

Book Notices

The book lacks a more general historical analysis and does not treat explicitly currently popular questions like the position of the mentally ill, the changing concepts of madness, or medical interests other than humanitarian, although many of these topics are implicit in the quotations offered. The richness in detail, however, will definitely open up further avenues of research

G. D. SINGHAL, S. N. TRIPATHI, and G. N. CHATURVEDI, *Fundamental and plastic surgery considerations in ancient Indian surgery (based on chapters 1–27 of sūtra-sthāna of Suśruta samhitā)*, Varanasi, Singhal Publications, 1981, 8vo, pp. liv, 527, [no price stated].

G. D. SINGHAL and K. C. CHUNekar, *Pharmaceutical considerations in ancient Indian surgery (based on chapters 28–46 of sūtra-sthāna of Suśruta samhitā)*, Varanasi, Singhal Publications, 1982, 8vo, pp. xli, 475, [no price stated].

The standard complete English translation of the Sanskrit medical classic the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, ‘Suśruta’s compendium’, is that of Kaviraj Kunjalal Bhishagratna, originally published in Calcutta in 1918, and since reprinted in 1963 and 1981. This is in no way a philological translation, and yet it serves those who cannot read Sanskrit by giving a general idea of what is in the text. An accurate translation made according to principles of philology and higher criticism is still very much a desideratum but cannot properly be undertaken until the underlying Sanskrit text itself has been critically edited. The volumes here noticed are the first in a projected series of ten volumes which will present the Sanskrit text of the *Suśrutasaṃhitā*, following the 1915 Nirṇayasāgara Press edition by Yādava Trivikramācārya, together with a new translation and annotations. An eleventh volume will index the simples mentioned in the text, and a twelfth volume will be a synopsis of the whole. The emphasis on “ancient Indian surgery” in the titles of these volumes should not mislead the reader into thinking that only the surgical chapters of Suśruta are covered: the whole work is meant. The project is a team effort, and one of its chief aims is to translate the Sanskrit using modern medical terminology.

ROBIN E. RIDER and HENRY E. LOWOOD, *Guide to sources in Northern California for history of science and technology*, Berkeley, Office for History of Science and Technology, University of California, 1985, 8vo, pp. iv, 194, illus, \$12.00 (paperback).

This cheap and useful guide was produced in conjunction with the XVII International Congress of History of Science held at Berkeley in 1985. It gives outline descriptions of the science and technology manuscript collections at nineteen selected institutions in northern California. Within each institutional entry collections are arranged alphabetically with some helpful cross-referencing, complemented with a full subject and name index. Inevitably, certain large bodies (such as the California Academy of Sciences) merit only brief entries, either because so much is of relevance that further enquiry elsewhere is more appropriate, or perhaps because holdings are largely uncatalogued. The guide will be invaluable as an easily usable reference work and as a stimulating reminder of the wealth and variety of archives and manuscripts in the area.

J. B. LYONS, *Scholar and sceptic. The career of James Henry MD, 1798–1876*, Dublin, Glendale Press, 1985, 8vo, pp. 88, illus., £9.00.

A better classical scholar than a physician, a better pamphleteer than a poet, James Henry is little remembered today. This charming biography, illustrated with many extracts from Henry’s autobiographical reminiscences in both prose and verse, fittingly describes the many and varied activities of one of Ireland’s most remarkable medical characters.

ADDENDUM

CLAUDE BERNARD, *Memoir on the pancreas . . .*, London, Academic Press, 1985 (reviewed in *Med. Hist.*, 1986, 30: 479–480). The price of this book is £36.00.