

a work like this provides an excellent guide for other groups of APNs on the road toward independence and the importance of professional organization.

This should be required reading for all nurse-midwifery students with the caveat that it was written through a very particular lens. This textbook would also be useful to historians researching the history of the birth industry and politicization of birth in the United States. The price of the book may make it less likely to be accessed by groups other than nurse-midwives. This is a great first step toward documenting the extraordinarily important and oft-neglected work of midwives and will serve as a great springboard for other histories of midwifery to be written.

RACHEL NEWHOUSE, CNM  
PhD Student  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
College of Nursing  
845 South Damen Avenue, MC 802  
Chicago, IL 60612

### Colonial Caring: A History of Colonial and Post-Colonial Nursing

Edited by Helen Sweet and Sue Hawkins  
(Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2015) (248 pages; \$105.00  
hardcover, \$80.85 e-book)

A welcome expansion of nursing history beyond the discussion of professionalization on a national level, *Colonial Caring* is a diverse and well-assembled collection. In order to move past the national scope, editors Helen Sweet and Sue Hawkins set themselves and their contributors the challenge of “considering such areas as transnational relationships, class, gender, race and politics . . . to better understand the complex entanglements in the development of nursing as it was imagined and practised in local imperial, colonial and post-colonial contexts” (p. 1). A hard task indeed, but one that is here executed succinctly and well.

The book is organized chronologically into three broad sections. The first section covering the second half of the 19th century includes case studies on the Indian Mutiny (Sam Goodman), Imperial Hong Kong (Angharad Fletcher), and the Second Anglo-Boer War (Charlotte Dale). The second section focusing on the early 20th century considers training and nursing ser-

vices among indigenous people in New Zealand (Linda Bryder) and Australia (Odette Best), American missionary nurses in Puerto Rico (Winifred C. Connerton), and the training of indigenous and male nurses in the Dutch East Indies (Lisbeth Hesselink). The final section covering the mid-20th century examines Fascist Italy's nursing activities in Ethiopia (Anna La Torre, Giancarlo Celeri Bellotti, and Cecilia Sironi), missionary nursing in postcolonial Nigeria (Barbra Mann Wall), and Quaker nurses in 1940s China (Susan Armstrong-Reid). Themes of racism and opposing cultural ideas between "Western" and traditional medical and nursing practices are most prevalent in this section. While the majority of the content does have a British colonial or postcolonial focus, Sweet and Hawkins rightly point out that in the interwar period, "the British Empire still covered about one quarter of the Earth's total land area and ruled a population in excess of 500 million people" (p. 2).

In their consideration of the multifaceted nature of colonial and postcolonial medicine, Hawkins and Sweet lean more toward the Foucauldian belief that medical professionals were nefarious promoters of empire than toward Howard Phillips's understanding of the civilizing mission of medical colonists. They even go so far as to note in their introduction that if colonial medical professionals are "coming to the rescue of indigenous populations," they are "paradoxically rescuing them from situations their colonising actions have caused" (p. 6). The collection as a whole can be considered a social history, with class, race, and gender as central organizational frameworks. Professionalization in its various forms and meanings is also a theme throughout. Due to the diverse time periods and regions covered, the collection also makes use of various methodological approaches, including prosopography or collective biography, textual analysis of diaries, letters, and published colonial diaries (a form popular in the 19th century), as well as colonial and institutional reports. Armstrong-Reid's and Bryder's contributions also make use of oral interviews.

While some authors, like Connerton, acknowledge that their nurses had a colonial mission to Americanize the Puerto Rican health system, others seem to buy into their medical colonial subjects' preconceptions about the futility of traditional and indigenous medical practices. For instance, following a quote by a medical official stating that "our colony assists its sick by means of folk who often, intellectually and morally, belong to the mire of Indies society" (p. 147), Hesselink chooses not to problematize this colonial assessment. Rather, the quote is used to confirm the need for professionally trained nurses. Fletcher also adopts a "saving" tone when considering the medical situation in late 19th-century Hong Kong. For Fletcher, "the need for professional European nurses to replace the *ad hoc* system of indigenous workers of both genders, and members of religious orders, predated their arrival by decades"

(pp. 50–51). She then proceeds to compare Hong Kong to the settler societies of Melbourne and Sydney, which had transplanted nurse education systems and hierarchies from Britain.

Despite these occasional issues of tone, *Colonial Caring* is an engaging read, which stimulates interest in global perspectives and the interconnectedness of previously insular stories of national nursing professionalism. The collection also integrates nursing history within recent wider trends in the history of health, medicine, and health care.<sup>1</sup> In a time of international medical crises, from the Zika outbreak in South America to mass migration to Europe, *Colonial Caring* is also an extremely timely read that will be of interest to those who want to increase their knowledge of historical nursing in former colonial states and understand the imperial nursing activities of their own countries.

*Note*

1. See, for example, Mark Harrison, “A Global Perspective: Reframing the History of Health, Medicine, and Disease,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 89(4) (2015): 639–689.

ERIN SPINNEY  
PhD Candidate  
University of Saskatchewan  
Room 522, Arts Building  
9 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5A5  
Canada

### Into Africa: A Transnational History of Catholic Medical Missions and Social Change

By Barbra Mann Wall  
(New Brunswick, NJ and London, UK: Rutgers University Press, 2015) (230 pages; \$49.95 cloth, \$49.95 e-book)

Through *Into Africa*, Barbra Mann Wall aims to better understand the intersection of medicine and nursing with religion, gender, race, and politics in several countries within sub-Saharan Africa. She uses a range of sources