

the delicate balance between juridical and psychiatric competence as being the result of a long learning process. Martin Lengwiler focuses on the role of a different aspect in his examination of the role of military psychiatry in the development of psychiatry at the beginning of the twentieth century. He provides a cogent description of intelligence tests as instruments that were used to demarcate the border zones (*'Grenzzustände'*) between mental health and illness. A similar theme is addressed in the final chapter of the volume by Peter Schmiedebach and Stefan Priebe, who discuss different models of open psychiatric care (social psychiatry) in late Imperial Germany.

The editors hope that the contributions to this volume will form the basis of further research along the lines set out in the introduction. And indeed, most of the chapters do move debate and research on nineteenth-century psychiatry forward. Currently in Berlin, researchers are building and expanding on some of the ideas touched on by the contributors, especially the issue of borderline conditions and their cultural permeability in the wider context of urban culture.

THOMAS BEDDIES
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Michael Tyquin (2006) *Madness and the Military: Australia's Experience of the Great War* (Canberra: Australian Military History Publications). Pp. xv + 180. Au \$70.00. ISBN 1-876439-89-0.

Although the cover's depiction of Edvard Munch's 'The Scream' is hardly imaginative regarding a work on neuroses, this groundbreaking analysis of Australian soldiers who suffered psychologically in World War I goes on to dispel many long-cherished views. Notably, the archetypal 'Aussie' war hero – the easy-going, courageous Digger consistently portrayed by Charles Bean (Official War Historian) is largely shown to be a fabricated myth. Detracting from this popular image, Tyquin reveals that many Australian troops – like their counterparts in other armies – simply crumbled mentally under the horrific strain of the Great War.

The unsympathetic attitude of the military towards nervous complaints is equally emphasized, many sufferers being officially viewed as prone to hysteria or merely 'shamming'. Remarkably, this opinion also gained the authoritative support of Colonel Arthur Butler, who drafted Australia's official medical history of the war. This lack of contemporary knowledge concerning psychological disorders within the medical profession and the inability to treat 'shockies' (nervous cases) effectively is also comprehensively analysed. Among the most interesting discussions are those regarding the wide variety of unsuitable, discomfoting treatments which were given to patients, and the common refusal to implement Freudian ideas, owing to many of his theories outraging Edwardian prudery!

The author suggests that, after the war, confusion and ignorance not only led to indecision and ineffectiveness in medical circles regarding 'shell shock' cases, but there were also fluctuations in public opinion. From a largely sympathetic attitude which had developed in the 1920s, the 1930s saw many of the populace losing patience with these misunderstood casualties, owing to a variety of factors. Little changed, however, for those who were suffering psychologically. Tyquin compassionately relates their harrowing symptoms, the resulting break-up of marriages and families, and the additional pressures caused by the financial/economic difficulties of this era. Not for them the appropriate rewards for defending their country and sacrificing their well-being, but instead the eternal stigma of mental illness.

Clearly, this research has an original perspective, going against the grain of official histories, and consequently the popularly accepted views of the Great War. Moreover, it is factually accurate, the author relying fundamentally on primary sources to support his assertions, but also nicely balanced, not only providing relevant analysis of the inter-war years, but also making appropriate comparisons with 'modern maladies', e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For clinicians and historians of psychiatry, *Madness and the Military* is a significant, innovative study. Owing to the detailed chapter endnotes and the extensive bibliography, it is also an excellent source of reference. Notably, Tyquin has made this work equally accessible to a more general readership by using a minimum of technical terms and including a glossary. He has also produced a fascinating investigation (largely suitably illustrated), providing fresh insights into topics such as aspects of World War I, Australian society and prominent medical issues that have been previously largely ignored.

There are some weaknesses in this work. Having effectively challenged the popular image of the rugged Australian soldier, and highlighted both Bean's and Butler's unsympathetic attitude towards troops suffering nervous disorders, the author has a tendency to labour those important points. This affects the flow and structural coherence of this book, and there is also an occasional lack of clarity owing to themes merging. This latter shortcoming could possibly have been eradicated by greater use of sub-headings in some chapters. However, this publication is undoubtedly an insightful counter-history, providing requisite new perspectives on the treatment of these forgotten casualties of the Great War. Its underlying plea merits consideration: Australia when honouring its war dead must not regard them as the traditional bronzed Anzac, but as 'normal people' whose ranks include the weak and unlucky.

DANNY DAWSON
Oxford Brookes University