

## REVIEW OF RECENT PERIODICAL LITERATURE

After many years' excellent work, Terry Gwynne has indicated that he wishes to hand over the job of reviewing the recent periodical literature for readers of *LPS*. It is perhaps an indication of the magnitude of his contribution that two members of the Editorial Board will take over the task he performed alone. From 1999 onwards, reviews will appear annually in the summer issue of *LPS*, and will, in each case, cover articles published in the previous calendar year. Nigel Goose will review articles dealing primarily with the period prior to about 1700 and Andrew Hinde will review those which are mainly concerned with more recent times.

This review is a supplement to that published in *LPS* 60, and deals with a number of additional articles published during 1997.

Barrington, R., 'A Venetian secretary in England: an unpublished diplomatic report in the Biblioteca Marciana, Venice', *Historical Research*, 70, 170-81.

This article reproduces a recently discovered report by an anonymous Venetian diplomat made in 1540, which includes some fascinating demographic information. Apparently England was a remarkably healthy place at this time, for 'The region at any time of the year is most temperate without any bad air, due to which there are few illnesses, and everywhere many men reach the age of 110 and others 120 years!'

Burchardt, J., 'Rural social relations, 1830-50: opposition to allotments for labourers', *Agricultural History Review* 45, 2 (1997), 165-175.

This is an examination of the attitudes of the three 'estates' of English agriculture to the allotment movement in the second quarter of the 19th century. Reactions differed. Landowners were generally either supportive of allotments or neutral. Where they did oppose them, it was normally on ideological grounds, notably that they would lead to an increase of population through earlier marriages and the removal of the Malthusian preventive check. Farmers were much more hostile, arguing that the provision of allotments would upset social relations with the labourers (by giving too much independence to the latter, thereby raising their social and economic status). They preferred the system of letting labourers have 'potato grounds', which was common in many parts of the country in the early 19th century. The different attitudes of landowners and farmers towards allotments led to a deterioration of relations between these two groups.

Counce, S., 'Farm servants and the development of capitalism in English agriculture', *Agricultural History Review* 45, 1 (1997), 49-60.

Stephen Counce enters the debate on the validity of the 'tripartite' (landowner, farmer and labourer) model of social relations in the English countryside. This

model has recently been criticised for failing to include small farmers and farm servants, who were numerous in many parts of the country, and who, it has been argued, do not fit neatly into any of the three categories. This criticism, according to Counce, is not justified (at least in relation to farm servants). Farm service was part of the spread of capitalism through agriculture; it was often the most efficient and convenient way of organising farm labour; and most of those who entered service never had any realistic chance of becoming even small farmers so they can, therefore, properly be classified as labourers. A correct understanding of the nature of farm service does not undermine the fundamentals of the tripartite model.

Coffey, P., 'Huguenot freemen of the city of Dublin, 1660–1729', *Proceedings of the Huguenot Society*, 25, 635–49.

This article presents a list of Huguenot freemen admitted in the city of Dublin in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, including their trade and method of admission.

Dyer, A., 'The English sweating sickness of 1551: an epidemic anatomized', *Medical History*, 41, 362–84.

This important article reports the results of a detailed analysis of 680 parish registers to assess the incidence of the last outbreak of sweating sickness in England in 1551. Forced, by the temporal concentration of the disease and the small number of events in many parishes, to adopt what he calls a 'subjective' judgement, Dr Dyer finds that outside London 19.3 per cent of parishes were clearly, and an additional 13.1 per cent possibly, affected. Contemporary comment suggests that men suffered more than women, and this is borne out for the capital but is not so generally evident in the provinces, whilst another contemporary view—that children generally escaped—is not supported by the register data. It was, however, primarily a rural rather than an urban disease. Across 69 affected parishes Dr Dyer calculates a mean death rate of 2.2 per cent, but as he uses the discredited Bishops' Census to estimate parochial population sizes this will undoubtedly represent an overestimate, and his maximum theoretical mortality of 0.5–0.7 per cent for England as a whole will also need to be scaled down, perhaps by as much as one-quarter.

Frost, G., 'Bigamy and cohabitation in Victorian England', *Journal of Family History* 22, 3 (1997), 286–306.

Using a sample of 221 cases of bigamy derived from the columns of *The Times*, Ginger Frost argues that the practice was widespread during the nineteenth century in England. Moreover, society was tolerant of bigamous unions provided that certain conditions were met. These were that the bigamist had a good reason to separate from his or her earlier spouse(s), that he or she had informed the later spouse of the existing marriage(s), and that a (male) bigamist was able to support multiple families. Bigamists of both sexes who met these conditions were treated increasingly sympathetically by the courts as the century progressed. Judges and juries became intolerant of private prosecutions which

threatened to wreck harmonious (albeit bigamous) relationships, and took a particularly dim view of public prosecutions which they believed were mainly aimed at saving poor-relief payments. The paper contains a wealth of fascinating detail of individual cases

Horn, P., 'The emigration of pauper children to Canada 1870–1914', *Genealogists' Magazine* 25, 10 (1997), 393–399.

This short article describes the assisted emigration of several thousand pauper children and orphans to Canada between about 1870 and 1928. The process was organised by several bodies, including the poor law authorities and various religious and charitable organisations. The paper is illustrated with many individual case studies.

Horrell, S. and Humphries, J., 'The origins and expansion of the male breadwinner family: the case of nineteenth-century Britain', *International Review of Social History* 42, supplement (1997), 25–64.

In this article, Sara Horrell and Jane Humphries build on their earlier work on the family economy during the industrial revolution. Using a dataset of British household budgets spanning the years between 1787 and 1865 they analyse changes in the composition of family incomes among different occupational groups. In general, during the first half of the 19th century families became more dependent on the earnings of men. However, beneath this overall trend lay a complex occupation-specific pattern which resists generalisation. In some occupations, for example mining, the contribution of women and children to the family economy seems to have fallen as male earnings rose, and legislation restricting the employment of women and children was introduced. In other occupations, such as agriculture, women and children found that the demand for their labour was falling and with it their opportunities to augment their husbands' and fathers' often meagre earnings. In factory-based occupations, women and children continued to make contributions to the family economy throughout the period where opportunities for employment existed. Horrell and Humphries also present a briefer analysis of the economic situation of female-headed households which reinforces the widespread belief in the economic precariousness of their situation.

Hunter, M., 'Boyle versus the Galenists: a suppressed critique of seventeenth-century medical practice and its significance', *Medical History*, 41, 322–61.

Dr Hunter discusses Boyle's stance in the long standing controversy between traditional Galenists, who relied heavily upon blood letting and evacuation, and Paracelsian medicine which emphasized chemical cures. His unpublished papers show a generally hostility to the Galenists, but his published writings are ambivalent, which is explained by his scrupulous concern to be fair and an awareness of the damage an outspoken attack might do to the profession.

Ireland, R.W., 'Confinement with hard labour: motherhood and penal practice in a Victorian gaol', *Welsh History Review* 18, 4 (1997), 621–638.

A considerable amount has been written about the children who were born in, or accompanied their mothers into, British workhouses in Victorian times. Much less has been written about the far smaller number of children who were born in prisons, or who were admitted to prison with their mothers because they were considered too young to be separated from them. This article considers the experiences of these children, using evidence from Carmarthen county gaol. The author observes that despite the general drive towards uniformity of treatment of prisoners in nineteenth-century gaols, the presence of small children meant that compromises had to be, and were, made.

King, S., 'Migrants on the margin? Mobility, integration and occupations in the West Riding, 1650–1820', *Journal of Historical Geography* 23, 3 (1997), 284–303.

Drawing on his community reconstruction of the proto-industrial parish of Calverley in the West Riding of Yorkshire, which will be familiar to many *LPS* readers, Steven King examines the experiences of migrants who came into the parish between the mid-seventeenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Many of those who entered the community only stayed there a short time. Even those who remained were only slowly and reluctantly assimilated into the communities that they entered. Indeed, it was often the case that full acceptance was only achieved by migrants' children, rather than the migrants themselves. King also makes some cautionary comments on the validity of using a 'local country' defined on the basis of labour markets, walking distance, or some other aspect of the local economy, for the study of local population change.

Lane, P., 'Work on the margins: poor women and the informal economy of eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Leicestershire', *Midland History* 22 (1997), 85–99.

If female-headed households were in such a precarious economic situation, how did they make ends meet? This paper shows that in Leicestershire, women without husbands, or in households with very low incomes, used a great variety of ways to augment their incomes. A theme of Penelope Lane's analysis is that the distinction between activities which were 'informal' but legal (for example taking in neighbours' washing) and those which were illegal (such as, in the Leicestershire context, the embezzlement of materials supplied to outworkers) was very blurred. Activities which the authorities regarded as illegal were not always so regarded by the poor. Clearly, the fact that a large section of the poor were gaining a part of their livelihood from this 'informal economy' has implications for the use of information about occupation derived from conventional sources, such as censuses. This fact is already recognised by most social historians of the period (though not yet, perhaps, by all economic historians).

Lenihan, P., 'War and population, 1649–52', *Irish Economic and Social History*, **24**, 1–21.

This is an excellent attempt to resolve the divergent opinions concerning the demographic consequences of the Eleven Year War (1641–52). Both statistical and impressionistic evidence are used to produce an estimate of national mortality of 15–20 per cent in 1649–52, a veritable demographic catastrophe. The statistical evidence available is, however, extremely selective and partial, and this must leave room for scepticism about the conclusions that are built upon it.

Luu, L.B., 'French-speaking refugees and the foundation of the London silk industry in the sixteenth century', *Proceedings of the Huguenot Society*, **26**, 564–76.

Lien Luu provides us with some of the fruits of the research that went into her recently completed PhD thesis. Entering the debate concerning the origins of the London silk industry, her detailed work shows clearly that it flourished in the later sixteenth as a result of the Dutch influx to the capital, with possibly 1,000 immigrants—men, women and children—employed in the silk trade by 1593. Some only took up silk work once they had settled, either switching from a related trade or having previously been described as a merchant. We should note, however, that the English silk industry in fact dates back to the fourteenth century, and hence 'foundation' might be the wrong word to have used.

Mason, S., 'Robert Talbor alias Tabor and the ague', *Essex Journal*, **32**, 18–21.

This article provides an interesting footnote to Mary Dobson's *Contours of Death* (see review of this book in *LPS* 60) for it relates the tale of Robert Talbor who, without medical training, popularized the use of quinine bearing Peruvian bark as a cure for Malaria, having moved to the unhealthy coastal regions of Essex specifically to study the disease. His book on the subject was published in 1672, and he was eventually called upon to treat both French and English royalty, getting rich in the process.

Meynell, G.G., 'A database for John Locke's medical notebooks and medical reading', *Medical History*, **41**, 473–86.

This is an introduction to a database of John Locke's medical notebooks and reading, a field in which he remained an educated amateur.

Miller, J., 'Town governments and Protestant strangers, 1560–1690', *Proceedings of the Huguenot Society*, **26**, 577–89.

This article discusses some well-known features of the relationship between immigrants and their hosts, largely based upon evidence from Norwich. It does not appear to offer much that is new, but at least there is a recognition of the high degree of co-operation and mutual self-interest that existed to override periodic tensions

Moore-Colyer, R., 'Land and people in Northamptonshire: Great Oakley, c.1750-1850', *Agricultural History Review* 45, 2 (1997), 149-164.

This article will be of considerable interest to many *LPS* readers. Its theme (the survival of the small owner-occupier in the 19th century countryside) is related to that of Caunce's paper. Its approach is to conduct a detailed case study of a single Midland parish: Great Oakley, near Corby. Richard Moore-Colyer shows that small owner-occupiers survived successive waves of enclosure and continued to contribute significantly to the local economy in the mid-19th century. Typically they employed family labour to run their farms, and may themselves have had by-employments.

Pollock, L. A., 'Childbearing and female bonding in early modern England', *Society History*, 22, 286-306.

This is a highly interesting piece, which challenges the very notion of 'sisterhood' though an examination of childbearing, the female rite of passage *par excellence*. Despite what we might suppose, men were by no means entirely excluded from the process, the female presence was often for practical as much as emotional reasons and conflict between women could and did arise. The idealised view of female networks cannot be sustained, and could break down particularly quickly in cases where social norms were breached, such as with illegitimacy. Historians should not be surprised to find that women could be divided between themselves, that their alliances could be purely functional, nor that women, just like men, had their darker side. Finally, women's solidarity could be regulatory as well as supportive.

Pooley, C.G. and Turnbull, J., 'Leaving home: the experience of migration from the parental home in Britain since c. 1770', *Journal of Family History* 22, 4 (1997), 390-424.

Colin Pooley and Jean Turnbull's research project on migration and mobility in Britain since the end of the 18th century, which uses a set of lifetime residential histories collected by family historians, will already be familiar to readers of *LPS* (see their article in *LPS* 57). In this paper they attempt to use their data to analyse differentials in the age at leaving home. A large number of tables are presented, which give details of temporal trends, rural/urban and occupational contrasts, and differentials according to the reasons for leaving home, the distances moved, and the persons accompanying those leaving home. The authors also make the important point that identifying the precise age at which a person left home is rarely easy, as temporary absences often preceded the final 'break' with the parental residence. It is likely that the figures given in this paper tend to reflect the ages at which people finally became independent of their native households. As such, they may be compared with figures estimated from cross-sectional census data, which usually involve the implicit assumption that young persons who were temporarily living away from their parents had left home 'for good'.

Swift, R., 'Heroes or villains? The Irish, crime and disorder in Victorian England', *Albion* 29, 3 (1997), 399–421.

In this detailed and comprehensive review, Roger Swift argues that the nature of Irish criminality in Victorian England was much more complex than has previously been supposed. Although the Irish were over-represented in the crime statistics, closer inspection shows that this over-representation was largely confined to certain relatively minor crimes, such as drunkenness, disorderly behaviour, vagrancy and petty theft. Moreover, exactly why the Irish so regularly broke the law is yet unclear. Swift's paper will be especially useful to *LPS* readers because of the number of local studies of the Irish in Britain which he cites. However, he notes that the majority of these relate to large towns and cities (for example Liverpool and Manchester), and to the north-west of England. More local studies of the experiences of Irish immigrants in smaller towns, and in other parts of the country, are needed.

Wade Martins, S. and Williamson, T., 'Labour and improvement: agricultural change in East Anglia, circa 1750–1870', *Labour History Review* 62 (1997), 275–295.

The decline of farm service in East Anglia during the second half of the eighteenth century features in this account of the changing agricultural economy of Norfolk and Suffolk. The authors argue that agricultural 'improvement' in East Anglia during this period depended crucially upon the creation of a more productive labour force by the substitution of piecework contracts for yearly hiring and other less flexible systems. Moreover, increased labour inputs were much more important than mechanisation. East Anglia was 'over-populated', so mechanisation would lead to greater unemployment. It was therefore unlikely to save farmers and landowners much money, since the unemployed would have to be supported by higher poor rates. The paper also includes some useful cautionary notes about the difficulties of calculating labour productivity using sources such as the census enumerators' books—difficulties with which many *LPS* readers will be familiar.

Winchester, A. J. L., 'Parish, township and tithing: landscapes of local administration in England before the nineteenth century', *The Local Historian*, 27, 3–17.

This essay concerns the local, rather than population studies, and represents a plea for recognition that analysis at the level of the tithing and township, usually smaller than the parish, can provide a more finely grained view of the local diversity of the administrative landscape, and frequently more accurately reflect the ancient economic units out of which medieval and early modern society was built, and hence bring us closer to the living and working community. There is, of course, a great deal of truth in this: one only has to think of how Flora Thompson wrote about the hamlet at Lark Rise. But for many purposes it is parishes that generate historical records, not townships, and historical demographers will generally have to make do with the degree of granularity that the parish provides.