spécialisation de la médecine telles l'obstétrique, la chirurgie, et la pharmacie pour ne citer que celles-ci.

Pour l'ensemble de l'étude, la documentation utilisée est principalement constituée de sources imprimées : d'essence officielle et juridique d'une part (Statuts de la Province, Journaux de l'Assemblée, etc.) et scientifique d'autre part (principales revues médicales alors en circulation au Québec). Les grands journaux de l'époque, la *Gazette de Québec* et le *Canadien*, entre autres, ont aussi fait l'objet d'un dépouillement systématique. Mais pratiquement aucune source primaire d'archives n'a été utilisée, si ce n'est de nombreuses photos et gravures illustrant personnages et instruments qui marquèrent l'histoire médicale au XIXe siècle.

En introduction, Jacques Bernier s'est fixé quatre objectifs : comprendre comment s'est faite la professionnalisation de la médecine au Québec; comprendre le contexte historique qui a favorisé un développement hâtif de la médecine au Québec; évaluer le rôle du développement des connaissances médicales dans la reconnaissance de cette profession; et finalement, saisir la nature du rapport entre la profession et la société en général.

On peut dire que l'auteur a atteint son premier objectif. Il nous fait un compte rendu efficace des diverses tribulations juridiques qui pavèrent la voie à la professionnalisation de la médecine québécoise. Par contre, malgré une attention soutenue apportée au rôle du développement des connaissances médicales dans la reconnaissance publique de la profession, le regard de l'auteur reste superficiel, tout comme celui qu'il porte sur la question du développement hâtif de la médecine au Québec. Le quatrième objectif nous laisse quant à lui sur notre appétit. Sans doute est-ce dû au caractère des sources utilisées par l'auteur.

De plus, une lacune dont souffre *La médecine au Québec* doit être soulignée; celle de l'absence de toute discussion faisant état de la prise de contrôle du secteur de l'aliénation mentale par la profession médicale. Il s'agit là pourtant d'un sujet important et de surcroît bien documenté au Québec puisque, depuis le milieu des années 1970, plusieurs textes traitant de cette question ont vu le jour. Celui de P. Keating est d'ailleurs cité dans la bibliographie de Bernier, mais sans plus.

Cependant, il serait injuste de s'acharner sur les quelques lacunes de l'ouvrage de Bernier : avec les cadres si larges qu'il s'est donné, il est évident que l'auteur n'entendait pas au départ faire une étude exhaustive de nombreuses facettes de son sujet. Une synthèse moderne de l'histoire de la médecine québécoise au siècle dernier s'imposait et Jacques Bernier nous la livre en un texte clair, intéressant e t concis.

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Inventing Canada: Early Victorian Science and the Idea of a Transcontinental Nation. SUZANNE ZELLER. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987. 356 p. ISBN 0-8020-6606-2 $35.00 (cloth), $15.95 (paper)

Inventing Canada offers an account of the inventory sciences in early Victorian Canada. For her information, the author has consulted a broad range of public and

private papers in state and university archives in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain. The notes on sources indicate that the author has similarly read widely in the history of science and related fields in European and Canadian history. The result is an estimable achievement, impressive for its mastery of the history of the development and role of Canadian geology, meteorology, geomagnetism, and botany in the decades leading up to Confederation. Thoroughly researched, this book makes a significant advance in our knowledge of the history of Canadian science, a field that has only recently begun to receive the critical attention of scholars in this country.

Some readers may not be entirely satisfied by the evidence Zeller marshalls to support her contention concerning the transcontinental dimensions of thought among early Victorian inventory scientists. Some of the quotations, though interesting insights into the scientific thinking of the day, do not quite sustain her essential claim about the transcontinental vision among Canadian scientists and their role as progenitors of expansionist thinking among Canada's political and economic interests. Moreover, some of Zeller's evidence seems anachronistic. Several of the episodes that actually illustrate the expansionist aspects of scientific activity in Canada clearly postdate the early Victorian period and, apart from the details that she adds, will already be familiar to historians of Canadian expansionism. Indeed, the outlines of much of the story for the later period are already discernible in a number of previous studies: Zaslow's *Reading the Rocks*, Warkentin's *Western Interior of Canada*, Thomson's *Men and Meridians* and Owram's *Promise of Eden* which, though not a work on the history of science, also discusses the impact of exploration on Canadian perceptions of, and ambitions for, the Northwest. Several other recently published articles and monographs also share common ground with Zeller.

It is often said that historians undertaking biography tend to fall under the spell of the lives of their subjects. Although such intimacy is perhaps inevitable and even desirable, it can have drawbacks. At times, one wonders whether Zeller succumbed too much to the influence of her subject. Like the individuals she describes, who placed their faith in a putatively Baconian empiricism to understand nature, Zeller may have fallen prey to what intellectual historian Dominic Lacapra has termed "archival fetishism," for she seems to have been determined to unearth a wealth of new facts and, more pertinently, to present a comprehensive inventory of her findings — from important decisions taken in politics, to a myriad of major episodes and minor incidents with varying degrees of relevance to her theme — to grasp the nature of Canada's inventory sciences during the nineteenth century. For example, the narrative is unfailingly interrupted by four or five lines of biography even for the more peripheral personalities in her work. Often absorbing, the encyclopedic detail is also on occasion superfluous and disconcerting to the point of undermining a potentially interesting narrative or detracting from the clarity and effectiveness of the main argument. (Interestingly, in her "Notes on Sources," Zeller cites the importance for her work of Susan Faye Cannon. Cannon's research, however, along with a number of other recent writings on nineteenth-century science, have challenged the view among some historians that Baconianism exerted a pervasive influence on nineteenth-century scientific method.)

In essence, as far as the transcontinental theme of the book is concerned, Zeller is most persuasive when she demonstrates that Canadian scientists were interested in the West and the North as laboratories for their work, and that, particularly from the

late 1850s to the 1880s, this desire coincided with a vision among a number of them of a transcontinental nation. However, her intriguing contention that a scientific continentalism exerted a prior influence on the political thinking and programs of the day — as opposed to the converse notion of a political and economic expansionism underwriting the emergence of an expanded scientific vision — should serve to stimulate rather than to close debate over the dynamics of nineteenth-century Canadian expansionism.

Sometimes, historical works that fail to make their main point remain as important, or can be considered more significant, than others whose arguments, though well made, are ultimately less ambitious. *Inventing Canada* may be one such work. Whether or not readers are converted to the author's principal views, and the preceding comments aside, *Inventing Canada* remains a cogent, highly informative and often original piece of historical writing. Zeller's analysis is freshest and most convincing when it considers the significance of science as an agent of social cohesion, political nationalism, and economic development within the boundaries of Upper and Lower Canada and, to a lesser extent, the Maritime provinces. She handles with deftness the complex interplay of political, economic, social, and intellectual forces in colonial Canada and places its scientific enterprise in the broader context of British, American, and European trends and interests. Zeller makes the interesting and important point that scientific ideas, and even scientific fictions — such as the theory that the clearing of the wilderness has an improving effect on our climate — served the cause of economic progress, for they offered the sustenance of hope to a generation of Canadians facing an environment that gave few guarantees of future prosperity. She also properly stresses, and offers sometimes dramatic testimony to, the practical cast of mind which usually informed Canadian science. Whether it was meteorology, geology, geomagnetism, or botany, the scientific discourse of the period continually flashed signs of its own utilitarian possibilities, of its potentiality as a valuable instrument of a developing capitalist political economy. Scientific knowledge held out the prospect of national power, prosperity, or profit, and prestige. Finally, this book rescues from the shadows of relative historical obscurity such figures as William Hincks and J.H. Lefroy, and sheds light on the scientific interest of more familiar personalities of the period, such as Bishop Strachan and Egerton Ryerson. Better than most previous works, *Inventing Canada* demonstrates the prominent place which science deserves to occupy in the history of Canada's national development.

From its perhaps distant perspective, Elaine Scarry's book *The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World*, which discusses the creative and destructive consequences of the labouring human body's painful (destructive) and pleasurable (creative) sensate encounters with its material world, offers an oblique but nevertheless striking reminder that scientific learning and technological development — whether one is talking about new instruments for observing nature, new theories to explain natural phenomena, new tools for reshaping the earth to meet basic human needs, new weapons of death and destruction, adaptive uses of existing technologies, or the development of a better home heating source — by transforming the characteristics of this materially creative and destructive interaction, inevitably reconstitute our sentient relationship to nature. The progress and products of scientific knowledge, themselves shaped by complex social processes, continually alter our experience

and valuations of the natural environment. Simply put, human beings are constantly "resensing," redefining, and revaluing, that is, recreating (their relationship to) *their* material world.

During her excursion into early Victorian Canada, Zeller has uncovered a society whose inventory scientists, often connected to government and private interests, played and claimed a unique and vital part in "inventing" the meanings, values, and boundaries that Canadians assigned to *their* material world. Archivists, who can also be characterized as inventory scientists, may wish to contemplate the nature of their own inventing. For the most part, however, Zeller steers clear of addressing explicitly an epistemological question that has long intrigued many Canadian historians: crudely put, to what extent has the Canadian mind invented the nature of the country, and to what extent has the natural landscape invented the Canadian mind? Even statements such as J.W. Dawson's baldly empiricist declaration in 1868 (uttered with optimistic intent) that "Nature has already taken hold of the mind of Young Canada, and is moulding it in its own image" (p. 111) do not seem to have prompted Zeller to speculate very extensively about the relationship between the nature of "inventing" and the "inventing" of nature in the scientific discourse of early Victorian Canada. Although this interpretive reticence does not diminish the value of Zeller's achievement, such a perspectival *digestif* might have gone well after so generous a repast.

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Canadian Travellers in Europe, 1851-1900. EVA-MARIE KROLLER. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1987. xv, 197 p. ISBN 0-7748-0272-3.

In 1987 more than 1.2 million trips were made by Canadians to Europe. We pride ourselves on our enthusiasm for travel. "Canadians are among the world's busiest and most knowledgeable travellers," boasted the Ottawa *Citizen* in a recent survey of vacation trends. Have we always been this way? If not, how have we changed? What do we think about the countries we visit? How knowledgeable are we? Kroller does not deal in statistics but her "scholarly introduction to the history of travel and travel writing" investigates these questions by inquiring into the response of individual Canadians to mid-nineteenth-century Europe. Travel hones the senses. It makes us more aware of where we are and where we have come from. Europe, the old country for both English Canadians and French Canadians, provides Canadians with evidence of the past and, with its vigorous society, an example of the future. It is the response to this tension that makes the study of travel literature so compelling. Written at a time when Canada sought to define itself as a nation, the accounts of those who travelled to Europe are a useful laboratory in which to investigate a nation's self-image.

Kroller uses the world expositions between 1851 and 1900 as the events which delimit her investigation and as the focus of her comments on the development of the Canadian self-image. Her emphasis on the official representation of Canada abroad is incongruous with what are essentially personal points of view; this is, after all, a book on travellers in Europe and does not, for instance, include evidence