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***Medizin und Kolonialimperialismus. Deutschland 1884–1945.* By Wolfgang U. Eckart. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh. 1997. 640 pp. DM78 (paperback).**

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Wolfgang Eckart has written an encyclopaedic account of German medical practice in the German colonial empire, for which he has pulled together some fifteen years of his own and others' research. No one taking up topics related to medicine and German colonialism can do without this wide-ranging, detail-filled book and its bibliography. Most of the book is a colony-by-colony, chronological account of institutions, personnel, and medical issues, from annexation to occupation in the First World War. Eckart gives attention to missionary as well as civilian and military doctors. He describes in detail professional ambitions, limited funding, institutional negotiations, and doctors' use of state coercion to pursue medical projects (e.g. corporal punishment of patients who resisted crippling and deadly treatments for sleeping sickness). Three additional chapters treat colonial politics within Germany. The first chapter includes probably the first discussion in critical colonial history of the *Deutscher Frauenverein für Krankenpflege in den Kolonien*, as well as of German doctors' pro-colonial activities. The second chapter surveys *Menschenökonomie* and racial hygiene in the founding of German tropical medicine. The concluding chapter discusses the links between tropical medicine personnel and institutions after 1919 and revisionist and Nazi politics. Here Eckart argues for continuities between Nazi and United States biological weapons research, and across 1945 within Germany. However, the empirical and non-comparative approach of the previous chapters sits uneasily with these important arguments; they need more theoretical context.

This book is best described as a reference work, a medical–historical version of Horst Gründer's *Geschichte der deutschen Kolonien*. Both books share a German-focused approach to German colonial history. This book does not discuss cultural or intercultural approaches to the history of medicine (Megan Vaughan, David Arnold). Although Eckart does include a section on nursing, he does not address the critical nursing historiography; [End Page 304] this is traditional, doctor-centred medical history throughout the central chapters. Eckart's accounts of colonial prostitution do not draw at all on recent scholarship (Mrinalini Sinha, Luise White). However, the information Eckart has assembled will be helpful for scholars exploring these approaches to medical and colonial history.

In gathering such a vast amount of information, Eckart has sometimes failed to make accurate use of his sources. Readers should go to Schulte-Althoff's work, which Eckart footnotes, rather than rely on his incomplete and inaccurate account of colonial mixed marriage bans (pp. 67, 271). Readers of the Colonial Office file 5673, listed in the bibliography, would wonder whether Carl Peters helped found the Zanzibar hospital of the *Evangelische Missionsgesellschaft für Deutsch-Ostafrika* or tried to stop it (p. 369). It is unclear where Eckart found the information that the *Deutschnationale Frauenbund* or its successor, the *Frauenverein*, excluded treatment of colonial subjects (p. 41); some of his sources show that that was not the case. The *Deutsch-Ostafrikanische Gesellschaft* was not the successor to the *Gesellschaft für deutsche Kolonisation* (p. 292), and German Southwest Africa was annexed in 1884, not 1883 (p. 255). The excessive use of 'sic!' and '!' to express indignation over colonial atrocities as well as century-old spelling variations is distracting. Nineteen lines of text on p. 327 are repeated verbatim on p. 355, and statistical figures are omitted from p. 429. In a book of this size and scope, it is perhaps inevitable that errors should creep in; however, this book will undoubtedly see a second edition. Wolfgang Eckart has performed a service by making his wide reading available to scholars of German and other colonial empires.