

abuse among Melanesian sugar-cane workers in Queensland's Mackay district, describing a violent and unpredictable frontier society of the late nineteenth century, in which the supply of alcohol was big business. Again, there are obvious New Zealand parallels to examine here. Dawn May finds that the health of Aborigines on the cattle stations of north Queensland was generally far better than that of their kin on reservations or urban-fringe settlements, largely because they had access to traditional foods and herbal remedies. Interventions by government agencies and well-intentioned doctors sometimes had dire consequences. Lyn Riddett's paper on the role of women as healers and preservers of health in the 1930s suggests another explanation, that of matriarchal supervision of native workers' health. Though usually depicted as a tough man's world, European settlement in the tropical north owed much to the skills of a scattering of educated white women. Peter Bell describes appalling health conditions among alluvial miners in tropical Queensland, in contrast to the Chinese miners who managed their diet and disease problems successfully, while Janice Wagner considers 'Nightcarts and Nuisances' in two contrasting shires of north Queensland, showing that the 'miasma' concept of infectious disease, though mistaken, at least helped promote practical and effective sanitation measures in some areas, making them less noisome than most.

Altogether this is an interesting and soundly-researched collection of papers, which cross the traditional disciplinary boundaries of medical and political history to address themes of race, class and gender in the mainstream of modern social-medical history. The case-studies are particularly interesting for their attempts to explain why different communities have responded so variously to similar physical environments and health problems over time.

GEOFFREY RICE

University of Canterbury

Markets, Money and Empire. The Political Economy of the Australian Wool Industry. By K. Tsokhas. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1990. viii, 235 pp. Australian price: \$29.95.

THIS CAREFUL and informed study of the political economy of the Australian wool industry between 1914 and the 1940s is intended primarily as a contribution to imperial history. Its sustained thesis is that significant Australian autonomy and limited British influence enabled the former to pursue policies which were motivated by economic nationalism rather than loyalty to the Empire. Tsokhas examines Anglo-Australian policies with respect to the wool industry and concludes that Australia came out very well in areas of disagreement between the two countries. In particular, in both wars Britain agreed to act as a monopsonist for Australian wool output at a generous price.

The main problem with Tsokhas's interesting thesis is that his case study of the wool industry may not be an entirely representative one. There were plenty of reasons why Australia was likely to get the better of the deal: wool was much more important to Australian than British interests and therefore negotiating representation was at a higher level for the former; Australia's domination of world output put it in a strong bargaining position; and British knowledge of prevailing economic conditions in the wool industry

was very limited. It should also be noted that this study is based predominantly upon the use of Australian primary sources.

The notion that Britain was not necessarily exploiting its colonial economies is nonetheless a valid and interesting one. Studies of New Zealand economic history would certainly benefit from investigating this line of enquiry more extensively.

SIMON VILLE

Australian National University

Apology and Correction

In the April 1992 volume of the *New Zealand Journal of History* the review of Alex Davidson's book, *Two Models of Welfare*, should have shown the publisher as Almqvist and Wiksell International, Box 638, S-101 28 Stockholm, Sweden. We apologize for any inconvenience the error may have caused readers.

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25, 26 JUNE 1993

PLEASE WRITE:

**Bob James, c/o History Department, Newcastle University,
Callaghan, NSW 2308,
or: c/o Hunter Labour History Society, 3/79 Tudor Street,
Hamilton, 2303.**