

the lack of separation between medical informatics and bioinformatics in this period. These claims are notable given the divergence in expertise and networks characterising these fields today, and underscore the need for an historical account of how this separation came about.

November integrates an impressive number and variety of sources, ranging from personal, military and corporate archives to interviews, as well as historical scholarship from biology, medicine, engineering and computing. His tight geographical, chronological and institutional focus is thus understandable, even if the spotlight on NIH policy and the success of LINC may not provide a balanced perspective on the impact of computing on biomedicine. In Chapter 4, November makes it clear that the 'LINC vision' had to be sold to biologists by government agencies and computer manufacturers. The difficulties in getting biologists and medics to adopt computing in their everyday practices persists today, and while November provides a convincing account of how interactions with biology have improved computing, doubts remain around the impact of computing technologies within biology and medicine. Further, as November himself remarks, questions remain concerning the relation of developments in the USA with the intersection of computing and biomedicine in other countries and periods. Open questions notwithstanding, this book constitutes an obligatory read for historians interested in twentieth-century science and technology; and is an important reference for philosophers and social scientists investigating contemporary developments in biomedicine.

doi:10.1093/shm/hkt024

Advance Access published 29 April 2013

Sabina Leonelli
University of Exeter
s.leonelli@exeter.ac.uk

Paul Kopperman (ed.), *Regimental Practice by John Buchanan, M.D.: An Eighteenth-Century Medical Diary and Manual*, Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2012. Pp. vii + 231. £60. ISBN 978 0 7546 6877 0.

Paul Kopperman's edition of an unpublished manuscript by an eighteenth-century British regimental surgeon is a welcome addition not only to resources on the history of military medicine, but also to eighteenth-century medical practice and innovation more broadly. John Buchanan (1710–67) was a regimental surgeon in a cavalry regiment during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740–48). Born in Scotland, apprenticed as a surgeon in Edinburgh and commissioned as surgeon to the King's Own Horse Guards ('the Blues') when twenty-three, Buchanan served in England and then in Flanders during the war, completing his manuscript when he returned to England in 1746. In his manuscript, Buchanan details the day-to-day experiences of a British regiment, noting diet, dress and amusements, as well as diseases and health care.

As Kopperman lucidly points out in his substantial introduction to the manuscript, Buchanan was not necessarily a typical regimental surgeon. He was fluent in Latin and relatively well-read, liberally quoting Hippocrates throughout, along with other classical authors (helpfully translated and annotated by Kopperman). His attainment of an M.D. after his army service, his position as the first physician of the Staffordshire General Infirmary from 1765, along with his manuscript, all indicate that Buchanan was an ambitious and successful medical man. At the same time, as Kopperman makes clear, Buchanan's biography and writings demonstrate that historians have tended to underestimate the quality and vitality of regimental medicine. A keen observer,

Buchanan notes a variety of medical approaches, including traditional remedies used by the men, and assesses their success and failure. His journal makes frequent mention of dissections, with no suggestion that these were unusual practice, along with occasional experiments. Having visited French and Hessian hospitals, Buchanan compares methods and practices with those of the British, displaying an awareness of the role of institutional factors in the health of troops. More broadly, he provides evidence that military medical practitioners, even at the regimental level, were active participants in a network of observations and knowledge exchange. Not only did Buchanan correspond with the physician to the British Army in Flanders and later president of the Royal Society, John Pringle (1707–82), but he also notes that regimental surgeons ‘have a weekly Club’ that discussed medicine in the army. As Buchanan explains, ‘by this means we know the practice of the whole army during the Camp[aig]n, & in winter quarters that of the Garrison, where we have an opportunity of attending the hospital’ (p. 202).

The publication of Buchanan’s manuscript reinforces recent work on early modern and eighteenth-century military medicine that portrays health care in the British armed forces as of a higher standard than has long been assumed, as well as a site for medical innovation and empiricism.¹ Comprehensively annotated, Kopperman’s edition of Buchanan’s manuscript clearly draws on his larger project on medical men serving with the British Army during the mid eighteenth century. As well as an extended version of the work (available online), Kopperman notes that his forthcoming book includes a database of 828 medical officers who served with the British Army in North America and the West Indies, 1755–83 (p. 1). Since his early publications, Kopperman’s research has demonstrated that mid-century British military medicine was organised and coherent, and that care for even the lowest ranks involved more than mere bleeding or harsh purgatives. Indeed, Buchanan often recorded that regular diet and good nursing were the best medicines possible for soldiers. Moreover, in contrast to studies of military and naval medicine during the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that focus on discipline and the development of anonymous and standardised statistics, what is shown in Buchanan’s journal is humane treatment and interest in individual soldiers. The result is a glimpse of eighteenth-century military medicine as innovative and, more importantly, influential beyond the bounds of the armed forces.

doi:10.1093/shm/hkt025

Advance Access published 23 April 2013

Erica Charters

University of Oxford

erica.charters@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk

Sarah Ferber and Sally Wilde (eds), *The Body Divided: Human Beings and Human ‘Material’ in Modern Medical History*, Farnham; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2011. Pp. vii + 249. £65. ISBN 978 0 7546 6834 3.

The turn of the new millennium saw an interdisciplinary explosion of studies on the body, as scholars analysed, assessed and deconstructed what had once been taken for granted; historical actors’ relationship to their own physical selves. So pervasive is the notion of body—and we use it so often, in so many contexts—that this reviewer found it almost

¹Mark Harrison, *Medicine in an Age of Commerce and Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010); Geoffrey Hudson (ed.), *British Military and Naval Medicine, 1600–1830* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007);

Eric Gruber von Arni, *Hospital Care and the British Standing Army, 1660–1714* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006).