first time in the history, a new strategy was developed in Barcelona by Dr Frederic Duran Jordà. From scratch, an organisation and technology was created which allowed the collection of blood donations from civilians in the rearguard in an anti-coagulant solution and the preparation of glass flasks with a connected rubber tubing and a needle which allowed transfusion at the battle front, to which the blood was transported in refrigerated trunks.

The author, who works as Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Cardenal Herrera in Elche, Spain has been interested in the Spanish Civil War for many years and she has researched different aspects of the conflict. As a result of her research two previous books were published describing the activities of British volunteers in the Republican Medical Service. The book reviewed here is the final book in the informal trilogy that she has devoted to the Spanish Civil War. It is the product of much hard work in documentation and research in the field of blood transfusion, as the reader can infer from the long list of references, notes and photographs found in the book. The non-specialist reader will be grateful that the first two chapters of the book provide a brief history of blood transfusion and the techniques available that are extremely useful in understanding the state of blood transfusion when the Spanish Civil War broke out, and in appreciating the enormous merit of those pioneers who were able to create out of nowhere an organisation that was a model for other countries for the imminent Second World War.

After the first two introductory chapters, the book describes in the same readable and comprehensible way the contributions of the different players in the field of blood transfusion on the Republican and Nationalists sides, paying a particular tribute to the work of Dr Frederic Duran Jordà and his collaborators, particularly Alfred Benlloch, who created the Barcelona Blood Transfusion Service in August 1936, which continued functioning until January 1939, when the Nationalists conquered Barcelona. The personality of Duran Jordà stands out for several reasons. One of them is his commitment to social aspects of Medicine such as improving the health of the working class that made him become a member of the Catalan Communist Party. Another is the scientific bent of his mind. He was a man of great intelligence and unlimited curiosity and these characteristics

led him to investigate a wide variety of topics with an analytical and practical focus, and to publish his results. In Spanish he published a dozen studies about different aspects of the storage of blood, and in 1937 he published in English in the *The Lancet* the method he had developed in Barcelona. This interest never diminished throughout his life. Indeed, his last study was published in the *Nature* in June 1957, three months after his death. His achievements are particularly impressive given the rather inconspicuous Spanish contribution to science in the first half of the twentieth century.

But in Dr Palfreeman's book other important contributors to blood transfusion in Spain during the Civil War are recognised. One of them was the Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune. After his arrival in Spain in November 1936 he visited the Barcelona Blood Transfusion Service and there he knew the method developed by Duran Jordà and decided to create a similar organisation in Madrid. His work in Spain was very well known in English-speaking countries thanks to his very active presence in the media supported by the Spanish Government that had already identified the importance of propaganda in getting the support of the international community. Norman Bethune was in Spain until the end of May 1937 but in just those six months, according to Dr Palfreeman, he made a 'contribution of monumental proportions' to the Republican Blood Transfusion Service.

Another important contributor to blood transfusion during the Spanish Civil War is deservedly recognised in the book, Dr Carlos Elósegui Sarasola. He was the creator of the Blood Transfusion Service in the Francoist army and after the Civil War he continued as a director of the Haematology and Haemotherapy Institute, the first civil haemotherapy organisation created in Europe to meet the blood transfusion needs of an entire nation.

In summary, the book provides an informed, thorough and informative review of the development of battlefield blood transfusion during the Spanish Civil War. The writing is clear and readable and will meet the expectations of scholars in their research as well as those of general readers interested in blood transfusion or Spanish Civil War history.

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doi:10.1017/mdh.2016.47

Lee K. Pennington, *Casualties of History: Wounded Japanese Servicemen and the Second World War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2015), pp. iix, 282, \$39.95, hardback, ISBN: 978-0-8014-5257-4.

In this pioneering book, Lee Pennington adds to the growing literature that places the history of the body squarely within the narrative of modern Japan and the history of the Asia-Pacific War. *Casualties of History* examines wounded servicemen, who, despite prominence as symbols of righteous sacrifice during World War II, became forgotten relics of a painful military debacle. These men, 'casualties of history', were forgotten twice. First, post-war popular memory solidified around 'failed kamikaze pilots, bereaved families, and atomic-bombing survivors'. (2) Secondly, the story of wounded and disabled military personnel has largely been written out of Western historiography concerning the Asia-Pacific War. Occupation-era observers noted that Japanese society cast aside disabled veterans, who were often seen begging alms on the street. As Pennington argues, however, the historical record reveals that during the war the recuperation of these men played a central role in the military's home-front mobilisation campaign.

Japan's wars of empire on the continent produced disabled veterans and financially compromised families. Between 1904 and 1906, the Imperial Diet passed orders such as