

Preface

The study of health and illness in Indonesia has always drawn large numbers of scholars. It is – and has been for a long time – an ever-expanding field for experts with a medical or social science background, both in Indonesia and abroad. European interest in this topic, dating back to the colonial period, has increased considerably during the last decades. The articles presented in this volume have in common that they were written by scholars based in Europe (at the time of writing), trained as social scientists (including history).

It will not come as a surprise, therefore, that the contributions presented in this collection emphasize the 'societal' aspects of health care, and not the more technical medical ones. The articles highlight the cultural, political, economic, and social framework within which theory and practice of health care in Java operate at present and have operated in the past. This approach also implies that the notion of health care has been used in this volume in a rather broad sense, including such items as family planning and advertising for cigarettes.

The ten articles published here have been grouped into three broad categories, namely topics dealing with the colonial period, 'traditional' notions of health and illness, and present-day health and care.

This collection presents a number of – revised – contributions to a workshop on Health Care in Java, Past and Present, organized by KITLV in conjunction with the European Social Science Java Network (ESSJN) on 7 and 8 May 1992, in Leiden. During the workshop, 17 papers were read. For various reasons, the contributions of H. Beukers, J. Dreezens-Fuhrke, L. Heering, B.G.J. Knols and W. Takken, R. Luyken, J.P. Verhave, and B. Zuiderhoek could not be included in this volume.

The ESSJN, founded in Amsterdam in 1988, organizes annual workshops in Europe. The edited proceedings of two earlier workshops (1990, 1991) have also been published (Alexander et al 1991; Antlöv and Cederroth 1994).

References

- Alexander, P., P. Boomgaard and B. White (eds)
1991 *In the shadow of agriculture; Non-farm activities in the Javanese economy, past and present.* Amsterdam: Royal Tropical Institute.
- Antlöv, H. and S. Cederroth (eds)
1994 *Leadership on Java; Gentle hints, authoritarian rule.* Richmond: Curzon Press. [NIAS, Studies in Asian Topics 16.]