

## Book Reviews

structure to concepts in biology to the social make-up of the German professoriate to the academic policy of the State. This is material of undoubted importance, not least in relation to Paul Forman's views on German physics, and one hopes to see it developed and refined in future. There are two papers of particular relevance to medical historians: Brian Harrison's provocative and elegantly written refutation of the contention that improvements in women's health owed anything substantial to the feminist movement, and Carol Dyhouse's account of medical men's attitudes to working-class mothers in relation to infant mortality.

Taken as a whole, this is a collection of unusually high quality and inherent interest. Among its other functions, it might well be used as a source-book of problems (if not solutions) in the historical sociology of scientific knowledge.

Steven Shapin  
Science Studies Unit  
Edinburgh University

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *La medicina española antigua y medieval*, (Historia general de la medicina española, I), Ediciones Universidad de Salamanca. 1981, 8vo, pp. 184, illus., 750 ptas (paperback).

This penultimate volume of Professor Granjel's history is another work of solid and competent scholarship. It uses a variety of sources, lay as well as medical, to illuminate the complex fabric of Spanish medieval medicine, and is well illustrated with pictures of manuscripts and early printed books. But here the absence of notes and references is a severe handicap to further research, especially as some of the modern authors mentioned in the text do not appear in the bibliography.

The sections on prehistoric and Roman medicine are less impressive, a mixture of windy rhetoric and factual inconsistencies; p. 39 is particularly bad. The doctor from Mellaria is identical with P. Frontinus Sciscola of Córdoba; Tiberius Claudius Apollinaris practised at Tarragona; Julio Longino was not a doctor (see CIL II 519); *ocularii clinici* and *ocularii chirurgi* are never found; the oculist's stamp of Caius Diadumenus (?) may not be of Spanish origin; and M. Fulvius Icarus is the correct name of the *medicus oculusarius* at Ipagrum. Two Roman rarities also needed mention. Iulia Saturnina, from Merida, "an excellent female doctor", was commemorated with a grave relief showing a baby in swaddling bands, CIL II 497. Most surprising of all, Spain has the earliest named "factory doctor": García Bellido published in 1971 the large tombstone of a doctor from Baetica, M. Aerarius soc(ietatis) aerar(iorum) l(ibertus) Telemachus medicus (*L'année épigraphique* 1971, p. 67, n. 181), who, to judge from his very rare *nomen* (Aerarius), must have been the slave of a mining company, and may have learned his medicine attending the miners.

But this page is an isolated instance, and the rest of Professor Granjel's book lives up well to the high standards of his earlier volumes and will provide a sound introduction to a major area of medical history.

Vivian Nutton  
Wellcome Institute

IAIN M. LONIE, *The Hippocratic treatises 'On Generation', 'On the Nature of the Child', 'Diseases IV'*, Ars. Medica II, Band 7, Berlin and New York, Walter de Gruyter, 1981, 8vo, pp. xxxix, 406, DM. 220.00.

This long-awaited translation and commentary on three Hippocratic texts amply fulfils our high expectations. The translation is elegant, the commentary full, and there are frequent summaries of the general argument of chapters and sections to provide the necessary preliminary orientation. English readers are indeed fortunate to have such a wealth of learning put at their disposal, even if at a price.

Although Littre saw the three tracts as forming a continuous whole, Lonie argues only for an identity of authorship, and distinguishes *Diseases IV* from the other two, which together form a unity. The eccentricities and difficult wording of *Diseases IV* are then partly explained by the

## Book Reviews

absence of any restraint upon the author's curiosity by the need to attend to a specific problem. This author is indeed inquisitive: he exploits analogies from all the natural world to explain physiological processes, and he is probably the first person known to have modified an existing object to make an apparatus for use in demonstration. Analogical reasoning and experiment loom large in these works, and Lonie's cautious formulations of the author's scientific method are wise and illuminating, particularly in their stress on the self-confirmatory function of a coherent description. There are also valuable appendices on the author's date, c. 410 B.C., and on vascular systems in the Hippocratic corpus and Aristotle.

The book's long gestation has, however, introduced a tension between the old and the new Lonie on one important point, the links between the author, the so-called school of Cnidos, and earlier philosophical and medical thought. In place of the old dichotomy between Cos and Cnidos (cf. p. 311 on the weakness of arguments linking Egyptian and Cnidian medicine), the new Lonie gives us a much more fluid picture of interrelationships. There are many medical ideas in the air, and individual authors choose what best suits their purpose. Similarity of doctrine on one point need not indicate total agreement on all. This very complexity reveals the weakness of any theory simply opposing a specifically Coan to a specifically Cnidian medicine, and of asserting that this author had links with either school. Some traces of the old conventional belief still remain to contrast with the new demonstration of the richness of the bank of ideas open to the author and his audience. Anaxagoras and Democritus (on whom see H. De Ley, *L'Antiquité classique*, 1981, pp. 192–197) are perhaps more significant than any mythical choregus of the Cnidians.

I end with two criticisms and a word of praise. No Greek text is printed here: consequently, much space is wasted on the dutiful citation of the page and line in the editions of Joly and Littré, and, more seriously, the Greek lemmata correspond inconsistently to one or the other, and occasionally to Lonie's own working text, and much space is then needed to explain what reading has in fact been adopted. This passion for plenitude extends to the bibliography, where the first names of authors are given in full, even when they were never generally used by their possessors. Misprints are commendably few in this long book, and none is significant: that at p. xxvii, line 42, is especially piquant to the reviewer.

Vivian Nutton  
Wellcome Institute

R. F. HUNNISETT (ed.), *Wiltshire Coroners' Bills 1752–1796*, Devizes, Wiltshire Record Society, 1981, 8vo, pp. liv, 239, £10.00 + postage. (Obtainable from M. J. Lansdown, 53 Clarendon Road, Trowbridge, Wilts.)

The relative rarity of eighteenth-century provincial coroners' records, with their striking details of death and disaster, makes this a welcome volume to medical historians. Apart from the obvious interest of local names and personalities, these 2,779 inquests held during four decades give a remarkable and vivid picture of how hazardous everyday life was for all classes. The county coroners were surgeons and apothecaries, travelling across Wiltshire at 9d. a mile to investigate sudden or suspicious deaths. Fatal accidents associated with animals were particularly commonplace; cows crushed herdsmen, horses threw, kicked, and trampled their riders, so that even one of the coroners in 1771 "fell from his horse and died". A large number of deaths were by drowning, in quarries, pools, and streams, while fatal scalds and burns, especially of children, typified domestic mishaps. The variety of injuries the coroners inspected was considerable, most beyond eighteenth-century medical intervention; fractures, contusions, and amputations abound in these entries, many recorded in the characteristically unemotional tones of the period for events of unmistakable horror. In some instances the deceased was the victim of others' incompetence, particularly with tools or firearms, but a proportion of deaths resulted from an individual's own violent behaviour, and explains the predominance of men among those on whom inquests were held. Apart from misadventures, coroners also acted in cases of natural death, suicide, and murder: Although the causes of natural death were not specified in the majority of cases, those that the coroners could name provide, after 200 years, a