

This excellent book would also be further strengthened if it examined the interconnections between worker resistance to work and intellectual and artistic challenges to the work ethic. For example, did Paul Lafargue's classic pamphlet on the right to be lazy (*Le Droit à la paresse*, published in 1880) inspire any of these discontents? Did the contemporary theorists of the avant-garde who also advocated idleness, such as Tristan Tzara, André Breton, and other Dadists and Surrealists, have any influence on Parisian workers?

As we see, even a discussion of the limitations of Seidman's work reveals its importance and richness. Historians should follow up on the suggestive comparisons he draws between the worker revolts of 1936 and 1968. Seidman's claim that a history of resistance to work can contribute to a new vision of the working class is both provocative and pertinent to our era. It can not only reveal fundamental facets of working-class behavior hitherto ignored by historians, but also provide a new direction for labor history, away from both the Marxist-Leninist teleology of some final revolution and the bourgeois fairy tale of some happily-ever-after proletarian integration in a "modern society". The rapid transformations of the world economy and in the nature of work today insure the continued importance of work and resistances to it. This book provides vital historical background on these issues.

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Mary Spaulding and Penny Welch — *Nurturing Yesterday's Child. A Portrayal of the Drake Collection of Paediatric History*. Philadelphia: B.C. Decker, Inc., 1991. Pp. xi, 337, 408 illustrations.

Artifacts are the pictures in our book of History. They supply dimension, colour, and texture to our historical knowledge. They are worth thousands of words. And nowhere are they more valuable than in those areas of social history that were in their own day too mundane, too much taken for granted, to warrant the attention of the chroniclers — such as, for example, child care.

The raising of children and the nursing of the sick were subjects of interest within a limited circle, composed almost entirely of medical men on the one hand, and mothers and nurses on the other. The doctors have left their mark on the printed page. As soon as the printing press made it possible, treatises began to appear, discussing current practices and prescribing — for better or for worse — their own improvements. The women who inhabited the world of the nursery and the sickroom were virtual strangers through many centuries to the written word, and speak to us through the objects they used, through the practices which they followed and which others have recorded, and through the representation of themselves and their charges in the iconography of their day.

North Americans are fortunate in having many fine museum collections. One of the best of them is the Drake Collection, now housed in the Toronto Hospital (Toronto General Hospital Division). Dr T.G.H. Drake, himself a paediatrician, spent some thirty years searching out objects, prints and rare books that related to medical and child care. The result is a magnificent array of artifacts, ranging from ancient

amulets, fetishes and feeders to modern toys, toothbrushes and tongue scrapers. While the ancient artifacts are illuminating, and serve to remind us that child care is the business of every age, the chief interest of the collection lies in the objects and treatises dating from the early modern European period, the sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries.

For most of us, the artifacts and the writings require interpretation. They belong to a bygone way of thinking about child-rearing and health care. Who in our day can sympathize with procedures such as rubbing newborn babies with salt, or wrapping them from head to toe in swaddling cloths, or dipping them in the cold waters of the nearest river, or, in case of illness, purging, even bleeding them? Or the most deadly of all practices, the putting out of infants to wet nurses? Yet such things cannot be dismissed, much less condemned, out of hand; they must be understood, and this understanding can be achieved only within the context of their own times.

The value to the public of Dr Drake's collection has been greatly enhanced by the appearance of the companion book, *Nurturing Yesterday's Child*. As the preface to the book explains, the text does not claim to be a comprehensive history of child care. It is guided by the contents of the collection. The artifacts and prints themselves fall into different groupings, following the original interests of the collector. Each grouping forms its own chapter: on maternal, "wet", and "dry" nursing; on the care of foundlings; on the raising and education of children; on the nursing, bleeding, purging and dosing of invalids; on magic medicine; on touching for the King's Evil. Every chapter is accompanied by illustrations taken from the collection. But the reader recognizes that the usual procedure is here reversed: the real illustrating is done by words, for the purpose of better understanding the pictures. The authors have achieved a solid work of information and interpretation within a highly readable text.

For those interested in the subject of yesterday's children, a visit to the Drake collection would be time well spent. Whether or not they visit the collection, this book will leave their minds informed and their imaginations enriched.

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Walter Struve — *Aufstieg und Herrschaft des Nationalsozialismus in einer industriellen Kleinstadt. Osterode am Harz 1918-1945*. Essen: Klartext Verlag, 1992. Pp. 634.

Since the 1965 publication of William S. Allen's pioneering study of Norheim (a substantially expanded edition of which appeared in 1984) and especially in the wake of a burgeoning interest in *Alltagsgeschichte*, or the history of everyday life, during the 1980s, the archives and citizenry of German towns and villages have been inundated by researchers, amateurs and professionals alike. Among the latter, English-speaking historians — often with a familial connection to the locality they chose to examine — have made significant contributions to what has been the pre-eminent subject of this scholarship: namely, the rise, rule, and (to a lesser extent) aftermath of National Socialism at the grassroots level. Walter Struve, who teaches at the City University of New York and whose grandfather was born in Osterode, has now presented the fruits of a decade and a half of investigating that small industrial