not all of these sentiments may have trickled down to rank and file, many nurses participated in the 1963 March on Washington. Threat concludes the book with a short synthesis that situates the Army Nurse Corps as a reluctant participant in the Civil Rights Movement, as a conflicting mix of conservative action and pragmatic leadership that reflected American society.

Threat effectively threads her argument, that although race and gender were key Civil Rights forces, labor and economics were also critical in shaping the agenda. Of all of the chapters, chapter 1 is probably the weakest. Threat's choice of secondary sources should have included more recent works by historians of nursing. There are, for example, better sources on Nightingale and on the history of nursing than Kalish and Kalish (1995). Threat's inclusion of the ANA as a counterpoint to the Corps provides context, but she only includes the perspectives of the leadership on equality and integration, which was at times quite different from that of the rank and file. She struggles, as do many who write about this subject, with how to refer to men who are nurses. The term "male nurses" is an interesting artifact that reflects the highly gendered history of the nursing profession. Although Threat does not intend her book to be a nursing narrative, she effectively uses nursing, as should other scholars, to understand broader social and political issues.

Julie Fairman

School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-4217

doi:10.1093/jhmas/jrw007

Advance Access Publication: April 15, 2016

Diane Kiesel. *She Can Bring Us Home: Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, Civil Rights Pioneer*. Lincoln, Potomac Books, an Imprint of the University of Nebraska Press, 2015. ix, 352 pp., illus. \$37.95.

KEYWORDS: biography, African American physicians, Alpha Kappa Alpha

She Can Bring Us Home: Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, Civil Rights Pioneer, by Diane Kiesel, is a biographical study of one of the most important American physicians of the early to mid-twentieth century. Dr. Ferebee earned a medical degree from Tuft's University Medical College in Boston in the 1920s and developed an obstetrical practice in Washington, DC, where she also worked at Howard University. Kiesel's study investigates Dr. Ferebee's activism in public health, civil rights, and women's reproductive freedom. It reveals much about Dorothy's life and leadership, and helps to raise her profile as a key figure in the history of social justice in the United States.

In *She Can Bring Us Home*, Diane Kiesel provides an intimate history of Dr. Ferebee's long life from her birth in 1898 to her death in 1980. Kiesel, an investigative journalist and acting justice of the New York State Supreme Court, reveals

Dorothy's personal and professional successes and failures, including many details about her relationships with family members and professional colleagues. Dr. Ferebee, a member of the black middle-class and elite, achieved much despite the constraints of racial and gender discrimination in the first half of the twentieth century. However, as Kiesel makes clear, there was a personal cost to her success.

The overarching themes of the book are the significance of Dorothy Ferebee's national leadership and her insistence that health issues were central to the advancement of civil rights. In particular, Kiesel focuses on Dr. Ferebee's leadership in two national women's organizations, the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the National Council of Negro Women. For instance, Kiesel provides previously unavailable details about the impressive Alpha Kappa Alpha Mississippi Health project, which was directed by Dr. Ferebee. This summer program provided health services for thousands of rural, African American sharecroppers from 1935 to 1942.

The book's greatest strength is its wealth of primary sources. The chapters build on a wide variety of material, including the records of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority that are available at Howard University. The reader also learns details about Dorothy's friendship with Mary McLeod Bethune, a well-known educator and school founder who was appointed to President Franklin Roosevelt's so-called black cabinet of African American advisors. Kiesel documents Ferebee's attendance at White House events and even her 1953 testimony before Senator Joseph McCarthy's panel investigating communism.

Kiesel not only conducted research in Dr. Ferebee's professional records located in archives, but she also gained access to Dorothy's personal papers held by a family member. Kiesel gained information about Dorothy's private life through these previously unavailable source materials. These glimpses of family dynamics remind us that specific family formations and household arrangements shaped women's work lives and vice versa. Dorothy had to juggle many demands in order to fulfill her responsibilities to family, work, and community engagement. Access to both personal and professional sources enabled Kiesel to reveal some of the conflicts and disappointments that emerged as Dorothy negotiated the demands on her as a wife, mother, and national leader.

Kiesel was clearly dedicated to an exhaustive search of every detail in Dr. Ferebee's life, no matter how private, to find the real Dorothy Ferebee. However, there are times that the book reads like a condemnation of Dorothy's actions and an invasion of privacy for both Dorothy and people closest to her. The most troubling aspects of the book are those that examine Dorothy's social roles as a wife and mother. Here, Kiesel finds much to condemn, including a "failed" marriage and twins whose too-often absent mother sent them off to boarding schools.

Kiesel presents Dorothy as a "tragically flawed" historical figure who was too often untrustworthy in how she represented events in her life. Kiesel tries to separate the truths from the lies in a way that feels too judgmental, rather than analyzing how an individual shaped her representations of her life depending on the specific contexts and audiences. This is most evident in Kiesel's use of an oral history that Dorothy

did near the end of her life when she was ill. At times, Kiesel references it to show she has caught Dorothy in a lie when information does not match Kiesel's own research findings. Certainly, the task of historians is not to simply celebrate historical figures. However, people are complex and contradictory human beings and the work of historians is to understand them within their personal and historical contexts.

Overall, *She Can Bring Us Home* is an engaging study of an African American woman physician whose deserves to be better known in medical history. In particular, more scholarship needs to be done on Dr. Dorothy Ferebee's work as a physician. In the end, Kiesel's study provides an important reminder of the contributions that some physicians have made to promoting social justice. Medicine was, and still is, a profession that attracts leaders whose interest in addressing health and well-being extends well beyond their private practices. As Kiesel rightly shows, Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee was one of those visionaries.

Susan L. Smith

Department of History, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada AB T6G 2H4

doi:10.1093/jhmas/jrv059

Advance Access Publication: January 13, 2016

James C. Mohr. *Licensed to Practice: The Supreme Court Defines the American Medical Profession*. Baltimore, Maryland, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013. viii, 216 pp., illus., \$21.95.

KEYWORDS: public health, medical legislation, allopathic medicine, medical marketplace, Gilded Age, regulation

Seasoned historian James C. Mohr illuminates an understudied aspect of American medical history, the origins of state-enforced medical licensing laws in the United States in a concise, well-written, easy-to-read narrative. It was in West Virginia after the Civil War that the Regular physicians convinced the state legislature to pass the Board of Health Act in 1882. In addition to empanelling a state public health body, the law also vested it with legal power to license medical practice. Despite legal challenges to the Board of Health Act that began almost immediately after its passage, the law was ultimately upheld by the Supreme Court in *Dent v. West Virginia*, a landmark 1889 decision that made West Virginia's system of medical licensing a model for other states. As a result, this decision would underpin the development of health-care regulation and delivery during the twentieth century.

The story of medical licensing in West Virginia is one of personal animosities, political intrigue, contentious legal battles, and even a sensational murder among the state's Gilded Age elites. Many of the physicians in Mohr's account supplemented their incomes by working on retainer for large railroad corporations, positions that linked them to powerful business, political, and legal elites in the state. To further