

Book Reviews

Antiquity, the medieval period and so on up to the present day. She is, on the whole, more concerned with the place of perfumes in society, literature, politics and science, and with their religious origins in the Far East, than with details of the materials used and the techniques of compounding.

Unfortunately, the work is unbalanced, as most of it is concerned with the earlier periods, where admittedly the material is more bizarre and therefore more interesting and amusing for the reader seeking enjoyment rather than information *per se*. The nineteenth century, where many subtle undertones must exist, is dismissed in a few paragraphs. Another feature that suggests the general reader as the main audience intended is the lack of annotations and references. There is a useful, but very brief, section on 'Further reading', but there is no way of tracing the whereabouts of the large amount of useful data the author displays, nor the precise origins of the frequent quotations.

ALAN MACFARLANE, *The family life of Ralph Josselin, a seventeenth century clergyman. An essay in historical anthropology*, Cambridge University Press, 1970, 8vo, pp. xiii, 241, illus., £6.00.

As this book is an important contribution to historical demography, as well as to historical anthropology, its existence should be known to historians of medicine. It is an excellent example of how the details of domestic life can be pieced together by using historical documents, in this case the most important being the meticulously kept diary of Ralph Josselin (1617–1685).

From the medical point of view there is abundant information on birth, marriage and death, and Dr. Macfarlane is able to provide details concerning such matters as the handling of children, marriage, adolescence, fertility, birth control, the kinship system in pre-industrial England, illness, attitudes to pain, sin, God and death, dreams, imagery and the structure of thought. Social and economic aspects of seventeenth-century English life are also revealed, especially relating to the yeoman's estates. There is careful documentation throughout and a useful bibliography.

As a record of seventeenth-century family, social and economic life this book provides a remarkable and fascinating insight. It contributes importantly to the background against which the medicine of this period must be portrayed and should therefore be consulted by all working in the area. It is hoped that it may lead to the liberation from obscurity of similar social documents.

E. B. WORTHINGTON (editor), *The evolution of IBP*, Cambridge University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xx, 268, illus., £10.50.

The International Biological Programme (IBP) was established in 1964, its subject being defined as, "The biological basis of productivity and human welfare", and aiming at a better understanding of environmental factors, with the object of managing rationally the national resources of a rapidly increasing world population.

The programme, consisting of seven main sections and about eighty items, lasted ten years, and this is the first of a series of publications which will document its activities. Chapters deal with the origin and early history of the IBP, the substance of its programme, the preparations for it, its operations, publications, finances, and