

Book Reviews

These two volumes must become standard works in the history of psychiatry and indeed in the early history of spiritualism.

Volume III is particularly valuable, for access to the literature of hypnosis in Russia, Poland and in the Spanish and Portuguese homelands, colonies and ex-colonies is particularly difficult. Dr. Ludmila Zielinski rightly points out that ideological bias has affected nearly all scientific enquiry in the Soviet Union since 1917, and that the materialist approach does not favour studies of the paranormal. However, it is surprising what she has unearthed. The golden age of animal magnetism occurred in Russia between 1880 and 1890, at a much later stage than in other parts of Europe, but its manifestations were very similar. Aristocratic and middle class patients were fascinated and amused by the process, the usual crop of paranormal experiences were reported and a special journal called *Rebus* was published, somewhat akin to the *Zoist*. In Poland the political situation, and in Italy, Portugal and Spain and Latin America the influence of the Catholic Church all contributed toward the somewhat fragmentary quality of the work that was done, but, although mostly trivial, Dr. Dingwall has done us a service in publishing the data he has gleaned from the literature of all these countries.

Volume IV is another matter, for it deals with the United States and Great Britain, the two countries which, together with France, played the major roles in the study of magnetic phenomena. It is with some reluctance that one has to admit to some disappointment with this particular volume, especially with the section dealing with the United States—the home of Mary Baker Eddy, Phineas Quinby and William James. Nor is the seventy-eight page account of hypnotism in Great Britain at all comprehensive enough for the student of the subject. It is also a great pity that there is not more than a brief summary and conclusions at the end of Volume IV, for a synthesis of the vast amount of interesting material contained in the four volumes would have been invaluable. Despite this, anyone who has worked in this field knows how much has to be read, how difficult the material is to obtain, and how daunting a task it is to put it all down on paper. Dr. Dingwall has left us greatly in his debt for accomplishing what he has, and like all his other books, these volumes will become collectors' pieces, as well as necessities for our libraries.

DENIS LEIGH

Die Würzburger Siebold, by HANS KÖRNER, Leipzig, Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1967, pp. 662, illus., DM.88.

For several decades Dr. Friedrich-Karl von Siebold collected material for the 'Siebold Archives' including all—not necessarily related—families of that name. A study of four unrelated Siebold families was published in 1962 and 1963.

The Würzburg branch of the family, a line which produced many generations of doctors, natural scientists and politicians during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries provided the material for a doctoral thesis in history for Hans Körner, Siebold's nephew. An extended and revised version of this thesis has now appeared as the thirteenth volume in a series of 'Lives of German Naturalists' published by the Leopoldina German Academy of Natural Scientists. This contains meticulously compiled, encyclopaedic details of the genealogy of the Siebold family up to the

Book Reviews

present day, with biographies of the many outstanding members and full lists of their coveted honours, distinctions and publications.

Körner's book is not only a series of biographies, but also a political and social history of the time, as he describes the political, social and scientific events which affected the Siebolds and indicated such influence as they occasionally had on them. There were outstanding professors of obstetrics amongst them, such as Carl Caspar, Eduard and Elias von Siebold.

It may be of interest to the English reader that Charlotte von Siebold delivered the Duchess of the baby who subsequently became Queen Victoria and that Elias attended the birth of the later King George V.

Bearing in mind the considerable nepotism which almost dragged some of the Siebolds into university chairs, it may be surprising that some of them nevertheless achieved academic distinction.

The book as a whole is perhaps of more interest to the social historian than to the medical profession. The author has obviously carried out a vast amount of research, enabling him to provide full references to support every statement he makes: this includes facsimiles and family portraits.

One can hardly say of such an opus that one reads it with aesthetic enjoyment, but this need not be the aim and object of its author. It should rather be regarded as a book of reference, recording much information which might well be useful to the student of any part of the period covered.

BRUCE ETON

Μεληματα, *Festschrift für Werner Leibbrand zum 70. Geburtstag*, ed. by JOSEPH SCHUMACHER, MARTIN SCHRENK, and JÖRN HENNING WOLF, Mannheim, C. Boehringer, 1967, pp. 263, illus., no price stated.

Professor Werner Leibbrand, formerly Director of the Institute for the History of Medicine at Munich, is well known to medical historians for his books on the history of psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine. These interests are mirrored in the contributions from practically all over the globe as well as a great number of German colleagues to this lavishly-produced anniversary volume. Philosophy looms large amongst the chosen themes, ranging from Hans Ruess's *Law and Medicine in Plato's State* to Leopold Szondi's *Concept of Fate in Depth Psychology*. The relation of the sexes in history, Professor Leibbrand's latest interest, is also reflected in the articles by Klaus Horn on *The Enmity to Sex in the Gnosis*, and Eberhard Kirsch's article on *Avicenna's Teachings on Sexual Pathology*. An article by Annemarie Wettley-Leibbrand on the subject of *Psychopathology and Demonology in Paracelsus and Johannes Weyer* will be found of interest to specialists and laymen. Helmut Waldmann's *Paradigms to the History of Psychotropic Drugs* shows how far back our latest discoveries reach into the past.

These are only a few items out of the wealth contained in twenty-four contributions. The handsome well-indexed volume ends with an extensive bibliography of Professor Leibbrand's works.

MARIANNE WINDER