

Book Reviews

is concerned with the development of prophylaxis and therapy for infectious diseases in the twentieth century, and deals mainly with the sulpha drugs and antibiotics. The third discusses the evolution of knowledge of specific infectious diseases and is the largest part of the book. It is enlivened by accounts of the author's own experiences. The volume ends with an extensive and valuable bibliography.

Although this book consists of medical history of medicine, thus providing little information on non-medical aspects, it will be a valuable source of information on the recent history of infectious diseases. Material dealing with earlier periods cannot be relied on for accuracy or interpretation.

GERALD W. HARTWIG and K. DAVID PATTERSON (editors), *Disease in African history*, Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xiv, 258, \$13.75.

These essays were presented at a symposium of Africanists on the theme 'Disease and history in Africa', held in April 1975. They cover both general topics, such as 'Social consequences of epidemic diseases: the nineteenth century in East Africa', and more specific ones, for example, 'Louse-borne relapsing fever in the Sudan, 1908–51'. Each is a scholarly exercise, well written and well documented, and there is a useful 'Bibliographical essay' appended.

The six contributors are historians, except for a geographer and a political scientist. Nevertheless, they handle the medical data with competence. Understandably they are mostly concerned with the social and economic repercussions of tropical diseases, but it would have been valuable to have had contributions from medical men assessing medical factors which have operated in the past and may well have a role to play today and in the future. In particular, Dr. Cecil Hackett's studies are of relevance here, and an extension of them would have made an important theme.

HENRY CORNELIUS AGRIPPA, *His fourth book of occult philosophy*, facsimile of 1655 edition, with introduction by Stephen Skinner, London, Askin Publishers, 1978, 8vo, pp. xvi, 217 [facsimile], illus., limited leatherbound edition, [no price stated].

Agrippa (1486–1535) was a typical Renaissance figure: physician, scholar, writer, and soldier. His book, here reproduced in facsimile, appeared first in 1655 in English, and is concerned with various aspects of practical magic and divination. It comprises six treatises, but only the first two are certainly by him. The remaining four were probably written by Peter de Abano (1250–1317), Georg Pictorius Villinganus (c. 1500–1569), Gerard Cremonensis (1114–1187), and an anonymous writer.

There is an excellent introduction and the volume is elegantly produced. It will be of value to scholars and students who are unable to consult the original, and it is to be hoped that the response to it will encourage the publishers to reprint further titles.

GEORGE M. FOSTER and BARBARA GALLATIN ANDERSON, *Medical anthropology*, Chichester, John Wiley, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 354, £9.75.

The authors present a general survey of medical anthropology as they view it,