

## Book Notices

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SHIRLEY A. ROE (editor), *The natural philosophy of Albrecht von Haller*, New York, Arno Press, 1981, pp. xxii, 446, illus., \$40.00.

This is a volume in a new forty-volume Arno Press collection entitled the 'Development of Science'. The collection reprints a wide variety of primary and secondary sources in the physical and biological sciences. The Haller volume has been put together by Shirley Roe, whose monograph on the Haller-Wolff embryological debates is reviewed in this issue (p. 352). This book reprints several pieces by Haller, including his preface to the *Elementa physiologiae corporis humani*, the complete English version (with Owsei Temkin's introduction) of the *Dissertation on the sensible and irritable parts of animals*, along with essays by Stephen d'Irsay and Margareth Hochdoerfer on aspects of Haller's natural philosophy. The material is reprinted in the language in which it appeared (Latin, German, French, or English).

H. A. SNELLEN, A. J. DUNNING and A. C. ARNTZENIUS (editors), *History and perspectives of cardiology. Catheterization, angiography, surgery, and concepts of circular control*, The Hague and London, Martinus Nijhoff for Leiden University Press (U.S.A. and Canada: Kluwer Boston, Higham, Mass.), 1981, 8vo, pp. 204, illus., Dfl. 70.00/\$32.00.

This volume contains the proceedings of a meeting at Leiden University, the institutional home of Einthoven. A great deal of the meeting was given over to the history of cardiac catheterization, a technique of which there are still sufficient memories of the early years to make it a worthwhile subject for oral history. Only just though; Werner Forssmann, who performed the first human catheterization on himself, died shortly before the conference. Similarly, Russell Brock, who wrote down his memories of the early days of cardiac surgery, died shortly after. Personal recollections of this sort are the most valuable papers in the volume; they include an interview with André Cournand and some British memories from Sir John McMichael. There is, however, nothing that can be said to be a sustained historical analysis of twentieth-century cardiology.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, *Special collections in the Library*, St. Louis, Missouri, The Library, 1981, 8vo, pp. iii, 66, illus. [free on request to the Archivist, The Library, Washington University School of Medicine, 4580 Scott Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, U.S.A.].

Would that all medical schools had such a responsible attitude towards their rare books and archives! This admirable guide informs clearly about the special collections held in the Library at Washington University School of Medicine. The Preface and Historical Background notes explain how and why they have what they have, which includes the library of Professor Julius Leopold Pagel (1851–1912), father of Dr. Walter Pagel the historian of medicine, and the Bernard Becker Collection of Ophthalmology. The archive section covers the records of the School, faculty collections (papers of staff, predecessor institutions, etc.), private collections, and oral histories, with details of size, provenance, arrangement, and finding aids. Finally, there is a useful name and subject index. All sixty-six pages (with illustrations) are available to interested public without charge – because, quite rightly, the Library wishes scholars everywhere to know of the contents of its collections.

ROBIN HOLLIDAY, *The science of human progress*, Oxford University Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. ix, 121, £6.95.

Dr. Holliday, head of the Division of Genetics at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, has written a small book about large issues. His thesis is simple: since *Homo sapiens* is a biological species, the study of biology represents the best hope to solve human problems. To understand why we act the way we do, learn as we do, and create the societies we live in, requires more knowledge of our biological natures. He is optimistic about biology's

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future (given adequate funding for research) and on the basis of the extensive knowledge of molecular biology – particularly of the gene – accumulated since World War II, predicts that even the human brain will yield its secrets to scientists in the near future. This hard-nosed account will be dismissed by some as scientific, but it argues the case for science with clarity and firmness, even if it lacks the urbanity and grace of Sir Peter Medawar's writings for the educated layman. Both men, however, are engaged in the same laudable enterprise: careful exposition of the results and implications of science for a wider audience.

ROBERT J. MAXWELL, *Health and wealth. An international study of health-care spending*, Lexington, Mass., and Aldershot, Hants., Lexington Books for Sandoz Institute for Health and Socio-Economic Studies, 1981, 8vo, pp. xii, 180, £13.50.

The bulk of this book comprises a comparative scrutiny of health-care spending in ten major capitalist countries: Australia, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and West Germany. Although it is a pity not to have figures from the Communist bloc, Japan, and the Third World alongside, at least the data here assembled are reliable and admirably up-to-date. Full appendices explain the sources for the information, and the principles upon which it has been tabulated.

The author draws attention to some of the more important trends, such as the tendency of health-care spending not just to rise in the 1960s and 1970s, but easily to outstrip the rise in GNP; and his figures prompt many interesting questions. Is it significant that the UK, which possesses the medical system which is most publicly controlled and funded of the ten nations discussed here, has the smallest pharmaceutical bill? Indeed, what do we make of the fact that the land of the NHS spends less per capita on health than the other nine nations considered? Is this a blight upon health, or an effective check upon profiteering? Robert J. Maxwell has not attempted to tackle these issues, but his book will prove an important *vade mecum* for those who wish to do so.

WILLENE HENDRICK and GEORGE HENDRICK (editors), *On the Illinois frontier. D. Hiram Rutherford 1840–1848*, Carbondale, University of Illinois Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. xxv, 155, illus., \$19.95.

Hiram Rutherford, a native of Pennsylvania, settled as a young physician in Oakland, Illinois, in 1840 and remained there until his death in 1900. Twice married, with a total of eight children; a friend of Lincoln, and eventually a prosperous local worthy, Rutherford was also a prolific correspondent. Trained in medicine at Philadelphia, his medical education, as his library testifies, was almost the most advanced of his age. Practice in the frontier lands was a tough business at first. Illinois was scarcely a healthy place: there were no druggists; patients were widespread and isolated. Eventually, however, as the State grew, so did Hiram. He graduated from using his front parlour for consultations, to a real office. He became school treasurer and served on village and county government boards. The editors have published all of Rutherford's surviving letters plus those he received. These are precious few compared to what he must have written. They are all from the first ten years in Oakland, but there are enough to give a rich picture of such frontier practice. The volume also includes the reprinting of some local newspaper articles written by Rutherford from 1877 onwards, dealing with the early history of Oakland and its first settlers.

IAN A. McDONALD, IAN COPE and FRANK M. C. FORSTER, *Super Ardua. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in Australia, 1929–1979*, Melbourne, Australian Council RCOG, 1981, 8vo, pp. ix, 107, illus., [no price stated].

This archival account of the Australian Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists provides another segment in the history of medical professionalism and specialization.

The Council was formed in 1933, six years after the founding of the RCOG in England. Its subsequent development and increasing links with New Zealand and the Pacific clearly paved

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the way for the establishment of an autonomous Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1979. The account of these fifty years is not only seasoned with biographical highlights of the men (and one woman) who were instrumental in bringing the College into existence, but clearly demonstrates developmental features common to medical specialties seeking recognition in their own right: organizational pressures, professional competition and in-fighting, standardization of training and examination, publication of a professional journal, and the recognition of scientific advances.

It is of interest that characteristics of the Australian context – the youthful vitality of a “vast, magnanimous” land, domination by the more populous south-eastern sector of the country, and efforts to sever the umbilical cord with Mother England – pervade the story.

SHELLY ROMALIS (editor), *Childbirth. Alternatives to medical control*, Austin, Texas, University of Texas Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. ix, 262, £14.60 (£5.85 paperback).

The common ground of these essays is that the medicalization of childbirth has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished. Most essays chart the responses of frustration, helplessness, and depression suffered by American women who feel that modern hospital technique, increasingly centred around anaesthesia and the use of the Caesarian, has robbed women of control of an integral and joyous experience. Several essays, moreover, claim that the hospitalization of childbirth is neither particularly safe (the Dutch experience with home deliveries is held up as a contrast) nor psychologically wholesome for mother and baby. Blame is laid at the door of men; thus in her historical introduction, Shelly Romalis, discussing male midwives, writes of the “exploitation of women by these upwardly mobile males” (p. 16). Amongst the more historical essays, Barbara Katz Rothman’s ‘Awake and aware, or false consciousness: The cooption of childbirth reform in America’ interestingly seeks to show how liberal and reformist movements in America for safe and gentle delivery unwittingly played into the hands of the male-dominated medical profession.

DIANA ELBOURNE, *Is the baby all right?*, London, Junction Books, 1981, 8vo, pp. x, 206, £12.50 (£4.95 paperback).

Hot on the heels of the Short Committee on maternity and infant care in Britain comes this study of the illnesses and/or deaths of newly-born children. Diana Elbourne, a perinatal epidemiologist, surveys the statistics and clinical aspects of the subject (with a fleeting glance at its historical background and the international scene), before conducting us through the modern experience of having a baby – something which seems more risky than it ought to be. Not recommended for prospective parents.

DAVID LOCKER, *Symptoms and illness. The cognitive organization of disorder*, London and New York, Tavistock Publications, 1981, 8vo, pp. xii, 193, £12.00.

Building his study upon extensive interviews with housewives, David Locker uses an ethnomethodological approach to demonstrate that lay experience of being unwell can best be explained within the framework of cognitive order and disorder, rather than the parameters sick/fit or diseased/healthy. Thus many illness experiences (such as children’s maladies) are not particularly worrying because they are “normal”. “Getting better”, he writes, “is not only a biological process in which the body overcomes infection or achieves tissue repair, it is a social process in which normal activity is resumed” (p. 97). Unfortunately, Locker’s analysis never rises above this level of banality. He quotes an interviewee: “As I say, if Mike wants to nod off, fair enough, ‘cos I know he’s had a busy day. I suppose like everybody else, he gets tired”, and comments, “problems such as tiredness may be normalized by showing that they are normal responses to normal life situations” (p. 88). Of the attitudes shown by the interviewees, their almost universal hostility to the family doctor is worthy of note (unlike in the past, they all say, the modern doctor takes no interest in you as an individual, and will humiliate you if you ask him to pay a home visit).

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CHARLES A. BEHR (translator), *P. Aelius Aristides. The complete works; volume II. Orations XVII–LVIII*, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1981, 8vo, pp. vii, 502, Dfl. 196.00.

The hypochondriac contemporary of Galen, Aristides, was the most famous of the later Greek orators. His long stay at the shrine of Asclepius at Pergamum, his devotion to various healing gods, and his distrust of doctors make him an excellent witness to the burgeoning of shrines, cults, and faith-healers in the second century A.D., an “age of anxiety”, as E. R. Dodds has called it. This volume collects together Aristides’ speeches on contemporary problems and those on his revelations from the gods about his health, and it will enable the Greek-less reader to get a feel of this exotic mixture of local politics and medicinal mysticism. The translations are generally accurate, and the notes offer a brief elucidation of many problems and a list of the divergencies from the previous standard Greek text of Bruno Keil. Historians of ancient medicine will be grateful to Professor Behr for rendering an important author accessible to a wider audience.

MARY R. LEFKOWITZ, *Heroines and hysterics*, London, Duckworth, 1981, 8vo, pp. ix, 96, £8.95.

This is a thoughtful collection of essays and notes on the place and problems of women in antiquity, which avoids both sterile antiquarianism and instant trendiness. Its discussion of Hippocratic gynaecology in its relationship with contemporary literature and drama, pp. 12–25, is clear and helpful, although in the anatomical description on p. 15 it is not only blood from the area of the womb that collects in the legs after a long period of sitting, but from the whole body.

M. MICHLER and J. BENEDUM, *Einführung in die medizinische Fachsprache. Medizinische Terminologie für Mediziner und Zahnmediziner auf der Grundlage des Lateinischen und Griechischen*, 2nd ed., Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York, Springer Verlag, 1981, 8vo, pp. xiv, 358, DM 78.00/\$36.40.

This joint work offers a medically-orientated course in Latin, which may be of assistance even to English readers with only a fleeting knowledge of German, for it explains lucidly the etymologies of many medical terms and in its choice of examples pays particular attention to words which a medical historian is likely to find in his reading of earlier texts. It has well deserved its second edition.

J. A. VEIGA-PIRES and ROLAND G. GRAINGER (editors), *Pioneers in angiography. The Portuguese school of angiography*, Lancaster, MTP Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 131, illus., £9.95.

To those who do not know the genus, Portuguese angiographers may seem an obtuse subject for study. Yet during the 1930s angiography was virtually created and perfected in Portugal. For those still unimpressed, angiography is a technique for visualizing the blood vessels of the body on X-ray films. As such, it is a diagnostic procedure which has permitted all sorts of complex surgical operations to flourish. The key figure in this history is undoubtedly Egas Moniz, who developed angiography as an attempt to pinpoint areas of the cerebrum. It was Moniz’s work that opened up the possibility of surgery as a psychiatric therapy. This volume consists principally of translations of “classic” papers by various angiographers, including Moniz’s account of cerebral angiography. There are also bibliographies of these founding fathers.

GRAHAM WAGSTAFF, *Hypnosis, compliance, and belief*, Brighton, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. x, 262, £22.50.

The bulk of Graham Wagstaff’s book is a sifting of medical and scientific data and theories about hypnosis, suggesting that the evidence is confused and even contradictory precisely because hypnotic trances genuinely comprise a considerable range of conditions, culturally shaped. His brief and derivative historical introduction supports this point, by showing how Mesmer’s hypnotism, induced by transmitting an invisible fluid, sent patients into a “crisis”, Braid’s belief that the power resided within the patient led to quiet and well-managed subjects, and Charcot’s interest in morbid symptoms induced histrionic performances.

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FREDERICK DRIMMER, *Body snatchers, stiffs and other ghoulish delights*, New York, Fawcett Gold Medal Books, 1981, 8vo, pp. 223, illus., \$2.75 (paperback).

Though Frederick Drimmer aims to do little beyond titillating the reader with familiar body-snatching tales, from Burke and Hare down to the theft of Charlie Chaplin's corpse, his book brings to the attention the more serious question of ghoulishness: why do corpses continue to exercise such a strong psychological fascination? The answer which links his narrative is: resurrection.

### BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

GERHARD BOEHME, *Medizinische Portraits berühmter Komponisten*, 2nd ed., rev. and enl., Stuttgart, Gustav Fischer, 1981, 8vo, pp. 199, illus., DM. 39.00. (See review of 1st ed. (1979) in *Medical History*, 1980, 24: 470–471.)

GERHARD D. FICHTNER (editor), *Index wissenschaftshistorische Dissertation (IWD)*, No. 1: 1970–1980, 8vo, pp. 285; and *idem*, *Laufende wissenschaftshistorische Dissertation (LWD)*, No. 1, 8vo, pp. 125; Institut für Geschichte der Medizin, Tübingen, 1981.

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *Periodismo medico. Vasco I: "Guipuzcoa medica"*, Universidad de Salamanca, Instituto de Historia de la Medicina, 1982, 8vo, pp. 42, [no price stated], (paperback).

A. RUPERT HALL and NORMAN SMITH (editors), *History of Technology*, 6th annual volume, London, Mansell, 1981, 8vo, pp. vii, 143, illus., £18.80.

CORNELIUS KELLER, *Die Geschichte der Radioaktivität unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Transurane*, Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1982, 8vo, pp. 110, illus., DM. 32.00.

SHELAGH MCGOVERN, *The epilepsy handbook*, London, Sheldon Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. vii, 104, £3.95 (paperback).

GEORG SILLÓ-SEIDL, *Die Wahrheit über Semmelweis. Das Wirken des grossen Arzt-Forschers und sein tragischer Tod im Licht neu entdeckter Dokumente. Ein Bild-Biographie*, Genf, Ariston Verlag, 1978, 8vo, pp. 219, illus., [no price stated]; and *idem*, *Aerzte der Millionen geholfen haben*, Genf, Ariston Verlag, 1980, 8vo, pp. 251, illus., [no price stated].

*Veröffentlichungen aus dem Pharmaziegeschichtlichen Seminar der Technischen Universität Braunschweig:*

Bd. 19. R. SOMMER, *Zur Geschichte des Medizinal- und Apothekenwesens in einer kleinen souveränen Staat (Schaumburg-Lippe)*, 1979, pp. vi, 295, illus., DM. 30.00 (paperback).

Bd. 20. D. OLDENBURG, *Romantische Naturphilosophie und Arzneimittellehre 1800–1840*, 1979, pp. 267, DM. 30.00 (paperback).

Bd. 21. K. BOSCH, *Zur Vorgeschichte chemiatrischer Pharmakopöepräparate im 16/17. Jahrhundert*, 1980, pp. 224, DM. 30.00 (paperback).

Bd. 22. W. BLUM, *Der Apotheker und Chemiker O.A. Ziurek (1821–1886) und die Apothekenreformbewegung von 1848*, 1980, pp. 110, DM. 15.00 (paperback).