hat-making economy into a modern industrial and communication complex. At the same time she has not only shown that even the smallest institutions can mirror national nursing changes but also given encouragement to other nurse-historians to write about their own small but perhaps typical hospitals.

Nurse-historians have shown that even tackling ambitious and unorthodox institutions they can compete with the best of genre-writers in searching out and using hospital records, and are particularly effective when recording nursing's development. However, the next generation of nursing historians should press publishers to allow them to deploy their primary sources in footnotes and in a full bibliography, in which they can comment on omissions. Any new writer must make an attempt to marry his material with modern historiography, not just social and medical but also economic and political. Hospital and nursing histories should not be written in a vacuum; they must be of use to the widest possible historical audience and be able to contribute to current academic debates and concerns. Chapters on pre-1850 developments must deal as effectively with Foucault's exclusion theory as they do with religion, altruism or professionalism.(27)

Without source verification and evaluation, and without historiography, hospital histories written in the old genre will only be of limited use to historians. Local and hospital historians must be prepared to widen their searches and ask questions which the sources do not always readily answer. Institutional historians, among whom are some nursing historians, cannot dwell within an artificial sub-discipline but must be prepared to be first and foremost historians.

NOTES

(1) Most large medical libraries hold significant collections of hospital histories. From these it is possible to construct a genre.

(2) For a brief up-to-date introduction, see Riden, P. (1983) Local History: A Handbook for Beginners. See also, Stephens, W.B. (1981) Sources for English Local History

(3) For a discussion of the contribution to be made by urban history see, for example, Sutcliffe, A.R. (1982) Growth of Public Investment, in Johnson, J.H. and Pooley, C.G. (eds) (1982) The Structure of the Nineteenth-Century City

(4) For the use of nurses' registers, etc. see Maggs, C.J. (1983) The Origins of General Nursing, Chapter 2

(5) Medical journals ran campaigns similar to those in 'lay' newspapers. A full account of a hospital is not merely a 'find' for the researcher but represents a specific editorial decision

(6) Hawker, R. (1984) Rules to Control Visitors 1746-1900. Nursing Times, 80, 21 March 1984, pp.49-51