

approches différentes et interdisciplinaires, ce qui confère plus d'originalité à cette démarche. Sans doute, le nouveau livre de l'historien Gheorghe Cliveti fera carrière dans l'historiographie roumaine et nous sommes convaincu qu'il deviendra un des ouvrages les plus lus et cités.



IOAN BOLOVAN

CONSTANTIN BĂRBULESCU

Physicians, Peasants, and Modern Medicine: Imagining Rurality in Romania, 1860–1910

Transl. ANGELA JIANU

Budapest–New York: Central European University Press, CEU Press Studies in the History of Medicine, 11, 2018

PUBLISHED INITIALLY at Humanitas Publishing House of Bucharest in 2015, the book of Professor Constantin Bărbulescu from the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, was, thanks to Angela Jianu, translated and offered also to the English-speaking readers by the Central European University Press in 2018.

Known for his previous research dedicated to the anthropological space and the Romanian people of contemporary Transylvania, the author presents here the relationship between peasants and doctors in Wallachia and Moldavia between 1860 and 1910. The main sources of the approach are the reports written by doctors who activated in this space in the aforementioned period. They are compared with the scant historiography of the topic in an interesting work. Structured into three big parts, the book starts with a presentation of the

main sources of the investigation, segmented into categories. Therefore, in the first category of the introductory chapter (pp. 11–47), the author distinguishes between: public health reports (pp. 12–14), reports of District Health practitioners (pp. 15–17), county medical officers (pp. 18–21), the higher medical council (pp. 22–23), public health inspectors (pp. 23–25), metropolitan health and medical services (pp. 26–27), doctors from rural hospitals (pp. 27–28) and regimental medical personnel (pp. 29–33), offering examples and underlining the differences between them, contending that by presenting the realities found in the territory, the doctors contributed to the development of the rural space. The second part of the thematic unit (pp. 34–47) is dedicated to the memoirs of the doctors where, based on their experience, they speak about the rural space and the perception of the people from the investigated space about medicine, and present their way of life. The chapter is not only an interesting and well-written presentation that brings together and surveys the sources, thus offering a basis for future research dedicated to similar topics, but it is also a useful tool that proves the professionalism of the author.

The second part (pp. 51–224) is dedicated to the medical discourse on the peasant and the village that can be found in the investigated sources. Here, Professor Bărbulescu offers a detailed description of the peasant, bringing to attention details related to the color of his skin, alimentation, hygiene, living space, problems like alcoholism or the diseases that arrive as a consequence of his way of life. For example, quite interesting is the 5th unit of the part (pp. 146–171), where he presents the way in which a malady spread and its causes (the

excessive consumption of corn), but also its social and cultural impact.

In a space dominated by illiteracy, superstition and bad nutrition like the investigated one, the role of traditional medicine was a very important one. Aware of this fact, the author dedicates the 3rd part of his approach (pp. 227–268) to the comparative analysis of the way in which medical culture and peasant culture were seen by the people from different villages. His conclusions are based on the observations of the doctors who tried to visit different places and to contribute to the improvement of daily life. Also, attention is paid to the legislation and its role in changing lifestyles and mentalities. The author underlines the fact that, for the investigated period, “The creation of a modern health system is inconceivable without a legislative and normative framework, which forms the topic of the present chapter. Even a rapid survey of the health legislation will reveal the massive scale of the modern state’s efforts in setting up and managing the health services in the last three decades of the nineteenth century and in the early twentieth century. But what do these prescriptive texts tell us? They present an ideal situation, a this-is-how-things-should-be scenario. Alongside this *Belle Époque* representation of Romanian society as envisioned by health legislators, there is another, apparently very different, picture. This chapter aims to analyze the two images comparatively. I am not, in fact, interested in legislation as a social projection. I want to know what was done to put it into practice and what changed in society as a result. We thus enter the sensitive area of norms versus practice, which remains a minefield for legislators even today” (pp. 228–229).

Well-documented and offering an interesting approach to a relevant, but in-

sufficiently investigated topic pertaining to Romanian history (with relevance for anthropological research), the book of Professor Constantin Bărbulescu brings to the attention of foreign specialists important aspects of Romanian research and will surely create bridges of debate between our cultural space and others.

□

IULIU-MARIUS MORARIU

ANA VICTORIA SIMA and TEODORA-ALEXANDRA MIHALACHE, eds.

Persuading Minds: Propaganda and Mobilisation in Transylvania during World War I

Berlin etc.: Peter Lang, 2018

FOCUSING ON the impact of the Great War upon the multiethnic Transylvanian population, the book edited by Ana Victoria Sima and Teodora-Alexandra Mihalache is of great interest for the historians who research the European history of the “long nineteenth century” and the beginning of the “short 20th century.” In recent years, more and more research on the Great War has outlined the importance of these events, not only as a turning point in world history, but also from other perspectives, such as the political, economic, social and gender relations dimensions of the war. Historians dealt with the transformations in Transylvanian society which occurred before and during the First World War and their consequences both in macro- and micro-history. The editors and contributors to this volume focus on some key points which have not been researched in Romanian historiography, such as propaganda and mobilization during the