

the frequent labor-management disputes. Black workers carved out a middle ground and never became "the minnions of Pittsburgh employers" (176) or fit comfortably in the fold of labor's brotherhood. They were less successful in avoiding efforts to get them to adhere to elite standards of decorum at work and at home. This tug-of-war served to set the migrants apart from old-timers.

This point about the battle to effectively integrate the migrants into the community raises one of several interlocking questions about this otherwise exemplary study. At the book's end we are left to wonder: when do migrants cease being migrants and when do they become black Pittsburghers? Also, what does the transition from migrant to resident tell us about the impact of out-migration on the sending communities? Further, is this just a story about social, cultural and economic adaptation and transformation and not about integration into a political economy, where politics at all levels was central to the overall experience? Finally, if the migration of blacks to Pittsburgh between 1916 and 1930 extends backward to the 1880s, does not it also extend forward to the 1940s, the end of the industrial period? What are the implications?

All in all, *Making Their Own Way* is a very fine addition to a revitalized literature in Afro-American urban history. Building on earlier work, Gottlieb's nicely written account offers us a keener understanding of the intersection of urbanization, industrialization and Afro-American history, and of the race and class consequences. ■

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*A Century of Excellence: University of Pittsburgh,
School of Medicine.* By Barbara Paull.

(Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Medical Alumni Association, 1986.

Pp. xvii, 259. Illustrations, foreword, preface, bibliography, notes, index. \$35.)

There are treacheries in writing anything, but certainly more mine-fields threaten the historian than the poet. Archives may be factual, but, as any professional person knows, minutes of many a meeting have been censored or made deliberately opaque, and some contentious meetings go unrecorded. Beyond this, such a record tends to be bloodless and

must have life breathed into it by the historian.

History's other major source — personal recollection, whether oral or written — offers precisely the opposite dangers. There is plenty of life, but there are also the biases of "Whos" and "Whens," the flaws of memory and the distortions that spring from personal preferences and loyalties.

And when a historian, commissioned by an Alumni Association, takes on a hundred-year period in which the first 50 years are almost entirely archival and the last at least half-narrative — and, to make things more difficult, the personae of the last 20 years are all alive and able to kick — the task is particularly difficult.

Barbara Paull has managed to negotiate the Scylla/Charybdis agilely and with more than a little wit. She writes with grace, the text moves easily from one phrase to the next, and she connects the far past with the more recent admirably.

She also calls spades spades: "(The college) was recognized as the worst in the state — and almost the worst in the U.S." (Memo from Chancellor McCormick, circa 1900, on page 35); speaking about the early Arbuthnot years (1909): "The medical school was a shambles, with oversized classes, many ill-prepared students, a crumbling and overcrowded building, and an out-of-the-way location on Polish Hill." (page 52) She does not dodge the embarrassing admission policies regarding Jews, women, and blacks, or the shabby academic treatment of the eminent Dr. Maud Menten.

Her descriptions of three of the deans especially suggests that Pitt's ruling elite preferred aristocratic academics: Arbuthnot was "a respected physician..., a member of a prominent local family, and a bachelor. He shared equal enthusiasm for sports and cultural affairs, hobnobbed with the rich, and had been well educated in the United States and abroad." (43); McElroy, "born in the affluent suburb of Edgewood...knew all the 'right people' in Pittsburgh and...was free to attend...social events at will." (page 151); Cheever was "a patrician Bostonian, descended from a long and prominent line of lively and adventuresome medical men." (208) I can add that Vice-Chancellor McCluskey had always been the pediatrician to Pittsburgh's "best" families. Blessedly, each was an able man.

Most importantly, and probably of greatest interest to non-alumni readers, Paull has established linkages with the overall history of Pittsburgh — its industrial and epidemic plagues, its greed, its less than enlightened capitalists — and she gives facts, beyond Flexner's laudatory report of 1910, to show that the medical school, though

abysmal by today's standards, was better than most in the era before the report. She has neither gilded the lily nor has she torn off its petals.

In delineating the struggles — financial, academic, geographic, political — which have beset the school over the past century, she has diligently hunted out the truth and, for the most part, has presented the weight on each side of the balance when it might have been simpler (and more soothing to alumni) to ignore it. Inevitably there will be dissenting opinions about the more recent struggles, and much is left unsaid about the underlying reasons for the resignations of the school's last two deans.

Occasionally she misses a chance to emphasize an important point. She speaks of the devastation of the influenza epidemic of 1918 and its concomitant pneumonia (81) immediately after discussing the lack of concern about industrially caused diseases. Earlier, on page 78, she had stressed Dean Edwards' interest in the relationship between smoke and disease and the further probable relationship to the area's high incidence of pneumonia. A swift reminder that the pulmonary status of many workers, impaired by occupation before the influenza epidemic, unquestionably contributed to Pittsburgh's extraordinarily high pneumonia mortality in 1918-1919 would have emphasized the continuity.

Occasionally, too, her sources omit important contributions of faculty members, such as Dr. W.W.G. MacLachlan's nationally recognized work on pneumococci; his picture is included without mention in the text. One suspects this came about because the work was done at Mercy Hospital and her sources rarely ranged beyond the Medical Center. He was, in fact, one of the few stars in a dingy period of the school's history.

The spirals of recurring concerns over the century bring a poignancy to the text. Arbuthnot fought for full-time chairmen in both clinical and pre-clinical departments; Edwards passionately fought for both community and school acknowledgement of industrial illnesses endemic to Western Pennsylvania. In both cases, four decades elapsed before Pitt named its first full-time clinical chairman and, with a good deal of opposition from the School of Medicine, established a School of Public Health.

Another recurrent theme, emphasized well by Paull, was the indifference of wealthy Pittsburghers to education, medical or otherwise, at Pitt. "Though Pittsburgh was home to a great many millionaires, little private money flowed to the university or its medical school. The local moneyed gentry, in fact, took a dim view of both local education and the

home grown medical practitioner, sending their sons away to Ivy League schools and traveling east themselves for medical treatment." (90) Only with Mellon money in the late 1940s did the school begin to flourish, and only within the past two decades have affluent Pittsburghers stayed home when they became ill.

Finally, since this is an honest history, no reader can make a case for a true "100 Years of Excellence." The deans of the school all wanted that to be so, but despite their efforts (and usually because of fiscal shortfall or faculty squabbles) accomplishment fell far short of desire. Not until the past 30 years has Pitt really achieved excellence. From an inbred, academically incestuous faculty of Pitt graduates teaching Pitts students until the late 1940s, it has finally become an institution of national and international fame. The sporty debonair traveler, Dean Arbuthnot, would be pleased.

No reviewer can conclude without mentioning a flaw or two. The index to this history is mediocre; many photographs are of people not mentioned in the text and others seem inserted to satisfy someone's nostalgia; the Foreword's inclusion of *all* of Dr. Duff's speech welcoming the first class in 1886, while setting the tone of the period, adds a bit too much Presbyterian oratory to an otherwise clean text; the concluding two sections drift off instead of providing a final fanfare.

Despite this, the book contributes an important piece to the total puzzle of the history of Pittsburgh in a century of cultural and medical upheaval. It also is very timely, as the city's economy today relies more and more on medical employment. The book can, and should be enjoyed by anyone concerned with the area, physician or non-physician. ■

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*Black Coal Miners in America: Race, Class and
Community Conflict, 1780-1890.* By Ronald L. Lewis

(Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1987. Pp. xv, 239.
Preface, notes, references, index. \$25.)

The publication of Ronald L. Lewis' *Black Coal Miners in America* significantly advances the study of black workers during the industrialization period. Lewis' book, which complements recent studies on black