

Book Notices

WILLIAM FARR, *Vital statistics; a memorial volume of selections from the reports and writings of William Farr*, with an introduction by Mervyn Susser and Abraham Adelstein, Metuchen, N. J., The Scarecrow Press, 1975 (The History of Medicine Series issued under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, No. 46), 8vo, pp. xiv, xxiv, 563, illus., \$20.00.

In 1885 a memorial volume, now reprinted in facsimile here, was published to commemorate the contributions of William Farr (1807–1883) to epidemiology, which he had founded as a medical science. There is a good introduction dealing with the extent, significance and influence of his work, and there is a 'Biographical sketch' of him at the beginning of the reprinted work. The latter contains papers on population, marriages, births, deaths, life tables and a group of miscellaneous topics also dealing with vital statistics.

It is of the greatest value to have a first-rate reprint of this pioneer's work, and it will be of interest to all those concerned with the history of public health, epidemiology and vital statistics. In addition, however, workers dealing with present-day problems in these subjects will be rewarded by examining the results of Farr's remarkable and extensive research, for they are still worth consulting.

At a time when economic factors are limiting the publication of scholarly works, it is good to know that this excellent series emanating from the renowned New York Academy of Medicine continues to be viable.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

BRIAN ABEL-SMITH, *Value for money in health services. A comparative study*, London, Heinemann, 1976, pp. vii, 230, £5.50 (£2.25 paperback).

Anales de la Sociedad Mexicana de Historia de la Ciencia y de la Tecnologia, no. 4, special number dedicated to Dr. José Joaquín Izquierdo (1893–1974), 1974, pp. vii, 348, illus., \$8.00.

F. BUJOSA I. HOMAR, *La Academia Médico Práctica de Mallorca (1788–1800). Catálogo de sus disertaciones, censuras y documentos*, Valencia, Cátedra e Instituto de Historia de la Medicina, 1975, pp. 163, [no price stated].

LUCIEN MALSON, *Wolf children*, and **JEAN ITARD**, *The wild boy of Aveyron*, London, New Left Books, 1972, pp. 179; paperback edition 1976, £2.00. [Reviewed in *Medical History*, 1975, 19: 407.]

HANS-JOACHIM ROMSWINKEL, 'De sanguine humano destillato.' *Medizinisch-alchemistische Texte des 14. Jahrhunderts über destilliertes Menschenblut*, inaugural dissertation, University of Bonn, 1974 [no pagination].