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substantial database used to explore Langstaff's practice. The interpreted numerical evidence on the medical practice is profiled on illustrated tables of uneven value. Some, like the tenacity index, offers little in the way of numerical interpretation. In this instance, there is no explanation of why doctors chose to open or continue a practice in Richmond Hill. Fortunately the statistics, for the most part, are supplemented with qualitative statements on medical therapeutics taken from the same daybooks that help to personalize the data through detailed examination of individual case histories.

Heavy reliance upon the daybooks for evidence has its limitations. Sparse entries and routine record keeping allow for only speculation and hypothesis about the motivations in Langstaff's personal and medical life. In addition, the author has the occasional tendency to engage in conjecture using modern medical terminology to assist with Langstaff's diagnosis and to demonstrate his talents as a medical observer. This enterprise poses the potential danger of erroneously labeling patients with an ailment they did not have. Important questions about why or how a particular event took place in Langstaff's career cannot be adequately addressed without resorting to memoirs or other literary accounts that unfortunately do not exist. Duffin tries to overcome this source limitation by drawing on the conclusions of other scholars to provide a basis for the analysis of Langstaff's practice of medicine. However, this is not always appropriate, particularly when studies on American therapeutics are used to provide a context for Langstaff's clinical work in Richmond Hill. These are not, perhaps, the most representative standard of measurement of medical therapy for this region, and more indigenous indicators should be probed to account for the prevalence of certain clinical procedures. The voices

of other local physicians and Langstaff's own patients should be heard, perhaps through a more extended examination of the local newspapers.

The study could also have been more firmly grounded in the context of community as the two key variables—medical practice and Richmond Hill—are generally treated as separate entities. One wonders how the larger community responded to bouts of epidemic disease or Langstaff's actual practice of medicine. Clearly the local political situation, precarious county finances, and the community's proximity to the urban hospital specialists in neighbouring Toronto had an effect on community health and Langstaff's practice, but these themes are not explored in any depth. Much of Langstaff's livelihood was clearly dependent upon the rudimentary nature of mid-century settlement. Road and farm-based accidents were common. Indeed, having seen the toll that poor roads took on his patients and family, Langstaff became something of a crusader for improved thoroughfares. For two years he assumed the position of county roads commissioner and conducted experiments on road maintenance, the results of which remain unknown.

Certainly the largest question that remains is, Just how typical was the career of Dr. James Miles Langstaff? Unfortunately the representativeness of this study for understanding the general nature of medical practice in Ontario cannot be accurately ascertained without further research on practices in other regions. In the meantime, *Langstaff: A Nineteenth-Century Medical Life* will remain an essential work for anyone studying nineteenth-century Canadian medicine.

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Gervais, C.H. *The Border Police: 125 Years of Policing in Windsor*. Waterloo: Penumbra Press, 1993. Pp. 160. Illustrations. Paper.

Marquis, Greg. *Policing Canada's Century: A History of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993. Pp. 459. Illustrations. Hard.

At first blush, these books make an odd couple, seemingly with little more in common than policing. Gervais offers a slim keepsake-style book for the City of Windsor centennial. Dedicated to the force's first black detective, it is replete with photographs and colourful anecdotes about Windsor police officers, especially the chief constables. Marquis, on the other hand, does not deal with local detail, but presents a national perspective on municipal policing in his lengthy history of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP). However different, it appears that they have in common the reticence associated with sponsored work—there is little critical or interpretive information. Gervais at least presents with candour some of the problems of policing in Windsor, although much of the misconduct described relates to the safely remote early days of Windsor policing. He also romanticizes the police inadequacies in emphasizing their boozing, brawling, and corrupt shenanigans as all part of living and working in "border-town." For all his intent to entertain, the author does capture important themes: the marginal reputability of the early cast of police characters, and the effort devoted to minor by-laws and to policing public decorum and morality rather than serious crime. Marquis also tends to be non-interpretive and uncritical, disarming

us with detail, implying evaluation, but never delivering a thematic point of view. At times the text presents an account of CACP views and records that is far too accepting.

The Gervais book is a very local history, undoubtedly enjoyed by those familiar with the many persons mentioned, and well-suited to its centennial commission. It is too enthusiastic in its border-town emphasis upon hard-nosed policing, insisting upon adjectives such as *hard-boiled*, *tough*, and *belligerent*, while describing police officers as “fighters” or “scrappers.” Yet there is also something about the book that is informative beyond “border-town,” and illustrative of the historic character of Canadian municipal policing. It captures the male, working-class occupational environment of taverns and brawls, of which the police were participants in every sense. Much of the early civic experience of police misconduct had to do with their drinking. Gervais conveys how marginally respectable and competent our early police were. Gervais reckons that the police in Windsor were on the track to reform by the mid-1930s, even as he discusses a major corruption scandal after World War II. He presents an interesting line-up of characters—police officers who become progressively more bland, at least in his treatment of them, as we move nearer the present; by the 1960s his roll-call is shadowy indeed.

Marquis, who has written of policing in St. John, Charlottetown, and Toronto, and especially has considered the working-class character of policing and the role of police unions, had the support of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police for the research and publication of this work in the Osgoode Society series. The support seems to have restrained him. He resorts to almost a book within a book to narrate a general history of the

evolution of Canadian policing, while at the same time he juxtaposes a faithful chronicle of the association from its founding in 1905. The association history becomes an account of successful efforts to secure career opportunities for Canadian police personnel, and in some measure to promote an aura of professionalism, while on the other hand describing a litany of failures in the area of public policy. The chiefs' early concerns about criminal law, and their failed periodic attempts to seek amendments, have a familiar ring in the 1990s. They complain, for example, of police unions, and in 1918 seek legislation to have them banned; they succeed only in reinforcing a federal government intent to prohibit unions in the Royal North-West Mounted Police. (117–18) They object in the “inter-war years” to immigration and seek “easier” deportation (151); they complain in the 1920s of liberal criminology and parole, and that prisons are “too comfortable” (141); they object to the release of “too many serious offenders” without prior notice to the police (142), and generally complain that their views and expertise are ignored. (140)

While there is no such explicit judgement by the author, the book does convey a ineffectual body. Marquis approvingly remarks that in our federal structure a national “advocacy group” such as the NCIPHER is necessary, for “public policy should not be the private preserve of bureaucrats, lawyers and academics.” (397) But even as his narrative conveys a failure to affect public policy, he declines to specify or analyse the failure. Police unions are described as a bane of the chiefs, even as they share many points of view, but the implication that they have seized the public advocacy agenda from the chiefs is not explored. In a postscript Marquis ponders the near future, and notes, for example, the possible impact of present demands for greater police ac-

countability. But in this as in other matters not simply related to police careerism, he does not volunteer critical or analytic comment. Perhaps most curious, given the parallel content of the book that sketches an overview of the development of policing in Canada, he barely mentions the present and future impact of the now-dominant reform ideology in policing, that is, community policing. Publicly embraced by the chiefs, the implications of community policing for genuine organizational reform and a decentralization of the powers of the traditional Canadian chief of police are not considered. There must be, in the author's undoubtedly capacious notes, another less inhibited book in gestation.

These different books contribute to the all-too-sparse literature on Canadian policing. There is almost certainly more to come from Professor Marquis.

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Jackson, John N. and Sheila M. Wilson. St. Catharines: Canada's Canal City. St. Catharines, St. Catharines Standard, 1993 [originally 1992]. Pp. xiii, 413. Illustrations, maps, graphs, bibliography. ISBN 0-919549-24-1.

This is an exceptional book, with over 400 large-format pages packed with ideas, details, pictures, and maps. The photographic record in this book is impressive, drawing heavily on the archives of the local newspaper, the *St. Catharines Standard*. Many of the 300 or so photographs are more telling than the authors note. Jackson has been writing books on St. Catharines and the Welland Canal for two decades, and clearly knows the sources like the back of his hand. As a geographer his interest and