

**Review: Jewell, Norman, *On Call in Africa – in War and Peace*.**

*On Call in Africa – in War and Peace*, the annotated memoir of Norman Jewell, a medical doctor in military and peacetime service in British colonial East Africa, provides the scholar and the general reader with a well-produced narrative of strong historical interest. The memoir itself, standing at the core of this volume, shares much in common with others of its genre, at least in its peacetime reflections, offering a tale of high (medical) adventure alongside nostalgia for the cosmopolitanism of empire, an enterprise in which each race contributed for the purported betterment and prosperity of all. It is to the credit of the editors that this benign vision of empire is contextualised, in copious biographical and historiographical footnotes, amid the plain oddity of a cohort of white hunters and adventurers at large and on the rampage across a rich and diverse landscape of sea trade, mixed agri- and aquaculture, and indentured and enslaved human capital.

The patchwork of colonial rule – the way in which the scant distribution of European administrators teamed up, double-jobbed, and adapted to the piecemeal transport, communication and labour networks – is vividly captured in Norman Jewell's diaries of his travels and labours as a doctor/magistrate/administrator in British East Africa and the Seychelles. We also get a strong sense of the personal networks, epidemiological guesswork, and the development of a quintessentially imperial common sense reckoning that were crucial to the success of the stretched colonial medical service, together with some notion of the reach and remit of this service, predominantly focused on European health as it was in the period before 1940.

The central component of the narrative, and indeed a key focus of the volume as a whole, is based on Jewell's wartime diaries, and traces his work at and behind the frontline of the British East Africa campaign during World War One. An appendix to the volume transcribes Jewell's journal of his wartime work, and a substantial portion of the memoir itself dramatizes this work. It is here that the memoir departs from other exemplars of the genres of medical and/or colonial memoir and takes us deep into the trials and tribulations of field and emergency medical work in a relatively neglected theatre of world war in the twentieth century. Jewell's depiction of the contingencies and missteps, the happenstance and fortunes of wartime medical practice are a real boon to the historian of global war in Africa.

The editors do a great service both to Jewell and to histories of women's and medical education in late nineteenth century Ireland and the UK in fleshing out the biographical detail of his own early years in Dublin and at Trinity College, and the educational career of his wife, Sydney Elizabeth Jewell (née Auchinleck), also at Trinity College, Dublin. There is also much of interest to the historian of colonial medicine in Jewell's depiction of medical and pathological work, particularly in yaws and blackwater fever. As mentioned, the footnotes illustrating the careers in colonial service whose paths Jewell crossed (notably, for this reader, that of William Kauntze, lab. director, pathologist and later Chief Medical Officer at the Colonial Office in London) are useful to scholar and general reader alike, and I commend the editorial team on the production of this interesting and useful volume.

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