

## Book Notices

**Macdonald Critchley and Eileen Critchley**, *John Hughlings Jackson: father of English neurology*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. xi, 228, illus., \$55.00 (0-19-512339-5).

Macdonald and Eileen Critchley's biography of Hughlings Jackson is a modest, gentle account of M Critchley's hero. Although there was no overlap at the National Hospital, Queen Square, between Critchley and Hughlings Jackson, he apparently provided a constant inspirational presence for the author during his own long and distinguished career in neurology. The biography is not strictly chronological, and personal details are introduced at the beginning with a section on family history, which would be more easily read as a family tree and in the three final chapters. One still wants to know more of the man, although the destruction of Hughlings Jackson's papers at his request after death makes this a difficult task.

The best parts of the book are the middle chapters and particularly those that assess Hughlings Jackson's work on epilepsy, the cerebellum and aphasia. Critchley refers to both Hughlings Jackson's contemporaries—e.g., the engagement with Paul Broca, the links with Herbert Spencer—and re-discoveries by, for instance, Henry Head. While he admirably refrained from duplicating the writings of Temkin, Greenblatt and Riese, Critchley might have helped his readers by explaining in more detail the nature of Hughlings Jackson's theories, particularly as he repeatedly reminds us that reading his original papers is difficult, even for the trained neurologist.

**Mary G McCrea Curnen, Howard Spiro and Deborah St James** (eds), *Doctors afield*, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1999, pp. xv, 233, illus., £18.50 (0-300-08020-4).

This book presents twenty-six potted accounts of doctors who do something else—make art, music and wine, write, collect, participate in government or the church—apart from their daily job in medicine. For the most part these are presented as dual careers, although four of those featured here, including most famously Gertrude Stein, abandoned the practice of medicine.

Apart from the volume's curiosity value, the editors have a serious purpose in mind. As members of the Program for Humanities in Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine they hope to encourage doctors to explore other aspects of themselves in order to improve what they can offer to individual patients and the wider world. Among those who did not leave medicine, the majority believe their creative, alternate careers contribute to their abilities as physicians and surgeons because they are better able to communicate with patients.

### BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title 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 Library.)

**Jacques Baur**, *Les Manuscrits du Docteur Comte Sébastien Des Guidi*, Grands homéopathes de notre temps, Paris, Éditions Similia, 1999, pp. 406 (2-84251-029-1).