

boys of Taradale had in common, as well as what set them apart, which distinguishes this book from earlier studies of femininity or masculinity. Daley is generous in acknowledging her intellectual debt to other historians, within New Zealand and elsewhere, and she has built carefully on their foundations. But *Taradale* is her achievement — and it is an impressive edifice.

Through a close analysis of the nature and extent of the paid and unpaid work performed by Taradale's youthful and adult residents, Daley reveals a rich diversity of work patterns. The ideal of the male breadwinner and the notion of women as men's helpmeets both need modification in the light of her findings. She is careful to keep the changes in perspective. There were 'small repositionings' as the 'new women' of the 1920s challenged dominant modes of behaviour but, Daley reminds us, there were no crises or 'watershed experiences' in Taradale's gender relations. Power and masculinity remained closely intertwined.

Throughout the text, and especially so in the three chapters on leisure, Daley makes effective use of the 35 oral interviews undertaken as part of the original PhD research project. There is a judicious selection of excerpts, ranging from the irreverent to the respectful, valuable for recollections of youthful behaviour, invaluable as a demonstration of the different ways in which men and women recounted their stories. Daley demonstrates the predominantly inclusive nature of masculine leisure pursuits, for age and marital status proved to be less divisive for men than for women.

This gendered microhistory is so rich in detail that it invites immediate and frequent re-reading. Historical novelists, teachers and family historians will welcome the insights into everyday lives and the detail of the sources from which these are derived: the working life of a community policeman, based on investigation of the Taradale police records; the wages and length of service of the women who undertook school and church cleaning, culled from the minute books of both institutions; the impact of unwanted pregnancy or alcohol on family relationships, revealed through interviews, justice or newspaper records. Quite apart from its obvious relevance in social history programmes, the book deserves to be used widely in courses on historical methodology and community studies. Canterbury historian W.J. Gardner has long argued that local and regional studies are crucial for a deeper understanding of New Zealand's past: Daley's work demonstrates the validity of doing so through a gendered lens.

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Alice: The Making of a Woman Doctor 1914–1974. By Fay Hercock. Auckland University Press, Auckland, 1999. 283 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 1-86940-206-5.

ALICE is a solid, in-context life story of a successful New Zealand woman doctor. Dr Alice Bush graduated from the University of Otago in 1937, one of only four women in her medical class, and went on to reach the top of her profession as an allergist and paediatrician. She was the first New Zealand woman doctor to receive fellowships of both the Australasian and Royal Colleges of Physicians. Surprisingly, she never received a New Year's honour, pragmatically explained in this book by her nomination missing the deadline. A sub-text, however, reveals a determined, outspoken woman who managed to maintain her respectable reputation while she gently rocked the boat of the medical profession and New Zealand society, with her views on sex education, preventive medicine, and the care of children.

Alice Bush achieved where few other women of her generation were able to; she was an exception, yet also a product of her times. To explain her success, Fay Hercock looks to Bush's 'making'. Hercock reveals a woman with an elite family background and a privileged private school education. The book suggests that a secure, stable and happy childhood contributed to Bush's beliefs in a certain 'quality of life'. There was also a dose of misfortune in Bush's early years, particularly when her brother died of exposure on a tramping trip. At such times of grief, the grand Epsom house where Bush lived most of her life provided a solid anchor. Bush's public and private worlds met and blended within the walls of Denestone. She returned to live there soon after her marriage to Faulkner, a school teacher whom she met on a blind date at the New Plymouth Hunt Club. In later years, Denestone cemented Bush's place as a member of the upper-middle class. Not only did she practise out of rooms in the house, but she also entertained and solidified her place as a society woman by holding many organizational meetings there. Bush's career benefited as she became head of organizations such as the Family Planning Association partly because of her acceptable social position.

Hercock's account of the impact of World War II on Bush's personal and professional lives is especially telling. As for women generally, the war years provided new working opportunities and a more sympathetic environment in which to be starting out as a woman doctor. Before the war Bush faced discrimination. She was denied a position as an anatomy demonstrator in favour of a man whose examination marks were lower than hers. She found it difficult to find accommodation as a woman resident. It was hard for women to raise capital to finance a private practice. During the war, however, Bush was able to find work as a locum (for an Auckland doctor serving overseas). She also started on her trail of organizational work, becoming a member of the New Zealand Medical Women's Association and the Women's National Service Corps. She actively built professional connections and began to publish her ideas, as in her booklet on sexual health. Bush's rapid professional development paradoxically occurred while she suffered a number of personal tragedies including the pain of having a husband away at war, her mother's death at Christmas 1942, the birth of her first child, Lesley, in 1943 and the child's subsequent death.

Hercock advances Bush as a woman whose ideas straddled first- and second-wave feminism. Many of Bush's concerns were a continuation of first-wave maternal concerns with contraception, sex education, and the care of children. Other ideas were to become the topics of a second wave. Without a feminist movement around her, Bush worked in isolation. Her strong convictions, especially in regard to reproduction, made her radical and outspoken for the time. Yet, when the second-wave feminist movement took hold, Bush was seen as being out of step with a new generation who, at worst, saw her as an authoritarian member of the establishment with odd ideas about international population control.

Some aspects of Hercock's representation of Bush irk. A formal portrait would be more appropriate than the stark, haunting and unflattering photo on the cover of the book. Further detracting from the rigid formality and professional distance that dominated Bush's life, she is called by her first name in the title and throughout the book. This, however, is not a life suited to an informal account, and the book itself is written with respectful dignity. Hercock knows her subject intimately and gives the impression of knowing more than she has had the space to write about. The book mildly engages with the current trend in women's biography to break down the barriers between private and public worlds and seeks connections between the personal and the political. There is personal correspondence between Bush and her husband in the early pages. In his attitudes, Faulkner appears to foreshadow conflicts of interest with Bush's career and their relationship in later life. Yet Hercock does not deal with this. Instead, the book pulls back from the personal in favour of the history of medical institutions. The theme of balancing different worlds is not followed through. Nor are patients,

friends and family drawn upon to provide their memories of Bush. Hercocock's main interest, and the strength of the book, is institutional medical history. Apart from quick flashbacks within chapters, Bush's relationship with her children also fades away as the book progresses.

Alice is a discreet, informative book whose subject would be well pleased with the open, yet measured, telling of her life. It is a book that manages to portray how an early woman doctor navigated her way through a medical career, changing so many of the possibilities open to others wherever she went.

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DSIR: Making Science Work for New Zealand. By Ross Galbreath. Victoria University Press in association with the Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, 1998. 299 pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN 0-86473-354-2.

THE DEMISE of several governmental institutions during the 'reforms' of the last 15 years has provided historians with opportunities and, equally importantly, contracts to reflect on the achievements of those institutions. As is customary with obituaries, the tone has been generally celebratory, emphasizing successes and positive contributions. However, in most cases there has been much to celebrate and Ross Galbreath's study of the late Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is no exception.

Galbreath's approach to what is, on the face of it, yet another departmental history is to select a number of 'themes' to illustrate in detail the work of various divisions of the DSIR. This makes for a book that is more significant, more pleasurable to read and more likely to be read than attempts to capture the whole development of a sprawling department, particularly when its first half-century was covered in a more conventional way by J.D. Atkinson's *DSIR's First Fifty Years* (1976). Each chapter of *DSIR: Making Science Work for New Zealand* introduces the reader to a field of investigation that the DSIR at some time explored. It surveys briefly the development of the field internationally up to the time when the department became involved, explains why it became involved, introduces the scientists who carried out the research, and traces their work, keeping an eye, as they did, on relevant developments internationally. In the process, Galbreath refers to vast numbers of scientific articles and summarizes their contents and significance in a way that this reader, who progressed in general science no further than school certificate, believes he can understand. The areas covered span agriculture and biology (wheat-breeding, animal nutrition, and biological controls), through power and physics (radar and nuclear science), industry and chemistry (steel-making), to earthquake engineering and geology. These studies are book-ended by chapters on the creation and the dismantling of the department. In general, such a structure appears sound. The importance of farming to New Zealand and the enormous role that biology has played in our science industry clearly justifies the emphasis on this area, but the devotion of two chapters to the efforts to cope with and explain our shaky reputation might be questioned.

While the focus is on positive achievements, Galbreath does not ignore relative failures, such as Bernard Aston's longstanding explanation of bush sickness as due to an iron deficiency — although it is worth pointing out that his mistake did produce a practical partial solution which was applied by farmers for many years. As so often,