

Book Reviews

The text, translated into English, is accompanied by a facsimile of the original Dutch, with the original drawings and illustrations. Bidloo describes and illustrates the morphology, and thus permits us to compare his findings with the more precise knowledge of modern biology. Bidloo made some erroneous statements and drew some erroneous conclusions, but error, when studied in its context, is perhaps the best way of tracing the progress of science. His speculations regarding the development of the parasite and the relationship of these and other worms to disease are extremely interesting and throw much light on basic concepts of seventeenth-century medicine. At the same time the text obliquely illuminates the personality of the author and the customs of the times, in regard to communications.

The translation is fluent. The text is prefaced by a detailed and excellent introduction in English, by Dr. J. Jansen, that adds greatly to the value of the whole.

The Trade in Lunacy: a Study of Private Madhouses in England in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, by W. L. PARRY-JONES, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1972, pp. xviii, 361, illus., £4.75.

Every now and then a book appears which is clearly destined to serve as a source of reference for many years to come. This is one such. The history of institutions for the insane in England prior to the great expansion of the mid-nineteenth century, has up to now been fragmentary—even such an establishment as Bethlem has never received the attention it has merited. The sources were not easily available to the amateur historians, mainly medical men, who had been the only interested enquirers. At Bethlem the archives were grossly inadequate, much seemed to have disappeared for ever, even the case books themselves only extended as far back as the late eighteenth century. To concentrate on the history of psychiatry itself was far more profitable, for at least the books were relatively easily available. All the time, however, there existed voluminous records of a very large number of madhouses, only requiring industry and application from which to build up a picture of many aspects of psychiatric practice in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. By studying the manuscripts in 142 record repositories in England and Wales, Dr. Parry-Jones has been able to trace the development of the madhouse system in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and at the same time, to supply us with a valuable source book of references. Until the establishment of the County and Borough Mental Asylums following the Act of 1845, the care of both pauper and private lunatics was the responsibility of a large number of private institutions scattered throughout the country. Even by 1848 half of the total lunatics confined in England and Wales were in private licensed houses, criminal lunatics and idiots also being included. The profit motive, and the abuse which occurred in some houses made the public suspicious and critical of the manner in which the insane were treated, and often obscured the real very benefits of the system. Both medical and lay proprietors existed, although medical men came to outnumber their lay colleagues as the eighteenth century progressed. Some, such as Arnold, Cox and Perfect, made lasting contributions to psychiatry. A detailed study of two particular establishments at Hook Norton, and at Witney in Oxfordshire, reveals that during the mid-nineteenth century patients stayed relatively short periods in the institution, that between one-quarter to one-third of patients were discharged

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as cured; that social factors affected duration of stay in hospital as well as prognosis, and that it was difficult to obtain the right type of attendant. It all sounds so familiar to the contemporary psychiatrist. To those who started in practice before 1948, the names of some of these private madhouses will have a nostalgic flavour—Peckham House with its tall Georgian rooms, Camberwell House grim in its South London setting, Ticehurst House surrounded by the beautiful Sussex countryside. So many have disappeared, luckily their records remain; they have had a sympathetic and industrious chronicler in Dr. Parry-Jones.

Genetics and American Society, by KENNETH M. LUDMERER, Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972, pp. xi, 222, \$10.00.

Kenneth Ludmerer's *Genetics and American Society* neatly complements two earlier monographs which cover some of the same ground: Mark Haller's *Eugenics: hereditarian attitudes in American thought* (1963), and Donald K. Pickens' *Eugenics and the Progressives* (1968). Both these earlier volumes dealt with general aspects of the American eugenics movement of the early decades of this century. Ludmerer is interested primarily in the interplay between a social movement (eugenics) and a science (human genetics). The relationship between science and society is intricate, and Ludmerer admirably demonstrates how the web of influence is not just from science to society, or *vice versa*. Rather, there is a subtle interplay between the two, as scientists bring their theories and observations to bear on social issues, and as these social issues influence the kind of research that gets done—and not infrequently the kind of data that are obtained.

The relationship between genetics and eugenics is a case in point. Ludmerer shows how the re-discovery of Mendel's work around 1900 gave rise to a science of genetics which seemed to offer promise in understanding and solving problems concerning the fitness—biological and social—of the human race. He points out that early twentieth-century American genetics was overwhelmingly Mendelian (in contrast to the statistical approach in this country of Galton, Pearson and their disciples). This led American geneticists to much careless work, as they tried to explain many complicated human traits in terms of simple Mendelian ratios. Ludmerer goes on to describe how eugenicists relied on dubious scientific data on which to base their programme of social amelioration, and how the eugenics movement caused many geneticists to avoid the study of human genetics. Instead, geneticists of the 1920s and 30s tended to concentrate on *drosophila* and other simple organisms. Finally, Ludmerer examines the rise of contemporary human genetics in the late 1940s and 50s, and particularly its relationship to medical education and research.

This is a fine study, based on wide reading of printed and manuscript sources. In addition, the author has made use of interviews with a number of geneticists, such as L. C. Dunn, Curt Stern, and Lionel Penrose.

Hipócrates en España (siglo XVI), by TERESA SANTANDER RODRÍGUEZ, Madrid, Dirección General de Archivos, y Bibliotecas, 1971, pp. viii, 419, [no price stated].

This is a work of unusually fine bibliographical scholarship. The author has confined herself to exploring the texts and immediate background of Latin or Spanish versions of any of the works of the *Corpus Hippocraticum* published in Spain during the six-