

tal classification is the story of symptoms taken up into one term and folding into another', and must pay attention to the 'changes in the prominence physicians and alienist gave to any particular symptom' (p. 171). Here I would add that it must also incorporate the influence of lay observers and their effects upon clinical discourse, both inside and outside institutions.

This book provides excellent, detailed notes, showing the depth of research and intellectual debate around much of this history. Eigen has made a fine contribution to medical and legal history, and to the discussion of descriptive psychopathology.

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A Melbourne Doctor and his Generation: Leonard Bell Cox, 1894–1976, Neurologist, Orientalist, Art Collector, Gardener, with contributions by Mervyn J. Eadie, Peter E. Bladin and Monica S. Wehner. By Volkhard Wehner (privately published by Leddicott Press, Olinda, Vic., photographs, index, \$50.00 + postage \$10.00, available from PO Box 1002, Hartwell, Vic. 3124) 550 pp.

LEONARD COX'S LIFE AND CAREER WERE BOTH EXEMPLARY OF HIS TIMES and atypical of them. The product of a solid Melbourne Protestant middle-class milieu and of an equally solid medical education at the University of Melbourne, Cox became a man of singular achievements. He was a pioneering neurologist with an international reputation, a respected collector of Chinese art, chairman of the National Gallery of Victoria during its controversial construction at the St Kilda Road site, a man of letters and a keen grower of the rhododendron. Volkhard Wehner has written—with specialist contributions from Mervyn Eadie, Peter Bladin and Monica Wehner—a painstaking biography that will give pleasure to the many in the Melbourne medical and arts communities who knew Leonard Cox and shared his world.

In particular, Mervyn Eadie and Peter Bladin have produced a valuable record of a critical period in the development of neurology as a specialism, of Cox's originality, and of the very real barriers to advanced research that faced gifted Australian doctors. A research culture, such as we have come to associate with leading universities, was in its infancy at the University of Melbourne before the 1950s. By 1940, Cox and E. Graeme Robertson were the only specialists in Melbourne practising exclusively in neurology, and the numbers nation-wide were not into double digits. Professional consolidation risked intellectual isola-

tion, so that the new specialism had to be carefully nurtured until 1950 when Australia had the critical mass to form an Australian Neurological Society. The assessment now of Cox's contribution to neurological research is that while he was not the first Australian to conduct a program of research on neuroscience, he was the first to undertake work in Australia that has made an enduring contribution. Specifically, his contributions were his work on the cellular origins of gliomatous brain tumours, that on the localisation of the brain mechanisms that mediate consciousness, and his compilation of knowledge on torulosis.

Volkhard Wehner has written of Cox the man—son, husband, father, friend. Cox was a complex, not always likeable character, much scarred by a difficult relationship with his mother and his experiences in World War I. He was also struck down in his early career by tuberculosis and forced into isolation and life-changing contemplation in the Dandenongs, an area that he came to love. He married into a well-known medical and sporting dynasty and had a wide circle of friends in the distinctive closed world of Protestant, private-school Melbourne. But while he shared the deep conservatism of that world he broke away from it theologically and, in later life, politically, when he came under suspicion for his affection for China despite the Cold War. Above all, his life story is a reminder that gifted men have often not revealed their potential in childhood and youth. Had Leonard Cox lived in these times, he would certainly never have qualified for medical school on his school performance, and his immense contribution to neuroscience and the lives of his patients would have been lost.

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Forty Years on: The History of Moorfields Eye Hospital, Volume 3.
By Peter K. Leaver (Royal Society of Medicine Press, London, 2004,
hb, ISBN 1-8531-5580-2) 320pp.

HOW DELIGHTFULLY QUIANT! A HOSPITAL HISTORY WRITTEN BY A RECENTLY retired senior consultant detailing the heroic achievements of his (overwhelmingly male) colleagues. In Australia we have become used to hospital histories written by historians who attempt to give a voice to nurses and other hospital staff and to the patients they treat. With the glittering example of *Sex and Suffering* as a guide, it is unlikely that any serious hospital history written in Australia would completely ignore the patient experience—in spite of the difficulties imposed by our misguided privacy laws and their frequently wilful misinterpretation by