

Book Reviews

JOSEPH LAWSON, *Progress in Pudsey*, [facsimile of 1887 ed.], Firle, Sussex, Caliban Books, 1978, 8vo, pp. 154, £7.50.

GEORGE STURT, *The Bettsworth book*, [facsimile of 1902 ed.], Firle, Sussex, Caliban Books, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 325, £7.50.

GEORGE STURT, *William Smith, potter and farmer: 1790–1858*, [facsimile of 1919 ed.], Firle, Sussex, Caliban Books, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 230, illus., £7.50.

GEORGE WALKER, *The costume of Yorkshire*, [facsimile of 1814 ed.], Firle, Sussex, Caliban Books, 1978, 8vo, pp. 100, illus., £10.00.

To make available again important yet little-known social documents at present out of print is an excellent service to historians and others. Caliban Books are doing just that. They now present four new titles to their growing series of facsimile reprints.

Joseph Lawson (1821–?) published in 1887 his *Letters to the young on progress in Pudsey during the last sixty years*, and it gives a vivid account of life in a Yorkshire township in the 1820s, with special reference to the textile industry.

George Bourne (alias Sturt) wrote a biography of his grandfather, William Smith, and in so doing produced a graphic description of country life in the nineteenth century. Smith of Hampshire was a potter as well as a farmer, and so fascinating details of each occupation fill the book. It was first published in 1919.

The same author published in 1901 *The Bettsworth book*, and the second edition of 1902 is reprinted here. Again, there is a classic account of country life, in this case towards the end of the nineteenth century, and concerning an agricultural labourer. It, therefore, contains details of working and social life that are difficult to find elsewhere.

The show-piece of this series so far is Walker's book depicting country trades and pursuits, together with militia uniforms. The original edition appeared in 1814 and the second, a limited one, in 1885. There are forty coloured plates, excellently reproduced, each with a brief legend. The publishers in particular are to be congratulated on an elegant product at a reasonable price.

It is to be hoped that the editors, who also deserve high praise, will continue to extend their list with source-books such as these that provide building material for social and economic history. The medical historian will welcome them, for they can add considerably to his knowledge of nineteenth-century rural and industrial society against which medicine evolved and was practised.

JACK GOODY, JOAN THIRSK and E. P. THOMPSON (editors), *Family and inheritance. Rural society in Western Europe 1200–1800*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. vi, 421, £4.95 (paperback).

This is a paperback edition of a book published in 1976 in the Past and Present publications series. It consists of ten excellent essays dealing with family structures and inheritance customs in sixteenth-century France, Germany, rural Western Europe pre-1800, the Midlands (1280–1700), and Cambridgeshire (sixteenth to eighteenth centuries). There follow papers on the European debate on customs of inheritance (1500–1700), patterns of inheritance and settlement by great landowners (fifteenth to eighteenth centuries), "the grid of inheritance", and private property in history. Together they provide a substantial amount of data on the sociological texture of

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given communities and about relationships existing in them, as indicated by their inheritance customs.

In 1976 reviewers greeted this book with acclaim, and it has since established for itself an enviable reputation. A paperback version is, therefore, most welcome.

[ANTONIO] ALIOTTA, *The idealistic reaction against science*, [facsimile of 1914 ed.], New York, Arno Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xxii, 483, \$28.00

JOHN R. BAKER, *The freedom of science*, [facsimiles of *The scientific life* (1943), and *Science and the planned state* (1945)], New York, Arno Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. 154, 120, \$15.00.

[ROBERT] FLINT, *Philosophy as scientia scientiarum and a history of classification of the sciences*, [facsimile of 1904 ed.], New York, Arno Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 340, \$19.00.

HENRY BENCE JONES, *The Royal Institution: its founders and its first professors*, [facsimile of 1871 ed.], New York, Arno Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 431, \$25.00.

Four new titles are added to this excellent series, which is entitled, *History, philosophy and sociology of science. Classics, staples and precursors*. Each is an elegant facsimile reprint of the original, and in each case the opportunity of being able again to purchase a copy will be widely welcomed. They do, however, lack added material, such as an introductory essay or explanatory notes, and are understandably expensive.

Aliotta's book (1914) is translated from the Italian and is partly philosophy of science and partly "The new theories of mathematics and physics". It is a classic worthy of a wide audience.

Freedom of science comprises two perceptive essays by Professor John R. Baker.

Flint (1904) is concerned with the history, philosophy, and sociology of science. Again this is a classic, well worth close study today. Unfortunately, like so many of these earlier works, precise references to the masses of literature that must have gone into the book's production are lacking, which of course diminishes the value of the work.

Dr. Henry Bence Jones (1814–1873), better known for the proteinuria of multiple myeloma, published his book in 1871, and it has ever since provided scholars with a useful source of information concerning the first two decades of the Royal Institution, Count Rumford, and Sir Humphry Davy.

Further titles in this series will be much appreciated.

GERALD HOLTON, *The scientific imagination: case studies*, Cambridge University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xvi, 382, £15.00 (£5.95 paperback).

The chief aim of Professor Holton's book is "to contribute concepts and methods that will increase our understanding of the imagination of scientists engaged in the act of doing science". There are four aspects of this objective. First, to juxtapose published results with pertinent correspondence, interviews, notebooks, etc. Being a physicist, the author's case studies relate to his field of knowledge. Here Fermi and Millikan are examples. Second, to explore the background to a scientific advance: the personal, public, social, and cultural currents. Third, to examine the explicit or implicit presuppositions or "thema" which may impede the scientist, but which may