

### Book Reviews

Micro-structural data are obtained from a survey of scientists born between 1700 and 1845, and the macro-structural from the history of Geneva, especially its educational systems and social levels. Analysis reveals clearly that socio-cultural factors are of prime importance. Thus most of the outstanding scientists came from the higher classes, and the emergence of scientific activity could be shown to relate to a combination of local and general social factors.

This is a scholarly work with full documentation. Extensive use is made of tables, graphs and diagrams, and the author provides a model that others can perhaps employ when focusing down on a comparable community elsewhere in the world. It can be highly recommended and should be consulted by all those carrying out research in science or medicine in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

G. RUTHVEN MITCHELL, *Homeopathy. The first authoritative study of its place in medicine today*, London, W. H. Allen, 1975, 8vo, pp. viii, 200, illus., £4.95.

Homeopathy considered historically is a most interesting and important phenomenon. Its origin, growth and modification reveal a fascinating aspect of medicine, especially in the nineteenth century, and, as the dust-jacket proclaims, it is “. . . an ancient healing art that is an ever-growing force in medicine today”. The historian, who must link his studies with the present day, will, therefore, welcome an authoritative book by a medically qualified, practising homeopathist that surveys the modern practice of the art and its relationships to what most people would prefer to call the more orthodox type of medicine. As one of the few modern expositions on the subject, Dr. Mitchell's book can be recommended. Not only does it present the state of homeopathy today, but it also deals with its history, the author's whole approach, in fact, being historical. However, not all the history is reliable and statements such as “the speculative philosophising of Galen” do not increase our confidence in the author as an historian.

It is still not clear, however, how homeopathy achieves its claimed successes and we need now a non-homeopathist to evaluate its contribution to the medicine of today. Perhaps it is playing a useful role as a counterbalance to its increasingly scientific and expensive rival, allopathic medicine.

EILER H. SCHIÖTZ and JAMES CYRIAX, *Manipulation past and present, with an extensive bibliography*, London, Heinemann, 1975, 8vo, pp. vi, 222, illus., £4.25.

Dr. Schiötz is a distinguished Norwegian physician and Dr. Cyriax is equally well known as an orthopaedic physician, coming from a family renowned for its contributions to manipulative medicine. Their book has two distinct parts, and the first by Dr. Schiötz deals with the history of manipulation from the earliest times to the twentieth century (pp. 3–63). Manipulators, bone-setters, osteopaths, chiropractors and modern therapists are dealt with and a great deal of interesting and original material is presented. The associated bibliography (pp. 187–216) is extensive and will be of the greatest value to historians of medicine and to those concerned with the history of manipulation. It covers all periods and many languages.

The second part, by Dr. Cyriax, deals with the present-day position and in so doing he provides additional historical information on orthodox and unorthodox

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manipulative therapy. He discusses at length the vexed question, and defends vociferously the use of manipulation only by doctors and physiotherapists in well-selected cases. When employed correctly it can usually bring about symptomatic relief. The iniquities of lay manipulators, the adverse attitudes of some medical practitioners and the lack of adequate facilities and how they may be corrected are dealt with.

The historian should be aware of these contentious present-day issues, for their etiology lies in the past. This excellent book can, therefore, be strongly recommended as a unique study.

**VIOLA SKULTANS**, *Madness and morals. Ideas on insanity in the nineteenth century*,

London and Boston, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1975, 8vo, pp. xv, 260, illus., £5.50.

The easiest way to produce a book is to choose a respectable number of extracts from the works of outstanding contributors to a given topic and to introduce them with a small number of pages of text. If the selection can be from books written in English so much the better, because tedious translations can thereby be avoided. Such is the format of this book: twenty-eight pages of introduction, including a few references to relevant literature, and the rest is the anthology, without annotation or comment. The author has training in philosophy and social anthropology, which one must assume she considers adequate qualification for her deliberations.

In fact there is nothing new here, and there are several deficiencies. Dr. Skultans elects to discuss and illustrate only British psychiatry, with no reference whatever to events in other countries; her bibliography is thus composed entirely of works in English, and even so many important secondary sources are omitted. She claims that this is necessary in order “. . . to limit the field of interest . . .” (p. 1), and because ideas on mental disease are comprehensible only by knowing something of the society producing them. But Britain has never been an intellectual island, and French and German influences on nineteenth-century British medicine are undeniable and cannot be ignored. Another defect is a complete silence on the influence of phrenology on nineteenth-century psychiatry. This is now being shown to be of great importance, and Professor E. H. Ackerknecht, to whom no reference is made in this book, has claimed that its effect was comparable to that of psychoanalysis in the present century.

**PETER WINGATE**, *The heretics*, London Macmillan, 1975, 8vo, pp. 219, £3.95.

Historians differ in their attitudes towards the historical novel. On the whole, they may agree on the entertainment it can provide, but they find difficulty in accepting the fictional extrapolations. The scene of this one, written by a medical practitioner, is Basle in the early sixteenth century and the events are seen through the eyes of Oporinus, whose career is the central theme; he is probably best known by his publication of Vesalius' *De fabrica* in 1543. Other outstanding figures are encountered, such as Paracelsus, Erasmus, Calvin and Froben. A good deal of research has gone into the writing of this book and the author transmits vividly the intellectual turmoil of the Renaissance and Reformation. The conflict of personalities and the unorthodox against the orthodox are strikingly portrayed, but the ever-present violence is tempered by the humanity of the times and by the tolerance of Basle.

However, despite the skills of the author in depicting this scene and despite an