be rejected as useless by the modern therapist and his critics. If they examine them they will discover that an important common denominator is the devotion and enthusiasm of the individual practising the revolutionary method of treatment. This must surely be the reason for Dr. Issels' apparent successes.

Thomas's book is a biased and emotional polemic, which does not discuss with any authority the substance of the criticisms levelled against Issels. It is surely more important to have this information than details of all the ways in which doctors have opposed him. The attempt to justify Issels' holistic concept of cancer by recruiting the Hippocratic Writers is pitiable. Admittedly the best way of appraising the whole affair is to look at it with historical perspective, but not carefully to select bygone ideas which seem to support a present-day theory.

E. RUTH HARVEY, *The inward wits. Psychological theory in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance,* London, The Warburg Institute (Warburg Institute Surveys, No. 6), 1975, 8vo, pp. [v], 79, illus., £2.00.

Throughout the Middle Ages and well into the sixteenth century it was held that the psychological functions of commonsense (*sensus communis,* deriving from the special and tactile senses), reasoning, imagination, and memory were located within the brain's ventricles. Ruth Harvey traces the origins of the idea from Nemesius at the end of the fourth century A.D., and discusses it in the light of medical and then philosophical tradition.

Her study is a scholarly one, but defective in several ways. She incorporates into her text a lot of material that is very well known; for example, we are told that Galen was born in Pergamum, etc., etc. Also she demonstrates some naïvety when handling this data. She has omitted a good deal of the "medical" secondary literature and has made a number of errors. Thus she states that, ". . . Galen handed on a scheme which located the powers of imagination, thought, and memory in the three main cerebral ventricles . . ." (p. 60), but it did not originate with Galen, although he had delineated both the ventricles and the three main psychological functions. Galen was not " . . . the great Alexandrian master . . ." (p. 29) and would have objected loudly to such an appellation. There is no such structure as the "middle-pan" of the brain; the middle cranial fossa is being referred to.

However, this is the most detailed account in English of the so-called "Cell doctrine" and it may stimulate others to improve on it.

CHARLES LICHTENTHAELER, *Geschichte der Medizin,* 2 vols., Cologne, Deutscher Ärzte Verlag, 1975, 8vo, pp. 736, illus., DM.49.

The renowned medical historian, Professor Lichtenthaeler, is Swiss by birth and now teaches the history of medicine at the Universities of Hamburg and Lausanne. His book is intended for student, doctor, historian, and all those interested in history, and it is claimed to be the first comprehensive textbook of medical history since that of Theodor Meyer—Steinig and Karl Sudhoff published in 1920. There is, however, the outstanding short history by Ackerknecht, first published in English, and then in German in 1959; it is perhaps judged too brief to compete.

The arrangement here is into twenty lectures, from prehistoric magico-religious

medicine to the present day, and in the first volume these deal mostly with periods, individuals or groups: primitive magical medicine; archaic (pre-Hippocratic) medicine; Hellenistic medicine; Galen; Byzantine medicine; Arabic medicine; etc. Lectures 17 to 19 cover modern medicine, 1800+, including a brief consideration of the future (pp. 612, 643), and the twentieth lecture is on history itself and the writing of it, with reference to medical history. At the beginning, the first two lessons discuss why medical history? and which medical history? where the author brings forward cogent reasons for the student knowing something of the historical background to the medicine he is learning.

Throughout, Professor Lichtenthaeler writes in a lively style and his material is well systematized. Moreover, there is ample reference to ideas, events, influences, pressures, advances, and such like that were external to medicine, so that a balanced picture of medical advancement, in the context of its time, is achieved. Some of the illustrations follow this tendency and many are not to be found in other books on the history of medicine. Thus both the text and its supporting illustrative material are mostly new products, for the author has happily avoided copying extensively from his predecessors, a defect exceeding common in this type of book. In the text there are references occasionally to authors; the titles of their books and journal articles are listed on seven pages at the end of the second volume. Naturally most of the material is in German, but other languages are represented.

The German-reading student is, therefore, presented with a most attractive and useful textbook and sourcebook. However, although it may be suitable for German medical students, if it were in English it would be too long, except for those few with a special interest in medical history. The others would prefer a short history, and of these Professor Ackerknecht's is by far the most popular. Nevertheless, Professor Lichtenthaeler's volumes would be of great value to those participating in credit courses, in background reading for higher degrees, and to all those whose research leads them to seek a brief survey of a period in the history of medicine. For all these the book can be highly recommended, and the benefits for the English reader will be twofold: an increased knowledge of both medical history and German. A supplementary volume containing a full bibliography, notes and a postscript will follow, if demand for it is sufficient.

K. BRYN THOMAS, *The development of anaesthetic apparatus. A history based on the Charles King Collection of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland,* Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications for the Association, 1975, 4to, pp. x, 268, illus., £12.00.

It is not always clear why certain medical specialists are more interested in the history of their subject than others, but it is well known that several outstanding anaesthetists have made important contributions to the history of their speciality and to medical history in general. Dr. Bryn Thomas, Consultant Anaesthetist to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading is a typical example of this kind of person, and he presents here an excellent survey of the evolution of the technical and instrumental aspects of anaesthesia.

The Collection of A. Charles King (1888–1966) is now housed in the Royal College