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price has also been a deterrent. This summary of volumes 1 and 2 is, therefore, most welcome, and Mr. Ronan has produced a readable condensation amounting to about one-third of the original. It is, however, dealing with somewhat dated material, opinions and facts having changed in the last two decades, but there is some attempt to bring the text up to date. This abridgement will be widely popular, for it deals with the general features of the history of Chinese science and its earliest periods. The further volumes promised will be most welcome and useful.

PETER MORLEY and ROY WALLIS (editors), *Culture and curing. Anthropological perspectives on traditional medical beliefs and practices*, London, Peter Owen, 1978, 8vo, pp. vii, 190, £7.50.

There are nine essays in this book and they reflect the new attitude to traditional medical systems. They are no longer viewed as wholly primitive, and the wide interest in various forms of non-Western therapy may be a reaction to the overwhelming scientific treatment of the West. These articles survey modern theory, data and methods of the merging science, medical anthropology, and deal with healing in countries such as Mexico, Serbia, the Philippines, Melanasia, and the African continent.

Together they provide a most valuable addition to our knowledge of medical practices, and although these may be quite foreign to us, they may possibly be of relevance. This book will be of interest to anthropologists, historians of medicine, sociologists, and medical practitioners.

SEYMOUR FISHER and ROGER P. GREENBERG (editors), *The scientific evaluation of Freud's theories and therapy*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 446, £13.50.

Yet another addition to the Freud industry. The editors have chosen forty-one pieces and have grouped them thus: 'The dream theory'; 'Oral character'; 'Anal character'; 'The Oedipal theories'; 'Origins of homosexuality'; 'Paranoid delusion formation'; 'Psychoanalytic psychotherapy'. Together they form a companion volume to the editors' *The scientific credibility of Freud's theories and therapy* (see *Medical History*, 1978, 22: 346).

However, it is curious that every one of the selections is American in origin, presumably because the editors found more support in the writings of their countrymen, and maybe are not aware of the non-American literature where perhaps articles and books critical of Freud have appeared. In any case an uncritical collection of this type is of little value, and one has the feeling that the volume of assent here presented weakens rather than strengthens the case in favour of psychoanalysis.

GEORGE E. GIFFORD jr. (editor), *Psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, and the New England medical scene 1894-1944*, New York, Science History Publications, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxiii, 438, illus., \$35.00 (\$28.00 paperback).

No part of medicine has received more attention from historians and would-be historians than Freud and psychoanalysis. The industry continues apace, despite doubts cast on basic tenets. In this book there are twenty-one essays and the discussion they generated at a unique symposium held on 12-14 April 1973 in Boston

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and contributed to by social and intellectual historians and historians of psychology and psychiatry. They cover the period 1894 to 1944 and are meant to be provocative rather than to create a definitive history of it. Each essay is a scholarly presentation, and together they represent an impressive amount of historical material.

However, they deal mainly with individuals, and thirteen are biographical accounts of pioneers and their important work. The book is well illustrated and will provide a wide circle of readers with a fascinating case-study in the history of American psychiatry, which it is hoped will stimulate similar investigations of other specific regions.

RUTH HALL (editor), *Dear Dr. Stopes. Sex in the 1920s. Letters to Marie Stopes*, London, Deutsch, 1978, 8vo, pp. 218, £6.50.

The editor has had the excellent idea of a survey of sexual matters in the 1920s, based on letters written to Marie Stopes (1880–1958). Her correspondence was unique, because she was the first to receive large numbers of letters on sexual and marital problems written uninhibitedly by men and women. In 1921, after the opening of her first birth control clinic, she claimed to have received one thousand letters a week. The British Library has most of her correspondence, but this will not be available until 2008. However, the present selection comes from letters in the possession of her son, and covers the years 1918 to 1928. Extracts or whole letters are grouped in chapters: the lower classes; the upper classes; the clergy; the medical profession; the armed services; politics; etc. Together they form an important social and historical document, which would have been of greater value had Dr. Stopes' replies been available.

RICHARD D. ALTICK, *The shows of London. A panoramic history of exhibitions, 1600–1862*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1978, 4to, pp. [x], 553, illus., £19.75.

Little research has so far been carried out on this interesting aspect of English social history. Much of the material used by Professor Altick appears here for the first time, and he has produced a unique account of London exhibitions from 1600 to a decade after the Crystal Palace Great Exhibition of 1851. The variety is enormous: religious relics, eighteenth-century virtuosi, scientific displays, art collections, the panorama and diorama, freaks, waxworks, etc. This book is, however, by no means a catalogue of such attractions, because the London shows have been integrated with contemporary intellectual attitudes and public taste.

The medical and scientific aspects of this survey are especially interesting, because every possible variety of anomaly and physical peculiarity was exhibited at one time or another. The whole history of the dissemination of medical and scientific ideas and data by this medium needs a much deeper study.

However, Professor Altick is to be congratulated on his excellent and scholarly work and the industry needed for its production. The only criticism of note relates to his 181 well-chosen illustrations which adorn the book. In some cases their reproduction leaves much to be desired; possibly due to the state of the originals.