

Book Notices

he succumbed to amebic hepatitis acquired on St. Helena. He shows that the reports of the two naval surgeons, O'Meara and Stokoe, on the fatal illness provide strong support for this diagnosis. Unfortunately their conclusions were not acceptable to the authorities and Stokoe was, in fact, court-martialled for voicing a contrary opinion and was found guilty. General Richardson fully vindicates him and indicts instead the Governor, whose behaviour was callous, unscrupulous, and tyrannical.

Enquiring into the diseases of the famous is a favourite hobby of medical men, and much repetitive, uncritical and speculative writing has resulted. This book, however, is a good example of how a medical specialist can re-examine with scrupulous care a mass of historical clinical evidence that has been investigated many times before and can arrive at a variant and probably correct diagnosis.

Book Notices

HULDRYCH M. KOELBING, *Im Kampf gegen Pocken, Tollwut, Syphilis. Das Leben von Edward Jenner, Louis Pasteur, Paul Ehrlich*, Basle, Guten Schriften, 1974, 8vo., pp. 80, illus., S.Fr.8 (S.Fr. 5.50 paperback).

Professor Koelbing has produced a brief but excellent account of medicine's struggle against infectious diseases as typified by three of the well-known triumphs, vaccination, anti-rabies vaccine, and salvarsan. He bases his story on the lives of the three discoverers, Jenner, Pasteur and Ehrlich, respectively. Each biography is an accurate account of the man and appraisal of his work. They are attractively written and well documented, so that the book can be warmly recommended, especially to students, who by reading it will not only improve their knowledge of medical history, but also their facility with the German language.

HANS ZUPPINGER, *Albert Kölliker (1817–1905) und die mikroskopische Anatomie*, Zürich, Juris-Druck, 1974, 8vo., pp. 42, S.Fr.10.

The repute of a doctor or scientist is often measured by the recognition or lack of recognition of his name. But on this basis many insignificant individuals may be accorded high esteem because they are commemorated eponymously, whilst others of a much higher calibre remain in undeserved obscurity. Kölliker is an example of the latter. He is unknown to those not aware of nineteenth-century medical science, and yet his contribution to histology was immense. For fifty-five years (1847–1902) he worked at the University of Würzburg, during which time he wrote two classic books, which became standard texts of microscopical anatomy: *Mikroskopische Anatomie* 1850–54; *Handbuch der Gewebelehre der Menschen*, six editions 1852–89/96. His research, which was characterized by remarkable powers of observation, contributed importantly to the rapidly accumulating knowledge of cells and tissues and, in particular, he helped to establish the neurone theory. Kölliker was also an excellent teacher and in this way also disseminated his learning.

He deserves much greater recognition, and Dr. Zuppinger has done well to present a scholarly and well-written monograph on him, which evaluates his important role in the founding of histology.

Book Notices

PHILIPPE ARIES, *Western attitudes toward death from the middle ages to the present*, translated by Patricia M. Ranum, Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974, 8vo., pp. xi, 111, illus., \$6.50.

Ariès, an outstanding French pioneer in the fields of social and cultural history, gave a series of lectures at the Johns Hopkins University in April 1973, and they are here presented in English. With the increasing interest in "death education" or thanatology, mostly in the U.S.A., this book should prove to be timely and popular.

It deals first with the middle ages up to the thirteenth century, as illustrated mainly by the medieval romance. Here death was accepted as destiny and without protest. The second period is from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries during which death was given a more dramatic and personal meaning. From the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries death was exalted and dramatized, but man was now more concerned with the death of others. Thus the obsession with tombs and cemeteries and the romantic, rhetorical handling of death. Finally in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries a more significant change has taken place whereby death is rejected. This is seen in a reluctance to discuss it, in the depersonalization of death by its increasingly common occurrence in hospital during the last few decades, and in the attitude of the dying who, unlike the medieval person, plays no active role in preparing for it. This attitude seems to have originated in the United States at the beginning of the present century and then spread to Europe. Certain psycho-analytic interpretations are referred to here, but these cannot be readily accepted. In common with other aspects of this interesting subject much more research is needed. Ariès' book, however, as a pioneer effort will, it is hoped, inspire others to follow his lead.

STANLEY L. JAKI, *Science and creation. From eternal cycles to an oscillating universe*, Edinburgh and London, Scottish Academic Press, 1974, 8vo., pp. viii, 367, £4.50.

The author is a Benedictine priest and "an internationally known historian of science". His thesis is that science did not develop to maturity in any of the civilizations of antiquity, and that its foundations were laid between 1250 and 1650, thanks to the stability and continuity of Christianity with its belief in an omnipotent God who created and sustained all things. He puts this forward with impressive documentation, but many may wish to refute an opinion that accords ancient Greek science and the opposition of the church to science less than their due. His comments on medicine are not to be relied on. The dust jacket sets the tone: "The work is a classic effort of synthesis, full of the drama that vibrates through the long history of science".

DAVID LARGE and FRANCES ROUND, *Public health in mid-Victorian Bristol*, Bristol, Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, 1974, 8vo., pp. 23, illus., 35p.

A brief but valuable contribution to provincial British public health, based on local archives, newspapers, pamphlets and printed books, as well as on national records. Hopefully it may stimulate others to examine more closely the public health of this and other parts of Britain.

Book Notices

STELLA MARY NEWTON, *Health, art and reason. Dress reformers of the nineteenth century*, London, J. Murray, 1974, 8vo., pp. xi, 192, illus., £3.95.

A history of dress from the medical point of view has yet to be written, although there have been a few useful contributions, to some of which this author does not refer, such as: A. E. Garrett and H. F. Tomalin, *History and hygiene of clothing*, London, Adams & Lardlow, 1914; W. Artelt, "Kleidungshygiene im 19. Jahrhundert", in W. Artelt, *et. al.* (editors), *Städte-, Wohnungs- und Kleidungs-hygiene des 19. Jahrhunderts in Deutschland*, Stuttgart, F. Enke, 1969, pp. 119–135; E. T. Renbourn, *Materials and clothing in health and disease. History, physiology and hygiene, medical and psychological aspects*, London, H. K. Lewis, 1972; there is also the indispensable source-book, R. O'Brien, E. C. Peterson and R. K. Worner, *Bibliography on the relation of clothing to health*, Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. Agriculture, 1929.

The present work deals with part of the story, approximately 1850 to 1914. It is a study of fashionable dress, mainly female, as worn by the upper classes, to which the terms "artistic", "hygienic", "rational" were applied. The background to fashion is very complex and is closely tied to social reform and idealistic theories, as well as to contemporary art and technology. Along with other revolutionary social developments in the second half of the century, new ideas on dress, beginning in 1850, became evident by 1870, fully developed in the 1880s, despised by the 1890s, and completely dispersed by World War I, when deliberate attempts at dress reform in the nineteenth-century sense ended. Throughout, two important associated themes, among others, were evident: women's liberation and hygiene. Concerning the latter the influence of Dr. A. Crombe, better known for his associations with phrenology, Florence Nightingale, Dr. G. Jaeger with his sanitary woollen clothing and still a household name today, together with the work of other medical reformers are discussed. Doctors were also active in the Rational Dress Society, and the Health Exhibition of 1884 encouraged changes in clothing.

There is an abundance of historical data on the medical aspects of dress and fashion, and perhaps this book will stimulate others to work on them, in the nineteenth century and in other periods. Meantime, even though somewhat deficient in the evaluation of health issues, the work, as a scholarly contribution adequately documented and attractively written, can be highly recommended to those concerned with the social background of medicine in the second half of the nineteenth century.

ARNOLD SORSBY (editor), *Tenements of clay. An anthology of medical biographical essays*, London, J. Friedmann, 1974, 8vo., pp. 258, illus., £3.50.

Diagnosing the ailments of famous patients has always intrigued the clinicians, and there is a very large literature on the subject. Professor Sorsby has collected together fifteen papers already published, and has added brief editorial introductions and notes to some of them. However, he has in some cases omitted reference to important recent literature. The historian, of course, is aware of these articles and they are easily available to him already. The glossary of medical terms and the fact that the subtitle on the dust jacket (*Medical biographies of famous people*) differs from that on the title-page indicate that the book is for popular consumption.

Book Notices

ERWIN H. ACKERKNECHT, *Therapeutics from the primitives to the twentieth century*, London, Collier Macmillan, 1973, 8vo., pp. x, 194, £6.25.

It is a paradox that the history of therapeutics, surely one of the most important parts of our subject, has, on the whole, received so little attention. This book, which is a translation of Professor Ackerknecht's *Therapie von den Primitiven bis zum 20. Jahrhundert* (Stuttgart, 1970; reviews are in, *J. Hist. Med.*, 1971, 26: 322–325; *Isis*, 1971, 62: 405–406), is therefore most acceptable. It is, in fact, the first such book for nearly a century and it will be eagerly read and with profit by a wide audience, although some basic knowledge of medical history will be needed. Orthodox drug therapy of internal disorders is the central theme, and surgery, psychotherapy and physical treatments, as well as fringe and quack practices are not dealt with in detail. A chronological sequence is followed and at the end there is an excellent essay on the history of dietetics.

Many will regret that the most recent period is covered in a mere fifteen pages. Admittedly this is perhaps the most difficult section to prepare, but one in which practitioners who have lived through it and students whose lessons are part of it, would be most interested. Another legitimate criticism could be that there is a paucity of annotation and bibliography. However, Professor Ackerknecht points out that for health reasons he has been unable to supply these.

Nevertheless we can greet this volume as enthusiastically as those who reviewed the German original, and make sure that all of our students read it, presumably a library copy in view of its relatively high price. Hopefully one of them some day will continue the praiseworthy labours that Professor Ackerknecht has begun so auspiciously.

CHRISTOPHER HILL, *Change and continuity in seventeenth century England*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1974, 8vo., pp. xiv, 370, £5.00.

The Master of Balliol's books on the seventeenth-century English Revolution are well known, but his several essays on the same topic have received less attention because they have appeared in a variety of publications, some of which are not easy to consult in this country. Now they are readily available in this collection of twelve essays, apparently all published except two. One of these is Mr. Hill's Gideon Delaune Lecture of 1973 entitled, "The medical profession and its radical critics" (pp. 157–178). He deals mainly with the quack and unregistered practitioner during the Revolution, and in so doing compares medical with ecclesiastical and legal practitioners in order to demonstrate their common problem of mountebanks in their ranks, and to discuss the criticisms levelled at each group. Men such as Culpeper, William Walwyn, John Webster and other critics are cited to illustrate these attitudes as they relate to the medical profession.

The other essays are not directly concerned with medicine, but for an adequate understanding of seventeenth-century England and to provide the necessary background to his researches in this period, the medical historian must include them in his studies. Each is a brilliant exposition with copious documentation, and each expounds ideas, their change or continuity.

Book Notices

EDWARD V. GULICK, *Peter Parker and the opening of China*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1973, 8vo., pp. xi, 282, illus., \$12.00.

The American, Peter Parker (1804–1888), was an excellent surgeon and an effective missionary, and it was through his endeavours as much as those of any others that the new profession of medical missionary found acceptance in the nineteenth century. He was the first Protestant medical missionary in China, where he established mission hospitals, lay clinics and medical schools, and thus wielded great influence.

Mr. Gulick has tackled the complex task of assessing Parker's contributions, but admits the difficulties his subject presents since Parker's activities and contacts were so varied, and as there is very little secondary material on him available. In view of this it is perhaps churlish to criticize the author's chapter on Parker's surgical practice and his remarkable oil paintings of his patients, now preserved at Yale, Boston and Guy's Hospital; some of them reproduced here are reversed. Fortunately, further study of this aspect of Parker's career, by a medically qualified historian, is now under way.

Otherwise this scholarly and well-documented study is an important contribution to the history of China and to the introduction into it of western medicine and religion. It will be acclaimed by a wide variety of specialists.

PETER HAINING (collector and editor), *The witchcraft papers. Contemporary of the witchcraft hysteria in Essex 1560–1700*, London, R. Hale, 1974, 8vo., pp. 212, illus., £3.00.

The author has had the excellent idea of producing an anthology of primary sources on witchcraft, mainly in Essex. The first piece is taken from the witchcraft trial report of 1563, the first in England, and the final is an account of the "swimming of a witch" in June 1699, the last to occur in England.

The value of this kind of work is directly proportional to the accuracy of the compiler in copying from the originals. Its basic purpose is faithfully to reproduce for scholars and students rare documents, manuscript or printed, and translated where necessary. In the case of this book, however, the main aim seems to have been to produce popular readings for the layman. Thus the texts have often been tampered with to provide easier reading, and, although there are adequate explanatory introductions to each extract, there are not sufficient elucidatory notes to the passages. Furthermore, the bibliographical citations are mostly very brief or absent, there are few references to the extensive witchcraft literature, and there is no index. There are also frequent errors in transcription; thus, on p. 50 there is a facsimile of a title-page, but a copy of the title on the facing page (p. 51) has ten mistakes in seven lines! Occasionally the author expresses either naïvety or a popular touch: "Here, then, is an exact replica of a publication which appeared well over four hundred years ago" (p. 28).

This book will not satisfy the serious student of witchcraft, for he will still have to consult the original texts. It should, however, guide him to them, and at the same time, provide others with a graphic contemporary account of a most interesting social phenomenon.