

The Political Economy of Health

Lesley Doyal with Imogen Pennell

SOUTH END PRESS BOSTON, MA

Contents

Acknowledgements / 7

Part One: Theoretical Foundations / 9

1. Understanding Medicine and Health / 11

Medicine and society: the orthodox view / Medical nemesis / Towards a marxist analysis / Health, illness and capitalism / The evolution of western scientific medicine / Medical practice and the reproduction of labour power under capitalism / Conclusion

Part Two: The Social Production of Health and Illness / 47

2. Health, Illness and the Development of Capitalism in Britain / 49

The impact of industrial capitalism / Health, illness and British capitalism in the twentieth century / Production and the health of workers / Production, pollution and health / Consumption, health and illness / Stress as a source of ill health

3. Health, Illness and Underdevelopment / 96

The underdevelopment of health in the third world / The early effects of colonialist expansion / The establishment of the colonial economy / Food production and malnutrition / The deterioration of health under the migrant labour system / Malnutrition and monopoly capitalism / Migration, urbanisation and neo-colonialism / Technology, 'development' and disease

Part Three: The Social Production of Medical Care / 139

4. Public Health, Medicine and the Development of British Capitalism / 141

Early public health measures and the development of industrial capitalism / Medicine, social control and the sexual division of labour / Imperialism and the problem of proletarian health and welfare / 1911: Health insurance, scientific medicine and the reproduction of labour power / The crisis of capitalist medicine during the inter-war period

6 *The Political Economy of Health*

5. **The National Health Service in Britain / 177**

The welfare state and the NHS / Who controls the NHS? / Who profits from the NHS? / Who benefits from the NHS? / The health labour force: who runs the health service? / The crisis and the NHS

6. **Women, Medicine and Social Control: The Case of the NHS / 215**

Double burden: women's labour in the twentieth century / The medical view of women: the reproduction of inferiority / Women as the objects of modern medicine: sexism in the NHS / Women, the NHS and the control of reproduction / Conclusion

7. **Medicine and Imperialism / 239**

Colonial health policies in East Africa / Neo-colonialism: the consolidation of western medical practice / Neo-colonialism: medicine as a commodity / Neo-colonialism: disease as an international problem / Recent developments: the reproduction of the labour force / Recent developments: population control / Recent developments: rural health or social control?

Postscript / 291

References / 298

Index / 351