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JANET GOOCH, *A history of Brighton General Hospital*, London and Chichester, Phillimore, 1980, 8vo, pp. xiv, 177, illus., £7.50.

The provincial hospital, so often a source of civic pride, never has difficulty in attracting an enthusiast to chronicle its past. The local workhouse rarely achieves such dignity. The middle-class ratepayers who often took much pride in the management of the affairs of their Union seemed to have bred descendants reluctant to record former dedication to the management of the poor. Fortunately in the case of Brighton the local hospital was a poor law institution a good deal longer than it was Brighton General. Thus *ipso facto* Miss Gooch has written a concise history of a workhouse and its infirmary from 1865 to 1935. In fact, Brighton General Hospital was only so named in 1948 and the account of it only occupies the last six pages of this engaging little book.

Brighton Workhouse was built twelve years before the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, and after the Act remained a purely local establishment, never being incorporated into any of the Poor Law Unions of East Sussex. The records of what was officially called the Workhouse until 1914 are complete and remarkably full. Thus Miss Gooch has been able to sketch a good general account of the institution's history and punctuate it with numerous detailed illustrations of workhouse life. Thus she records the commonplace obligatory bathing of new casuals in warm water with carbolic soap after 1925, and the unique instance of the unfortunate who was bathed inadvertently in neat lysol with a fatal outcome. The financial and admission records are also complete and record the enormous increase in numbers of casuals admitted during the annual August Race Meeting. Whether before or afterwards is not stated.

Variety, too, is a principal component of the history of Brighton General. For a year in 1915 it became the Kitchener Indian Hospital and was filled with what the official report called "the sweepings of Bombay City" (p. 108). Few local inhabitants now know that the Downs at Patcham were once the site of a pyre for Hindus and Sikhs and that Woking had a Musulman cemetery. To enliven her account Miss Gooch has inserted extensive facsimiles and transcriptions from the official printed records, orders, and so forth, and in fact her own text is really quite short. As a whole the book is a useful synoptic chronicle with lively illustrations. However, Miss Gooch has pointed out that a rich extended account could one day be formed from this material.

GREVEL LINDOP, *The opium-eater. A life of Thomas De Quincey*, London, J. M. Dent, 1981, 8vo, pp. xiv, 433, £12.00.

In this, the first full-length biography of De Quincey for forty-five years, Grevel Lindop shows in some detail how De Quincey's character was early formed by his home environment. His largely absent West India merchant father, who died early, left him with a contempt for trade and a taste for opulent living but only a modest income to live off. His chill Evangelical mother stirred in him ambition to succeed in the polite world of letters, but unrelentingly denied him affection and the ability to satisfy her expectations. De Quincey therefore turned within, became an introspective dreamer of dreams (soon aided by opium addiction) – some visionary, some nightmarish, most nostalgic for a secure infantile condition. Betrayed by his youthful heroes, Coleridge and Wordsworth, De Quincey eventually settled down to support his own family (he was happily married with seven children) by the pen, writing reams of reviews to stave off the bailiffs, and his one masterpiece, the *Confessions of an English opium-eater*. This is a well-researched and sound biography, even if it sticks quite narrowly to giving a chronology of its subject and fails to explore De Quincey's writings in any detail. Medical historians may be disappointed to find that the question of the impact of opium addiction upon De Quincey's life and imagination is largely shelved.

COLIN MACCABE (editor), *The talking cure. Essays in psychoanalysis and language*, London, Macmillan, 1981, 8vo, pp. xii, 230, £20.00.

Although certain of the contributors to this volume seem anxious to confirm detractors' prejudices against structuralist approaches for being hermetic, pompous, trite, and

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condescending by turns, the reader should not be daunted, even though he may be by the price. Given that Freud himself believed that turning silence into speech was the royal road to psychic sanity, and that in decoding the secrets of language lay the key to understanding neuroses, studies such as these that probe the philological and syntactical premisses of psychoanalysis must be welcome. Particularly useful are Martin Thom's study essay, 'The unconscious structured as a language', which can serve as a useful introduction to Lacanian approaches, and John Forrester's 'Philology and the phallus', which explores the tensions between the linguistic and the biologicistic aspects of Freud.

JOHN KRIGE, *Science, revolution and discontinuity*, Brighton, Sussex, Harvester Press, and New Jersey, Humanities Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. 231, £18.95.

This book focuses on the much-discussed philosophical problem of the nature of scientific change. John Krige argues, following historians and philosophers from Koyré to Kuhn, that theory change is indeed fundamental, organic, and structural, involving the abandonment and generation of entire world-pictures. But he argues that to see this in "revolutionary" terms leaves the nature of the transformation incoherent and mysterious. Having evaluated the writings of Kuhn, Popper, Lakatos, and Feyerabend on this subject, Krige analyses Galileo's achievement to exemplify his own view that scientific discontinuities create a new order by critically transforming the hitherto established system.

HORACIO FABREGA jr., *Disease and social behaviour; an interdisciplinary perspective*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. xvii, 341, £6.16/\$9.95 (paperback).

This is a reprint of the first edition of 1974 and has happily been reissued for half the price (see *Med. Hist.*, 1976, 20: 338, for a review of the 1974 version). The original reviewer complained that "there is not much here on the history of medicine," and this is true six years later, but there is still reason to recommend the book. As the field of medical sociology advances and brings new bearings to medical history, and as the relationships between medicine and society continue to find students, almost any attempt to relate the two areas theoretically must be welcome. This paperback version is all the more welcome in view of the progress of externalist approaches to the history of medicine in previous epochs.

JAMES F. TRAER, *Marriage and the family in eighteenth-century France*, Ithaca and London, Cornell University Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. 208, £9.00.

This book is considerably narrower in scope than its title suggests, being almost solely concerned with marriage law, with mounting public opinion for changes in matrimonial law, and with the changes which came about during the French Revolution and in the Napoleonic Code. Within those limits, James Traer gives a helpful account of the emergence of what he sees as the "modern" status of marriage from the "traditional". He emphasizes how marriage passed out of the jurisdiction of the Church into the hands of the State (from sacrament to contract), shows how divorce came to be embodied in Revolutionary law (and retained in the Code largely on Napoleon's own insistence), and discusses the move towards greater equality in matters of inheritance. These changes are seen largely to result from growing liberalization of thought in the Enlightenment.

L. G. MOORE, P. W. VAN ARSDALE, J. E. GLITTENBERG and R. A. ALDRICH, *The biocultural basis of health. Expanding views of medical anthropology*, St. Louis, Toronto, and London, C.V. Mosby, 1980, 8vo, pp. x, 278, illus., £8.25 (paperback).

This volume comprises seven chapters which explore "the role of adaptation in health and sickness" (p. vii). It brings together a great deal of obscure and well-known material to show the variations of the same disease within different cultures and the distinct pathological effects of specific cultural patterns. It also deals with belief systems and "their impact on health care" (p. 191), a curious distinction for an anthropological volume to make since it implies that belief systems are a disturbing cause and health care a Platonic ideal that reappears, albeit slightly

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formally deranged, in different cultures. The work, however, is absolutely solid in its factual scholarship and the omnivores will find it full of useful information and concise summaries.

SHIU-YING HU, *An enumeration of Chinese materia medica*, with editorial assistance from Y. C. Kong and Paul P. H. But, Hong Kong, Chinese University Press; London, American University Publishers Group, 1981, 23 cm × 17 cm, pp. xxiv, 287, £10.50.

The title of this book is a precise one: it is an enumeration in the form of a catalogue of materia medica used in Chinese drugs. Its form is extremely practical. An alphabetical list in 190 pages states the Chinese name (the Wade-Giles' romanization is used throughout) followed by the Latin botanical name, the common English rendering, and the pharmaceutical name used in prescriptions written in Western languages. 2,270 different names are listed, with cross-referencing made possible by the use of several indices.

The book is well printed and handsome, and will fill a space in the study of anyone researching materia medica. It is a good complement to the big encyclopedic works in Chinese written by scholars in the People's Republic of China and reprinted in Hong Kong a few years ago (*Zhongyao dacidian*, Shanghai, 1977).

C. R. HILL and R. E. A. DREY, *Drug Jars*, Catalogue 3 of the University of Oxford Museum of Science, 1980, 4to, pp. vi, 41, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

A catalogue of the seventy-two ceramic, glass, and wooden drug jars belonging to the Oxford Museum of the History of Science is indeed a useful addition to our bookshelves. It is profusely and well illustrated; all but two of the items are shown in black and white, and eight of them are shown again in excellent colour reproductions. A particular joy is that the illustrations are to be found opposite the text.

The note on the production and history of tin-glazed ware is welcome but one is less happy about the 'Pharmacy in history' section. Possibly due to the necessity for compressing a complex subject into five pages, inaccuracies have occurred. When the whole future of a profession was at stake it is unfortunate to suggest that the battles between apothecaries and physicians were no more than a demarcation squabble; John Gerard, despite his tarnished reputation, is better described as a barber-surgeon and botanist than a herbalist; William Withering *died* in 1799 and most of his work on digitalis was done some twenty years earlier. It might have been wiser to have attempted a less ambitious coverage of pharmaceutical history.

CHARLES B. SCHMITT (editor), *History of Universities*, Volume I: *Continuity and change in early modern universities*, Amersham, Avebury Publishing Co., 1981, 8vo, pp. viii, 225, illus.

It is a pleasure to welcome this new periodical devoted to the history of universities before 1939, for it tries to set universities within a broad intellectual context and to develop a comparative approach to their history. Although the papers in this issue are all concerned with the early modern period in Western Europe, the scope of the essay and book reviews is commendably wide. Although there is nothing specifically on medical education, readers of *Medical History* will find much pertinent information, especially on France and Germany, and all the contributors display an appropriately high standard of scholarship. Details of subscription rates are available from the publishers, 63 Woodside Road, Amersham, Bucks HP6 6AA.

H. V. WYATT, *A directory of information resources in biology in the UK*, British Library Research and Development Report No. 5606, London, British Library, 1981, 8vo, pp. 81, £7.50 (paperback).

Mr. Wyatt has compiled a useful directory for anyone wishing to locate material or "information resources" in biology. It aims to help guide the scientist or librarian to the literature of particular specialities in this field and a simple subject index refers the user to the relevant institutions. The directory is based on replies to questionnaires received in January 1980, and covers access, scope of collections, special collections, numbers of books and reprints, world reference centres, maps and charts, computer or data bases, bibliographies, and current

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journal titles. The layout is excellent: clearly this is an easy guide to use. The only quibble is that more has not been said on the criteria of selection of the seventy-seven libraries, institutions, and organizations included. As the author states, much information is still being collected by institutions not listed here. Let us hope that his plea for more information will lead to a further publication. (Available from Publications, The British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7BQ.)

'JAN SWAMMERDAM', *Tijdschrift voor de Geschiedenis der Geneeskunde, Natuurwetenschappen, wiskunde en Techniek*, 1981, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 61–118, Dfl. 10.00 (paperback).

This volume of the Dutch journal of the history of medicine, science, and technology is devoted entirely to Swammerdam. It comprises three papers, all in Dutch with brief English summaries. Two of the papers are on microscopy and the third on Swammerdam's method in his entomology. Marian Fournier's paper is a general account of Swammerdam and the microscope in the seventeenth century. G. A. Lindeboom's longer article deals with the later years of Swammerdam's life and his relationship to Leeuwenhoek.

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.)

PAUL CASSAR, *Sir Themistocles Zammit and the controversy on the goat's role in the transmission of brucellosis (Mediterranean fever) 1909–1916* Valletta, Malta, Information Division, 1981, 8vo, pp. 31, illus. [no price stated].

'Medicine and history', *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, Series V, vol. III, no. 2, June 1981, 8vo, pp. 83–157, illus., \$7.50 (paperback).

Zürcher Medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen (edited by H. M. Koelbing, H. H. Walser, and H. Balmer), Neue Reihe, Zürich, Juris Druck Verlag.

No. 145: FRANK HOBI, *Zahnärztliche Röntgenologie von den Anfängen bis zum Jahre 1914*, pp. 126, S.Fr. 27.00.

No. 146: NOTKER KESSLER, *Die freie Heiltätigkeit im Gesundheitsgesetz des Kantons Appenzell Ausserrhoden*, pp. 51, S.Fr. 11.00.

No. 147: ERNST BEZEL, *Johann Jakob Steger 1798–1857*, pp. 156, S.Fr. 33.00.

CALENDARS FOR 1982

The following calendars, each containing twelve full-colour illustrations on medico-historical topics, have been received:

Apotheker-Kalendar 1982, compiled by Wolfgang-Hagen Hein, containing full descriptions of each illustration in German, English, and French. Obtainable at DM. 19.80 from Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 7000 Stuttgart 1, Birkenwaldstrasse 44, West Germany.

Three calendars, with descriptions in German, English, and French, are available from Gavel Publicity Service, Postfach 50 11 68, D-5000 Köln 50 (Rodenkirchen), Markusweg 10, West Germany. They are: "History of Dentistry", "History of Medical Technology", and "History of Pharmacy"; each costs DM.25.00 plus postage.