

scription proved especially divisive, although often for localized reasons. A prominent editor in Trois-Rivières expressed dismay at the government's casual violation of minority rights, while Lethbridge farmers and workers opposed the loss of their labour force and proposed an alternative conscription of wealth to ensure that the affluent contributed as well. Tensions in Guelph centred on the expansion of state control, the fairness of the legislation, and the exemptions granted to students at a nearby Jesuit seminary. On gender issues, Rutherforddale concedes that roles and practices shifted, but suggests that for women, at least, wartime activities "may have acted to strengthen rather than relax perceptions of sexual difference" (p. 214). Even remembrance was initially unfocused, with civilians unsure of how to greet and properly honour returning soldiers, and this perhaps explains why Lethbridge's war memorial was not completed until 1931. Only gradually did an idealized rendering of the war as a noble sacrifice by soldiers and civilians begin to emerge.

Regarding sources, *Hometown Horizons* relies heavily — but not exclusively — upon contemporary newspaper accounts. Newspapers are among the most complete and valuable bodies of evidence for the period and are in many ways ideal for charting the dynamic and shifting local perceptions of the war. However, editorial opinion does not always reflect public opinion even among its target constituency, much less marginalized groups. Although Rutherforddale acknowledges the hazards of using newspaper sources, his attempts to probe their deeper configurations and hidden meanings are not always convincing.

Moreover, *Hometown Horizons* is not a truly comparative work. For example, Lethbridge and Guelph receive more attention than Trois-Rivières, particularly in the second half of the book. This is partially the result of circumstance; for instance, Trois-Rivières was not a site of an enemy alien internment camp, while Lethbridge was. Still, it would be interesting to know whether Trois-Rivières or Guelph experienced the same debate over what form its war memorial should take, along with a host of other issues.

Rutherforddale makes a number of intriguing points, and *Hometown Horizons* offers a compelling glimpse into how the inhabitants of these three cities utilized local sites, settings, and experiences to understand or imagine the Great War. Indeed this local emphasis is the book's most important contribution to the historiography of the Canadian home front during the First World War. It does not completely invalidate the nationalist position, but it does indicate the need for some much-needed revision.

Wesley C. Gustavson
University of Western Ontario

SHEPHARD, David A. E. — *Island Doctor: John Mackieson and Medicine in Nineteenth-Century Prince Edward Island*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003. Pp. xxviii, 188 pp.

Island Doctor explores the life of John MacKieson, a Scottish-born doctor who practised medicine from 1821 to his death in 1885. Although this general practitio-

ner, who spent most of his career in the small cloistered Maritime colony of Prince Edward Island, is described by the author as an “ordinary physician”, the richness of his personal records is anything but ordinary. Extant are more or less detailed records of his general practice for the period 1826 to 1858, during which time he acted in several capacities — as a general practitioner, as the port health officer (for Charlottetown), and as medical attendant to Charlottetown’s jail. Further, his case book as (non-resident) medical superintendent to the Prince Edward Island provincial lunatic asylum (1868–1874) has also survived. The depth of the primary sources is quite impressive — not only did MacKieson leave to posterity his own medical diary (of 257 medical patients and 115 “mental patients”), but also a “Formulary” involving 59 classes of therapeutic agents used at the time and a “Codex” or compendium of his notes on contemporary medical literature. These constitute, in the opinion of this reviewer, one of the top ten such collections in the English-speaking world.

David Shephard divides the central chapters of his book more or less along clinical lines. After a brief introduction to MacKieson’s personal background in Scotland and his marriage and family in Prince Edward Island, the chapters then explore the good doctor’s medical, surgical, obstetric, and lunatic cases. In them one reads detailed case studies of everything from inguinal hernias to amputations, from breech births to psychotic depression. His medical practice covers a crucial period of transition from heroic to scientific medicine. Consequently, researchers of nineteenth-century medical practice will find much to chew over, including, *inter alia*, the reluctance of MacKieson to embrace anaesthesia, his involvement in professional closure, and his attempts to implement “moral treatment” of the insane. Although his life can be considered a success story, MacKieson was also the subject of more than one scandal, being censured for inadequately quarantining a typhus-infected ship that docked in Charlottetown’s harbour (in 1847) and being formally indicted for the conditions of patients at the provincial mental hospital. In both situations, his assimilation into the small island elite managed to mediate any long-lasting impact on his career, though clearly his generous ego took a beating.

Island Doctor reflects both the strengths and weaknesses of medical biographies penned by physician-historians. On one hand, Shephard’s clinical training makes his comments on the physical maladies penetrating and nuanced. He is well aware of the potential therapeutic benefits (and dangers) of many of the standard medical interventions of the time and puts his medical knowledge to excellent use in explaining the contemporary medical logic behind various procedures. On the other hand, there is a tendency constantly to guess or impose the “correct” diagnosis retrospectively on MacKieson’s patients, to focus narrowly on the medical intervention (at the expense of the social context), and to elevate the case studies to such a degree that primary source excerpts soon dominate the text of what is, after all, a very short book. Conceived as a “microhistory”, it does not quite achieve its stated goal of illuminating broader debates in medical history. As a consequence, it is perhaps more useful to characterize this book not as a new critical contribution to the secondary literature on the rise of general practice in the nineteenth century, but rather as an excellent annotated primary source collection of a rare archival discovery. As such,

the book has many gems that will inform other researchers working on the history of nineteenth-century medical practice in North America.

David Wright
McMaster University

TREMBLAY, Yves, Roch LEGAULT et Jean LAMARRE (dir.) — *L'éducation et les militaires canadiens*. Outremont, Athéna éditions, 2004, 263 p.

À l'heure de la redéfinition de la politique étrangère canadienne et, par conséquent, des Forces armées, du refus du gouvernement canadien de prêter main-forte aux militaires américains embourbés en Irak, aux lendemains des bourdes commises par les militaires canadiens en Somalie et du réveil en gueule de bois causé par les avatars de la mécanique canadienne en Afghanistan et en Mer du Nord, un livre fort intéressant publié chez Athéna éditions vient faire le point sur l'éducation des militaires canadiens et relier tous les éléments susmentionnés.

L'ouvrage, recueil des communications ayant été prononcées en mars 2002 lors du colloque « Soif de victoire et recherche de la connaissance : histoire du militaire et de son éducation au Canada », est divisé en cinq parties : portrait du système civil d'éducation avant la révolution tranquille; système d'éducation militaire, de la Nouvelle-France jusqu'à la fermeture du Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean; regard sur la formation des officiers; nouveaux défis causés par la RMA (Revolution in Military Affairs) et réflexions sur le rôle de l'éducation pour l'avenir des Forces canadiennes.

Un des axes intéressants de l'ouvrage est l'analyse sémantique et, surtout, les questionnements, omniprésents, sur les différents aspects de la formation. L'entraînement, la préparation par le biais d'exercices, de drill, laissant de côté toute réflexion cérébrale, sont-ils suffisants? « Une certaine formation, un bon entraînement, certes, mais trop d'éducation chez un soldat ou un sous-officier a longtemps été perçu comme suspect, voire dangereux » (p. 129). Il s'agit donc de donner une bonne instruction, tant aux soldats qu'aux sous-officiers et aux officiers, de leur transmettre le savoir et le savoir-faire, les notions militaires proprement dites. Dès 1923, dans un essai empli de lucidité que les éditeurs ont eu la bonne idée d'inclure dans l'ouvrage, le capitaine H. Meredith Logan soutient que, déjà à cette époque, les innovations techniques permettent de réduire le nombre d'hommes sur le champ de bataille mais que ces derniers sont appelés à recevoir une meilleure préparation militaire. Logan rappelle également que « dans le passé, on s'est trop préoccupé de soumettre le corps et l'on n'a pas assez développé l'esprit lorsqu'on s'entraînait » (p. 121).

Il semble donc que l'instruction ne soit pas non plus suffisante, qu'il faille apprendre aux militaires un savoir-être, leur transmettre « des moyens propres à assurer la formation et le développement d'un être humain » (p. 130). En ce qui concerne les officiers, il en a toujours été ainsi. Nombreux dans l'ouvrage sont les articles qui traitent de la question des sujets d'instruction tant pour les soldats que pour les officiers. On rappelle ainsi qu'en plus de l'apprentissage de la lecture de cartes et des techniques militaires, on apprend également aux sous-officiers et aux officiers à