

Book Notices

chology. Perhaps in result, however, the parts are better than the whole, for ultimately the status of the history of childhood is left unclear – is it social history or conceptual history? reality or the story of literary representations of children? This ambiguity is reflected in the title's cycle of fortune. Childhood allegedly peaked in the Victorian myth of infant innocence and was demystified by Darwin and by Freud. Yet Sommerville's own strident value judgements undercut this view, for he shows scathing contempt for Rousseau's primitivism and its successors. Altogether, however, it is an enterprising and stimulating volume.

I. L. C. FERGUSSON, R. W. TAYLOR, and J. M. WATSON (compilers), *Records and curiosities in obstetrics and gynaecology*, London, Baillière Tindall, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 115, £7.50.

This is a book for those who want to know such interesting trivia as the oldest mother, longest (or shortest) pregnancy, the heaviest (or lightest) surviving baby on record. These reproductive and gynaecological feats have been gathered from a variety of sources from antiquity to personal communications from contemporary practitioners. The compilers usually indicate how much stock they place in their authorities, who are always identified. Fittingly, their first reference is to the *Guinness book of records*. These memorabilia remind us how much the female of the species has endured: Rebecca Town, for instance, who died in 1851, aged forty-four years, having borne thirty children, of whom only one survived to the age of three.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

Adler Museum of the History of Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, *Bulletin*, vol. 8, no. 2, November 1982, pp. 34, illus.

G. H. TEN CATE-WITTE and C. TWIGT-VAN DER GOOT, *Proeve van een bibliografie van des geschiedenis der verpleegkunde in het bijzonder in Nederland*, Amsterdam, Rodopi, 1983, 8vo, pp. 60, Dfl. 20.00.

RICHARD S. J. CLARKE, *The compleat anaesthetist*, [lecture], The Library, Queen's University of Belfast, 1981, 8vo, pp. 16, illus., 40p + postage.

WILLIAM W. FOX, *Arthritis: is your suffering really necessary?*, London, Sheldon Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 127, illus., £1.50 (paperback).

DOMINIQUE HOECHLI, *60 Jahre schizophren. Die Lebensgestalt R.G. als Spiegel einer Krankheit der Psychiater, der Psychiatrie*, Zurich, Juris Druck, 1982, 8vo, pp. 49, SFr. 11.00 (paperback).

MARTIN ISRAEL, *Living alone. The inward journey into fellowship*, London, SPCK, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 132, £3.95 (paperback).

KENNETH McALL, *Healing the family tree*, London, Sheldon Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 106, £2.95 (paperback).

S. J. MARTIN, *A new pair of genes*, [lecture], The Library, Queen's University of Belfast, 1982, 8vo, pp. 26, 40p + postage.

'Medicine and History', *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, Series V, vol. IV, no. 2, June 1982, 8vo, pp. 87–169, illus., \$9.00 (paperback).

JESSIE VAN ONGEN-GARRAD, *Invisible barriers. Pastoral care with physically disabled people*, London, SPCK, 1983, 8vo, pp. xii, 156, £3.95 (paperback).