

### Book Reviews

book does less than justice to Champier, a Renaissance man still entrapped in his medieval past, who made up for his technical and philosophical deficiencies by the vigour of his polemic and the fluency of his pen. Muddled and inconsistent he may be, but his writings are full of life: in this book he is at times buried under a mass of painstaking erudition.

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MANFRED BLEULER, *Beiträge zur Schizophrenielehre der Zürcher Psychiatrischen Universitätsklinik Burghölzli (1902-1971)*, Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1979, 8vo, pp. vii, 358, DM. 49.00 (paperback).

Burghölzli may well be the most famous psychiatric institution of the present century. Certainly it has been an international centre for research on schizophrenia, the word and much of our current clinical conception of the condition deriving from the work of Eugen Bleuler, Director of Burghölzli from 1898 to 1927. C. G. Jung, Jakob Lutz, Klaus Ernst, Manfred Bleuler (Eugen's son), and many others have extended the research programme begun by the elder Bleuler. This present volume reprints selections of Burghölzli research on the aetiology, classification, heredity, and therapy of schizophrenia. It is an impressive collection which German-reading historians and psychiatrists will find of interest. The volume's usefulness is perhaps diminished by the fact that many of the papers are abridged, and some are published without their original footnotes, but the collection amply testifies to the importance of Burghölzli for contemporary psychiatric thought.

HENRY HECAEN (editor), *La dominance cérébrale: une anthologie*, Paris, Mouton, 1978, 8vo, pp. 479, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

The editor has collected together an anthology of articles translated into French. They illustrate the following themes: the discovery of the dominance of the left cerebral hemisphere; asymmetry of hemispheric function; split-brain; anatomical and perceptual hemispheric asymmetry; and cerebral organization in sinistrals. Each piece has a brief introduction, placing it in context. The full documentation is reproduced.

Although the original publications are mostly in readily available periodicals, it is convenient to have them brought together and evaluated by one of France's most outstanding neuro-scientists.

MARY MIDGLEY, *Beast and man. The roots of human nature*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxii, 377, £8.50.

The author is a moral philosopher who brings a new approach to the problems of

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sociobiology which are currently under discussion. Unlike many of the contestants, she also brings admirable clarity to the main issues and dismisses many statements and points of view which she considers to be philosophically untenable. Her main thesis is that a philosophical approach deriving from an integrated view of human biology and culture is necessary in this arena. She is able to demonstrate with skill and authority that biological processes represent an essential component of man's dignity, thus making him a part of nature. Mary Midgley's book will be of the greatest interest to all those involved in the on-going nature/nurture debate, not excluding the historian concerned with the recent history of biology.

T. C. HSU, *Human and mammalian cytogenetics. A historical perspective*, New York, Heidelberg, and Berlin, Springer, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 186, illus., DM. 24.00/\$13.20 (paperback).

Human cytogenetics came into existence in 1959 with the discovery of chromosome anomalies in Down's, Turner's, and Klinefelter's syndromes. Since then advances have been numerous, and because of the data collected, our views of basic biological concepts like natural selection have had to be altered. Professor Hsu from Houston surveys these two decades in a chatty narrative, and gives accounts of the field's pioneers. He provides a sort of oral history of very recent events, and his book will be of the greatest value to future historians of molecular biology, and of genetics in particular. In the meantime, it will have immediate appeal to a wide range of scientists and historians.

[British Dental Association], *The advance of the dental profession. A centenary history 1880-1980*, London, British Dental Association, 1979, 8vo, ix, 289, illus., £8.80.

Historians of the growth of the medical, nursing, and midwifery professions have recently turned from the nuts and bolts of chronology to a more social historical and sociologically informed account of professionalization. Dentistry still awaits this impertinence. This extremely informative book with its series of short, generally well researched essays is a nuts and bolts account of the history of the dental profession from the Dentist's Act of 1878 to the Common Market. Produced for the centennial of the British Dental Association in 1980 its style is tailored to its audience and appropriately it lacks both bibliography and references. It is none the worse for that though, and, in spite of its failure to recognize recent historical trends, should find a very large readership amongst dentists.

CATHARINA LIS and HUGO SOLY, *Poverty and capitalism in pre-industrial Europe*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xvi, 267, £12.50.

When in 1840 Ann Fielding of Elland "was added to the pale nations underground", she left "the world, for her class of society, in a far worse condition than she found it 48 years before". The message of the tombstone is repeated in this gloomy book, which traces a sad development over 500 years from an age of medieval subsistence farmers to the creation by 1850 of a landless proletariat, kept alive by the potato, seasonal migration, and moral injunctions to hard work. Rejecting the thesis that poverty is inherent in a scarcity society, the authors show how changes in investment, land law

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and ownership, technical innovation, and means of production led to long- and short-term blocks and crises and to varying degrees of pauperization. Their comments on malnutrition and the effects of plague and famine are clear and sensible, and their major contention, that charity and poor relief were designed as much to prevent social unrest and give a stable labour force as to abolish poverty, is cogently argued.

This is an auspicious beginning to a new series on 'pre-industrial Europe', and its broad coverage in geography, time, and documentation makes it an admirable introduction to modern debates and even to modern problems. Its price may, however, prevent it from reaching the audience it deserves.

FRANK BOTTOMLEY, *Attitudes to the body in Western Christendom*, London, Lepus Books, 1979, 8vo, pp. xi, 257, £7.50.

According to Dr. Bottomley, primitive and medieval Christianity held a balanced view of the body and its functions which has been progressively lost to prudish silence and lustful eroticism. Recover that balance, then, and some of our ills will be banished. The theme is an important one; the author ranges widely over theology and art, and some hits are scored – the views of St. Ambrose, and modern artists' dismantling of the body like a geometrical machine. Inevitably there are omissions: medical writers are almost entirely absent, although Galenic teleology is relevant, and there is no mention of the tradition of the Cappadocian Fathers, which reduces the Platonic body/soul dichotomy by means of a deeper understanding of the natural world. Space should also have been found for a discussion of Nemesius of Emesa, the first Christian anthropologist, as Telfer called him, whose work was translated into Latin by Bishop Alphanus of Salerno c. 1080 and by Burgundio of Pisa in 1165, cf. D. S. Wallace-Hadrill, *The Greek Patristic view of Nature*, pp. 40-65. Dr. Bottomley minimizes the social role of Egyptian monastic withdrawal, and religious historians like David Knowles have stressed the influence of Platonism on medieval theology, but, on the whole, the emphasis on the this-worldly aspect of most patristic and medieval thought is unexceptionable. Non-specialists, however, may be deterred by the chunks of undigested quotation, and fellow experts by the sloppy proof-reading, the irrelevance of many of the tit-bits of information, and the absence of any concentrated exposition and argument.

GOTTFRIED SCHRAMM (editor), *Neue Beiträge zur Geschichte der Pharmazie. Festschrift für Hans-Rudolf Fehlmann zur Feier des 60. Geburtstages*, Zürich, Juris Druck, 1979, 8vo, pp. 261, [no price stated], (paperback).

The topics covered in this *Festschrift* range from China, via Belgium and England, to New Jersey, and from veterinary fragments to biographies of historians of pharmacy. Although most contributors discuss local, especially Swiss and German, material, there is always a sense of their wider implications: an Aarau controversy in the 1890s over the nationalization of the pharmaceutical industry has a very modern flavour. Dr. Fehlmann, the Secretary of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire de la Pharmacie, may be proud of these essays in his honour.

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A. RUPERT HALL and NORMAN SMITH (editors), *History of Technology*, 4th annual volume, 1979, London, Mansell, 1979, 8vo, pp. v, 186, illus., £14.00.

Bearings, locks, celluloid, and bridges receive due scholarly attention in this volume; of greater medical relevance are articles on mechanical harvesting and on early ideas on the sector and chain, a fruitful source of physiological analogies.

*North Yorkshire County Record Office Journal*, No. 6, April 1978, Northallerton, NYCRO, 4to, pp. 120, illus., £2.00.

This issue includes an essay by R. Smith on 'Parish welfare in early nineteenth-century Denton' (pp. 111-117), with information on doctors' fees, and a useful survey of the accounts of eighteenth-century churchwardens, who spent money on umbrellas as well as church bells.

LESLIE BRADLEY, *A glossary for local population studies*, Matlock, Derbyshire, Local Population Studies, 1978, 8vo, pp. 76, £1.80 (paperback).

One of the problems for the historian who is not a professional demographer is the specialized terminology. And yet the books and articles being written by the experts are often of great general importance. This booklet will help to solve the problem. It has been commissioned by *Local Population Studies*, and is intended for the person collecting demographic data, to help him to use the simple techniques on his own account, and also for use by students. It includes no sources earlier than 1538. This is the second, emended edition, and it should be of wide interest and importance, as it introduces a relatively new approach to history, which is becoming of increasing significance in historiography.

V. E. LLOYD HART, *Health in the Vale of Aylesbury and its environs 13th-20th centuries (with some medical personalities)*, Aylesbury, Bucks., HM + M Publishers, 1979, 8vo, pp. 134, illus., £5.00.

Dr. Lloyd Hart has written a chatty little book on local medical history based on extensive use of primary sources. All aspects of medicine in the Vale are discussed, and the final chapter gives accounts of its medical personalities. Although this is mainly parochial history, it will provide future historians with building materials to erect a larger and more scholarly structure. Nevertheless, Dr. Hart has taken the trouble to research and record data which are themselves important contributions to England's greatly under-investigated provincial medical history. His book deserves to be read widely, in the profession and outside it, with the hope that others will be inspired to carry out similar studies.

CHARLES G. ROLAND and PAUL POTTER, *An annotated bibliography of Canadian medical periodicals 1826-1975*, Toronto, The Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, 1979, med. 8vo, pp. xvii, 77, illus., free on application to The Hannah Institute.

Anything distributed free by generous sponsors is almost guaranteed success – or instant oblivion. This little book has merits which ensure a long and useful life, and would make it worth the money of anyone interested in Canadian medical history.

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Roland and Potter list 212 titles, equipping many of them with annotations (some substantial) and all with locations. Unusual in this kind of bibliography, but most welcome, are the details about editors. The basic list is supplemented by useful time-charts of Quebec and Ontario medical journals, some nice illustrations, and a full index of editors' names. A solid, workmanlike job which will bring its editors little academic glory, but much gratitude from the workers.

J. H. HEXTER, *On historians. A scrutiny of some modern practitioners*. London, Collins, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiv, 310, £6.95.

Although the sub-title on the dust-jacket, which is not on the title-page, suggests that this book is a judgment-placing exercise, Professor Hexter is more exploratory and descriptive than critical. He analyses books written by seven American and European twentieth-century historians, and his objective is to find out how individual scholars attack their problems and produce their results, thus hopefully to discover their ways of thinking. Fernand Braudel, Lawrence Stone, J. G. A. Pocock, Carl Becker, Wallace K. Ferguson, Hiram Hyden, and Christopher Hill are dissected in a searching, illuminating, and witty fashion. One learns not only a great deal about the individuals under the microscope and about Hexter himself, but also about historiography. This book should, therefore, be read by all who endeavour to write history, for they are certain to benefit from the wisdom of an old, respected practitioner, and from the various techniques employed by his subjects.

HORACE FREELAND JUDSON, *The eighth day of creation. The makers of the revolution in biology*, London, Jonathan Cape, 1979, 8vo, pp. 686, illus., £7.95.

The author, who is a journalist, gives a vivid, accurate, and readable account of the remarkable advances in molecular biology since 1945. It is intended for the layman and it mostly satisfies this aim admirably, by revealing the DNA and RNA story and other scientific complexities in understandable detail. Mr. Judson is also concerned with the individuals responsible for this incredible revolution, which is equivalent to the founding of the nuclear age: Crick, Delbrück, Meselson, Monod, Perutz, Watson, etc. His book, therefore, abounds in biographical details, not all of which can be said to be relevant to the main theme. It is, however, monumental in size, well illustrated and documented, and unusually cheaply priced. As the first detailed historical account of recent molecular biology it can be warmly recommended. It is also, however, an excellent account of a scientific community: the people who populate it, their varied backgrounds, and the way in which they go about their scientific and private activities. Thus both the internal and external aspects of this part of science are brilliantly analysed and displayed.

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU, *Botany. A study of pure curiosity. Botanical letters and notes towards a dictionary of botanical terms*, illustrated by P. J. Redouté. Translation of the letters by Kate Ottevanger, London, Michael Joseph, 1979, 4to, pp. 156, illus., £10.00

A well-produced translation of Rousseau's charming letters on botany, first published in 1791 and later illustrated by the great French artist-engraver Redouté.

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The letters were addressed to the young daughter of Madame Delessert, exemplifying in fine spirit Rousseau's educational method and enthusiasm for plants. Apotheosized as a study of pure curiosity, botany gave Rousseau peace of mind and consolation, and, on occasions, became a search for knowledge that engaged all of his considerable intellectual energies. To these letters the translator has added an abridged version of the *Dictionary of botanical terms*, an abandoned attempt to provide the lay public with simplified scientific instruction. A biographical sketch by Roy McMullen prefaces the whole and goes some way towards explaining the magic that botany held for this quixotic figure.

ROBERT FORSTER and OREST RANUM (editors), *Food and drink in history. Selections from the 'Annales Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations'*, vol. 5, Baltimore, Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 173, £3.50 (paperback).

This is another selection of translated essays from the *Annales*, the journal that aims at an interdisciplinary, total reconstruction of the past, using quantification, demography, sociology, economic history, anthropology, biology, linguistics, and group psychology. It is the fifth in an excellent series on special topics, and contains eleven articles ranging over a wide variety of subjects, from the potato in the eighteenth century to coffee and cafés in Paris 1644-1693, semiotics of food in the Bible, food in the *Encyclopédie*, etc. Each is a scholarly, fully documented study, and together they open up many fascinating issues and themes previously unexplored. Like its predecessors, it can be enthusiastically recommended.

RICHARD M. GOODMAN, *Genetic disorders among the Jewish people*, Baltimore, Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xvi, 493, illus., £17.50.

The author's prime purpose is to discuss the group of over one hundred inherited disorders that afflict Jews. It is the first book to deal with this fascinating topic, and each disease is considered in detail from the point of view of clinical, genetic, and other appropriate aspects. Non-pathological genetic traits and variants are also included, such as colour blindness and sinistrality, and there is a section on prevention and treatment. Finally, the reasons for these genetic abnormalities are examined.

In addition, there is also an excellent section on the historical development of Jewish communities, the genetic heterogeneity of Jews, and the genetic disorders mentioned in the Bible and Talmud. In the case of each disease there is also a section on its history.

Thus, although intended primarily for the clinician and geneticist, it will be very valuable to the historian and the Hebraic scholar, as well as to anthropologists and sociologists. It will be a long time before it is superseded, and clearly will soon be the authoritative and comprehensive treatise on Jewish genetics.

DAVID WALDRON SMITHERS, *Dickens's doctors*, Oxford, Pergamon Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 111, illus., £5.50.

A chatty, superficial account of members of the medical profession invented by Dickens. Although a great deal of detail has been included, documentation is absent,

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with no items published since 1970 included in the brief 'Bibliography', and certain topics, notably mesmerism, are not mentioned. Although much has been written on Dickens' portrayal of medicine, doctors, and medical students, little of it has been at a scholarly depth. A detailed study, perhaps by a medical historian and a literary expert, is still awaited.

LEONARD L. HESTON and RENATE HESTON, *The medical casebook of Adolf Hitler*, with introduction by Albert Speer, London, William Kimber, 1979, 8vo, pp. 184, front., £6.95.

The authors have provided a systematic, comprehensive, and critical survey of all the medical aspects of Hitler. There are many fascinating revelations, including the character changes due to a vast intake of amphetamines in the last years of his life. Albert Speer, in his introduction, agrees with Professor Heston's conclusions, his evidence being derived from personal observation of Hitler. Unless further documentary evidence is forthcoming, it seems unlikely that a more detailed account can be assembled.

MARY DOREEN WAINWRIGHT (editor), *Brothers in India. The correspondence of Tom, Alfred, and Christopher Bassano, 1841-75*, London, School of Oriental and African Studies, 1979, 8vo, pp. x, 393, £6.00 (paperback).

These letters have come to light only recently, and the editor has spent a great deal of time putting them in order and annotating them. The end-result is a most useful collection, which sheds light on many aspects of nineteenth-century life. They relate mainly to India, but also to the Crimea and Australia, and there is interesting and useful material for the historians of medicine and pharmacy, concerning the Army Medical Department.

Thanks to the perseverance and labours of the editor, and to the generosity of the present owner of the letters, very valuable documents have been made available to a variety of nineteenth-century historians.

DAVID COHEN, *J. B. Watson: the founder of behaviourism. A biography*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1979, 8vo, pp. vi, 297, £8.95.

The American, J. B. Watson (1878-1958), was the founder of behaviourist psychology, believing that psychology should be an objective science. It is claimed that his influence on the subject was second only to that of Freud, and it is, therefore, surprising that this is the first biography of him. However, his career was by no means straightforward, and in 1920 he left academic psychology and was equally successful as an advertising man on Madison Avenue. Although he continued to write on psychology, his ideas were largely ignored and have only been fully appreciated recently. His reductionism was not, in fact, as abrasive as that of others.

Mr. Cohen has written a sympathetic, straightforward, unillustrated account, which on the whole does not do full justice to a colourful, controversial, and versatile individual. It does, however, give Watson a biographical niche, and no doubt others will supplement Cohen's pioneer efforts. Moreover, it tells a lot about the early days of behaviourism.

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LEE YONG KIAT, *The medical history of early Singapore*, Tokyo, Southeast Asian Medical Information Center, 1978, 4to, pp. [vi], 334, [no price stated].

Eleven articles on this topic have been arranged in chronological order, ranging from 1786 to the 1870s. They deal with medical education, hospitals, including an early lunatic asylum (1819-1869), and with diseases such as smallpox, cholera, and leprosy. Special topics are also considered: quarantine, the Municipal Health Department, dental practice, and the first general anaesthetic, which was induced on 28 April 1847, only six months after Morton's triumph in Boston.

The author has used a wealth of information, although devoid of interpretations. The book will provide historians with useful data for comparative studies. The text is extensively documented, including the over-abundant quotations.

W. S. DAVIDSON, *Havens of refuge. A history of leprosy in Western Australia*, University of Western Australia Press for the Public Health Department, (U.K. distributors: Letchworth, Herts., International Scholarly Book Services), 1978, 8vo, pp. xii, 188, illus., £13.90.

Leprosy first appeared in Western Australia at the end of the last century, and the author here traces its possible origin, how it progressed, the attempts at treatment, and the situation today. He has used a great deal of original and manuscript source-material and provides a lucid account that is not only of historical value, but also will remind the physician that leprosy still figures in differential diagnoses, and that the leper deserves an enlightened attitude, still at times denied to him. This elegantly produced book deserves wide circulation as a modern assessment of a centuries-old disease.

RICHARD SLOBODIN, *W. H. R. Rivers*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 295, \$25.00.

Rivers (1864-1922) had a remarkably varied career. He qualified in medicine and helped Sir Henry Head in his experimental work on sensation. He also worked in psychology with William McDougall, and in psychiatry, and social and cultural anthropology. This is the first detailed account of his studies in diverse fields, and the author considers his clarification of the study of social organization to be his most significant contribution. He carried out his research in Melanesia, and later in India, from which resulted his classic book *The Todas*. Rivers' place in the evolution of anthropology and social science is carefully evaluated, and his pioneer work assessed. In view of his many interests, this scholarly biography will appeal to a wide circle of readers.

RICHARD HARRISON SHRYOCK, *The development of modern medicine. An interpretation of the social and scientific factors involved*, 2nd ed., Madison, Wis., University of Wisconsin Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiv, 473, £10.50 (£4.50 paperback).

It is a pleasure to welcome this reissue of this standard work at a price that should not deter even a student. Shryock intended his book, first published in 1936, to contribute to a debate on the social and intellectual background and responsibilities of modern medicine; his wit and scholarship are still valuable today.