

Book Reviews

EDWARD SHORTER, *The making of the modern family*, London, Collins, 1976, 8vo, pp. xiv, 369, £4.50.

One of the modern methods of historiography is the use of the computer, and Professor Shorter has employed one to help him with a mass of data gleaned from parish registers, local histories, tax returns, eye-witness reports, and similar documents from all over Europe and America. From this material he has been able to carry out family reconstructions and to trace the history of the family in western industrial countries from the seventeenth century to the present day, and to provide answers to long-unanswered questions concerning it. It is the first comprehensive history of the modern family and is packed with fully documented information ranging from swaddling to sexual practices. Professor Shorter is basically concerned with the ordinary man and his family, and with the changing domestic, emotional and sexual relations between members of it. The family unit as we know it did not exist until the eighteenth century when sentiment, romance and maternal love appeared for the first time in western society. But in the last decade another change has taken place and the traditional family structure is giving place to mobile, rootless couples, an arrangement which is much more brittle and more at odds with society as a whole.

This is a fascinating and provocative book, and, although many will contest the author's conclusions and interpretations, the facts he presents are indisputable and on them others can build and perhaps evaluate their data differently and less widely. Wild or not, Shorter's thesis will probably be found more acceptable than those of the psychohistorians on the same topics.

EDGAR M. HOWELL, *United States Army headgear 1855–1902. Catalog of United States Army uniforms in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, II*, Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Institution, no date [1975], 4to, pp. vi, 109, illus., \$5.90.

An account of U.S. Army headgear up to 1854 was published in 1969 (U.S. National Museum Bulletin 269) and this second part first of all shows how in the nineteenth century the U.S. Regular Army experimented with various headgear. French, British, and German styles were tried, but it was not until the early 1880s that a truly American pattern emerged. This was the broad-brimmed "drab" campaign hat frequently seen in "Western" films. Nevertheless the European influence persisted until 1902 and, in some instances, beyond. This is a scholarly and authoritative work, with 523 references and notes and sixty-three excellent illustrations. Further volumes will extend the study beyond 1902, thus providing eventually the most detailed account of military headgear to appear anywhere.

A full historical consideration of the medical implications of uniforms as well as headgear in various armies would also be rewarding.

FRANCES KENNETT, *History of perfume*, London, Harrap, 1975, 8vo, pp. 208, illus., £7.75.

Although compared with the animals, man's brain has much less ability to detect and appreciate smell, he has, from the earliest time, enjoyed and found useful the application of odiferous materials to his body. Mrs. Kennett's book traces the history of this paradox from Ancient China through the Mediterranean cultures, Classical