

Book Notices

of Brenner, who was the first to remove the chains from the insane of Basle. He was also the first to lecture on psychiatry in Deutschschweiz, and his treatment of lunatics, including non-restraint, was, on the whole, progressive. His wide use of drugs is described in detail, and his interest in mentally handicapped children likewise. Politically Brenner was a liberal and he was involved in local politics as well as in the formulation of mental laws.

Unlike some biographies, this one deals with the background to the man and his work, as well as with his character and even his handwriting. It is well documented and can be recommended as a reliable and useful contribution to the history of Swiss medicine as well as to the history of psychiatry.

MARK DAVID MERLIN, *Man and marijuana. Some aspects of their ancient relationship*, Rutherford, Madison and Teaneck, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1972, 8 vo., pp. 120, illus., £3.50.

Despite the great interest recently shown in the hemp plant (*cannabis sativa*) on account of its addictive qualities, and the social consequences thereof, this is the first history of man's use of it. This book deals with its ethnobotanical origins, and with the early use of it by man, which was determined by ecological factors, especially environmental adaptation to climate, soil, topography, animals, man, etc. The author speculates on man's early contact with the drug, and wonders if it was the first domesticated plant, and whether medical, nutritional, religious, or entertainment reasons determined its first use. The wide use of the plant is also discussed.

A competent, well-researched and well-documented monograph on a popular present-day topic.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

J. G. CROWTHER, *The Cavendish Laboratory 1874–1974*, London, Macmillan, 1974, pp. xvi, 464, illus., £25.00.

JOAN SOLOMON, *The structure of matter. The growth of man's ideas on the nature of matter*, Newton Abbot, David & Charles, 1973, pp. 178, illus., £3.95.

JOAN SOLOMON, *The structure of space. The growth of man's ideas on the nature of forces, fields and waves*, Newton Abbot, David & Charles, 1973, pp. 219, illus., £4.50.