

very different yet strong personalities, each bent on the success of competing political agendas. Most striking was Truman's public attack on Hoover during the election of 1948. Fighting for his political life, Truman ridiculed Hoover as the symbol of failed Republican policies. Anyone familiar with Hoover's personality knows how deeply those attacks must have hurt him. Hoover expressed his criticisms of Truman's policies privately. They clashed over Soviet policy and Cold War issues. Still, despite their sharp differences, Hoover continued to advise Truman, and Truman was happy to continue the collaboration. After Truman left the White House, cooperation ripened into an abiding friendship that lasted until Hoover's death in 1964.

This is an excellent book. The editors have searched widely and selected wisely from hundreds of letters and diary entries that tell an intriguing story. An introduction by Richard Norton Smith and editorial explanations with each chapter are very helpful. Most importantly, however, these documents are both significant and interesting to read. The editors have recaptured the historical importance and human dimensions of the relationship between Hoover and Truman, and they have enriched the narrative quality by taking additional interesting selections from the papers of Henry L. Stimson, Edgar Rickard, Eban A. Ayers, James A. Webb, Dean Acheson, and David A. Lillenthal.

This book is highly recommended for all readers. The story of two presidents who transcended political partisanship to serve the nation and, in the process, created an enduring friendship should be known by all Americans.

American Health Quackery: Collected Essays by James Harvey Young. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992. xii, 299 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY PETER T. HARSTAD, INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

James Harvey Young is well prepared to address the history of health quackery in America. Three of his prior books, *The Toadstool Millionaires* (1961), *The Medical Messiahs* (1967), and *Pure Food: Securing the Federal Food and Drugs Act of 1906* (1989), stand out in their respective fields. Young's "continuing concern" with the theme of quackery and his "frequent return to it in lectures and articles, both to update and to view it from a fresh perspective, form the fabric of this book" (15). *American Health Quackery* presents fourteen lectures and essays prepared during the past quarter-century. The first, in which Young tells

of his lifelong interest in quackery, and the last, "AIDS and Deceptive Therapies," appear in print here for the first time. The book is divided into five parts: "Telling Why," "Seeking Patterns," "Giving Counsel," "Considering Themes," and "Narrating Cases," each of which opens with a useful introduction.

The methodology employed here is traditional and similar to that which Young used in his three earlier studies. But those who read this book only as an elaboration of historical themes Young has been pursuing for years will miss much. There is fresh material here. Young goes beyond dispassionate scholarship to demonstrate how gullible Americans still are in the 1990s. With wisdom gained through wide reading and a lifetime of experience, he advises modern health professionals, "do not let yourselves become quacks" (81). Among several striking quotations on quackery in the prologue is one asserting that "university towns are hot-beds of quackery" (4), a theme the author bears out in more than one of his subsequent chapters.

Iowans may be interested in Young's handling of chiropractic. Although he presents no extended analysis, he summarizes experiments conducted in 1973 concluding that "the original principle of chiropractic therapy was anatomically impossible" (45). He also cites studies showing that members of pro-Laetrile organizations tended to look favorably upon chiropractic (215) and that Laetrile "is dragging right along with it . . . acupuncture, kinesiology, . . . homeopathy and chiropractic" (245).

The last two chapters (on Laetrile and AIDS) contain sobering evidence of how pernicious and persistent quackery still is. The "lure of the unproven and of the false hope" continues to beckon. "Unprincipled schemes to deceive have always outrun regulatory pursuit," he concludes. "AIDS quackery seems destined to continue" (275).

Well-selected patent medicine ads and other illustrations adorn the text. Because each chapter stands on its own, busy people can pick up this book and find good reading for short sittings.

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