

sible for the relatively sudden appearance of angina pectoris in Britain in the eighteenth century—but it ended up labouring the point.

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Infectious Diseases: Colonising the Pacific?. By John Miles (University of Otago Press, * Dunedin, 1997, 1st edn, illus., pb, NZ\$29.95, ISBN 1-877133-26-4) 123 pp.

THIS FIRST EDITION OF *INFECTIOUS DISEASES: COLONISING THE PACIFIC?* has a table of contents, preface, list of maps, acknowledgments, ten chapters, two appendices, and an impressive list of 107 references, mostly to journal articles and books. It also includes five maps and four tables. It has no foreword, figures, photographs, index or list of tables. One of its appendices gives an invaluable 'Chronology of European Voyagers'. The book's concise writing style makes it easy to read and it is well researched, consistent, and systematic in its presentation. The book is presented as a 14.8 x 21.0 x 0.8 cm soft-cover book, which would easily fit into the briefcase. The cover of *Infectious Diseases: Colonising the Pacific?* is a particular highlight and will attract the attention of the reader with its Fijian tapa cloth motifs and rustic colours. The back cover gives a brief overview of the book's intent and also a brief biographical note of the author. Although the book has several maps, visual impact could have been improved by the incorporation of some well-selected illustrations and photographs. The lack of an index might be considered problematic; fortunately, it is a relatively short book.

Chapters include: 'Some Medical Effects of Isolation', 'Malaria and Scrub Typhus', 'Eighteenth-century European Explorers', 'Leprosy', 'Yaws and Sexually Transmitted Diseases', 'Tuberculosis', 'Animal Parasites', 'Eye Diseases', 'Other Bacterial, Fungal and Viral Infections', and 'The End of Isolation'. There are also two appendices including: 'A Note for the Non-Medical Reader' and 'Chronology of European Voyagers'. The stated objective of the book was to attempt 'to discover which diseases were present in the Pacific before the arrival of Europeans and which were subsequently introduced'. A particular thrust of the book was to describe the susceptibility of the Pacific islanders to infectious diseases when they were introduced by European travellers and colonial explorers. The chapter on 'Eighteenth-century European Explorers', especially some of the reflections on health taken from senior observers on these voyages, is a particular highlight. Apart

from the historical perspective, the work has much relevance to the present age of air travel, where more people than ever before are visiting all parts of the globe and where the impact of travel and tourism on the health of local people must be considered.

The author, John Mills, states that he was the former Head of Department and Professor of Microbiology at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. John Mills further indicates that 'he has had a long interest in the history of infectious diseases in the Pacific', and has worked in several countries in the Pacific, including Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. He has also worked at the South Pacific Commission (now Secretariat of the Pacific Community) and been a consultant for the World Health Organization.

Infectious Diseases: Colonising the Pacific? is a delight to the reader because of its scientific and historical descriptions and disease-based presentation. It will appeal to physicians and other health professionals, as well as to students and the non-medically trained who have an interest in the history of medicine, particularly those concerned with the impact of colonisation on disease patterns in the Pacific. *Infectious Diseases: Colonising the Pacific?* is a worthy edition to the exclusive portfolio of historical books covering the impact of travel on health of non-immune populations.

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* Many of the University of Otago Press titles, including this one, are available at the University Book Shop, Dunedin (visit: <http://www.unibooks.co.nz>; last accessed 31/1/2003).

Men of the Ninth: A History of the 9th Australian Field Ambulance 1916–1994. By Robert Likeman (Slouch Hat Publications, 2003).

THIS IS THE SECOND OF TWO HISTORIES TO BE WRITTEN ABOUT THIS UNIT since 1919 and follows its fortunes until the unit's dissolution in 1993. At 224 pages the author has not been well served by his editor for the text is cramped and the type might present a challenge for some readers. This reviewer also found the use of underlined words a distraction from the overall text. Despite this the maps throughout are crisply rendered and the book itself is profusely illustrated. The index, however, contains only personal names and, while the endnotes are extensive, far too little material has been adequately sourced. This shortcoming will be disappointing for those wishing more information on the many individuals who Likeman has so painstakingly researched.