

their material from printed and written sources and so deal only with the creoles of relatively pure European ancestry. Stuart Schwartz, analyzing the Brazilian case, and Elliott point out that mixed breeds, Amerindians, and blacks, having no reason for loyalty to the mother country, probably developed consciousness of a separate identity much earlier, but there is no available record on this.

This book breaks new ground with well written, cogently argued analyses. It should evoke considerably more exploration of a hitherto nebulous theme.

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*Medicine in the New World: New Spain, New France, and New England.* Edited by RONALD L. NUMBERS. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1987. Photographs. Table. Illustration. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 175. Cloth.

This tightly constructed analysis of medical practice in New Spain (Gunter R. Risse), New France (Toby Gelfand), and New England (Eric H. Christianson) challenges the premise that the New World environment created a distinct genre of general practitioner, freed from the restraints of Old World methods and learning. In all three European societies, bonafide, licensed physicians and surgeons trained in Alcalá de Henares, Paris, or London, relying on Galen, Hippocrates, and Avicenna, transmitted their theories and practices virtually unchanged to colonies overseas. Because of severe shortages of physicians in the New World, however, homegrown practitioners, who learned as apprentices, emerged by default and were hierarchically arranged according to their specialty. With no local training ground available at all in New France and none in New England until the 1780s, the self-trained empiric became the rule. In Mexico, however, the Royal and Pontifical University began providing European-style, formal training in the late sixteenth century, two hundred years before Harvard, while the *protomedicato* led the way in licensing physicians. In New France, a nondegree-holding "king's physician" served somewhat the same function for the surgeons of the colony, but in New England private medical societies licensed doctors. Hospitals serving all levels of society dotted Mexico City, and Quebec could boast the Hôtel-Dieu. New England, however, had no hospitals at all until the nineteenth century, only temporary military hospitals and alms or poor houses. Medical practitioners in New England initiated medical innovations such as inoculation earlier than their counterparts in New France or New Spain, but by the late eighteenth century, doctors in Mexico were as quick as those in Boston to put in place new curative or preventive health measures.

Ablly edited by Ronald Numbers, this piece of comparative history shows that medical practice in the Spanish empire in the New World compared favorably with methods and techniques used elsewhere. In fact, the Hispanic sense of public responsibility for the sick at all levels was more deep-seated, regulatory agencies

better defined, university training for would-be physicians more readily available, and methods and techniques as advanced as those being used elsewhere in America. My only caveat concerns the authors' general opinion that medical practice in the New World stagnated. In New Spain, at least, remarkable advancements occurred: witness the establishment of a College of Surgery in Mexico City, advocacy of the caesarean section, and the immediate adoption of a universal vaccination program, all in the last half of the eighteenth century. Despite this minor criticism, this work is a well-focused piece of comparative history which aptly illustrates that an analysis of medical practices can do much to reveal the texture of life and cultural levels of colonial societies.

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*The Economies of Mexico and Peru during the Late Colonial Period, 1760–1810.*

Edited by NILS JACOBSEN and HANS-JÜRGEN PUHLE. Berlin: Colloquium Verlag Berlin, 1986. Notes. Tables. Graphs. Pp. 428. Paper.

Nils Jacobsen and Hans-Jürgen Puhle provide a clear and challenging introduction to this immensely useful collection of essays, which have been successfully integrated into a coherent whole. Research historians and graduate students will find this book especially useful, though it can be readily recommended to those not working specifically on Mexico or Peru, because it identifies many current problems and issues. The main purpose of the book is to compare the development of New Spain and Peru in the last decades of Spanish colonial rule, so as to examine the proposition that their development was divergent. At the same time, these studies fully recognize the regional and subregional variations within each respective viceregal territory, which often vitiate any global comparison. Of particular value are the commentaries, which appear after each group of articles, since they not only provide linkage and recapitulation, but also, in specific instances, advance the discussion by pointing to the themes which can usefully be explored by comparative historical analysis in the future. The commentaries provided by Friedrich Katz (pp. 143–149) on the essays of Eric Van Young, Albert Meyers, and Nils Jacobsen in section three and by John Coatsworth (pp. 233–239) on the essays by Brooke Larson, Guy Thomson, and Miriam Salas in section four are decidedly helpful in their range, while Jacobsen's own commentary (pp. 299–315) on the essays by Jacques Barbier, Alberto Flores Galindo, and Marcel Haitin in section five reviews the whole context of late ancien régime commercial policy, and concludes with the statement that "the Bourbon reforms managed at once to threaten and strengthen the mercantile interests in New Spain and Peru" (p. 314).

The structure of the book is admirable, beginning with the controversial question of whether the real value of mining output and revenue in New Spain grew more rapidly in the first half of the eighteenth century rather than in the second,