

Book Reviews

(1938), 'Psychological medicine' (in 60,000 words for Prince's *Textbook of medicine*, 1941) and *Health as a social concept* (1953), he provided a clear, spare contrast to what Shepherd has called the "pleonastic obesity of most psychiatric textbooks". Many modern historians might blanch at his versions of philological history, but to Lewis history was of the essence. "Of the value of such studies it is unnecessary to speak." One hopes that the full story will now engage Professor Shepherd, soon to be free of institutional duties. This hors-d'oeuvre needs a main course.

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GABRIELE GRAMICCIA, *The life of Charles Ledger (1818–1905): alpacas and quinine*, Basingstoke and London, Macmillan Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. xiv, 222, illus., £30.00.

It was not until the very end of his career that Professor Gramiccia, a leading WHO malariologist now living in retirement in his native Italy, first happened to read about Charles Ledger in a popular periodical. He was so struck by the near-total oblivion into which the achievements of this adventurous predecessor had been allowed to fall that he was moved to embark on a full-scale biography, a task which he has pursued with impressive thoroughness in a range of countries around the world.

Ledger left London for Peru on his eighteenth birthday to join a British merchant house specializing in two of that country's staples, alpaca wool and cinchona bark. After two years he was sent to run a branch in the southern port of Tacna, where he presently set up on his own account and married the daughter of a local official.

Desiring to sharpen his cinchona expertise, he enlisted the aid of a young Indian, Manuel Inca Mamani, who proved to have great flair as a classifier and was able to guide him through the maze of variation exhibited by the genus and instruct him in the ecological basis of this. Gradual destruction of the best cinchona stocks had been taking place for over a century and there was a pressing need by that time to locate wild trees with bark of superior quality. Almost all expeditions, however, came to nought through failure to master the complex taxonomy. Apart from Ledger's Manuel, only Weddell and Spruce acquired the necessary botanical proficiency to succeed in the quest. Weddell was responsible for the ultimate establishment of the Dutch plantations in Java, while seeds collected by Spruce and passed to Clements Markham in 1860 formed the basis of the British ones in India. Markham's name is the one that has passed into the history books as a result.

In 1865, however, after years of searching, Manuel managed to find some trees in Bolivia with bark far richer in quinine than any of the kinds in cultivation—up to 13 times as much, later tests were to show. A boxful of the seeds were sent by Ledger to his brother in London, who at first had difficulty in arousing any interest. Eventually J. E. Howard, Britain's chief quinine manufacturer, appreciated their potential and at his instance they were profitably sold: some to the Dutch Government, most to an owner of extensive cinchona plantations in India with the appropriate name of Money, who subsequently exchanged them with his government counterpart in Madras. Unfortunately the new species (*Cinchona ledgeriana*, as it was named in 1881) was much less hardy than its compeers and did not do well in Indian conditions. In Javanese ones, on the other hand, it flourished, helped by the more experienced care provided by the Dutch, who in addition alone had the equipment to test for quinine content. The plantations of it that they proceeded to raise enabled them to dominate the world market for bark for some years; in due course, however, in the 'eighties, overproduction occurred and prices collapsed. The economies of Peru and Bolivia were among the worst casualties, and Ledger and his family came in for much revilement, accused of having "stolen" the seeds and brought about the catastrophe. Luckily for him, though, he was living by then in Argentina, painfully rebuilding his finances after a disastrous attempt to introduce alpaca breeding into Australia (the recounting of which occupies almost half the book). Hungering for recognition, all he was able to extract at first from the Dutch, to whom he had brought such profit, was a derisory £242. But eventually, after a bank failure had left him all but destitute, the Dutch Government responded to public agitation by awarding him a small pension. Even so that was not enough to save him from a pauper's grave.

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On one view Ledger was nothing but a smuggler, robbing a Third World country of its natural inheritance on behalf of a rapacious imperialism. On another view he and his like brought benefit to a far greater part of mankind, which it would not have acquired otherwise—or not, at any rate, until a much later period. Villain or hero, however, his achievement is surely as undeniable as his life was ultimately a tragedy.

A book with two parallel themes poses structural problems and the author has solved these not altogether satisfactorily. Like many biographers, too, he has been reluctant to jettison any of his hard-won facts and has produced a narrative that is over-detailed. More seriously, and eccentrically for a scholarly work, the references are not keyed to individual statements, even in the case of manuscript material. A fold-out family tree and fifteen pages of colour plates, reproductions of watercolours by Santiago Savage in Ledger's diary of his alpaca enterprise, now in the Mitchell Library at Sydney, help to justify the very high price, which all the same seems excessive for a book which is capable of attracting a by no means narrow readership.

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LEONARD ZUSNE, *Eponyms in psychology: a dictionary and biographical source book*, New York, Westport, Conn., and London, Greenwood Press, 1987, 8vo, pp.xxi, 339, £46.95.

Zusne is best known to British psychologists for his *Biographical dictionary of psychology* (1984) which has become a standard reference work, though not without competitors. Although the present book clearly involves a certain amount of recycling of his earlier material, it is unique in focusing on eponyms. But such a work must have more than mere novelty value if it is to serve a useful purpose. In the event Zusne has succeeded admirably and produced one of those reference works which fill a gap of which few are aware until it is plugged, after which they find it indispensable. Perhaps more than most other disciplines (excepting medicine itself), psychology has been a fertile source of eponymic terms for tests, laws, equipment, and phenomena. Zusne spreads his net wide, including a number of medical terms (e.g. 'Abadie's sign', his first entry) which psychologists are likely to encounter. Each entry is followed by a brief biographical sketch of its progenitor, plus, where available, biographical sources. The apparently straightforward task of compiling such a work involved formidable research in most European languages—the index of journal title and book abbreviations takes up nigh on eleven pages, incorporating sources as diverse as the *Journal of the Institute of Electrical Engineers* and the *Prager medizinische Wochenschrift*.

Few will find a leisurely browse unrewarding; I for one did not know of 'Capgras' syndrome' ('A delusion marked by the belief that familiar persons have been replaced by doubles') and had only a remote recollection of the 'Mignon delusion' ('that one is not the real child of one's parents but the child of a distinguished family'). Occasionally one is less than happy with a definition; the Whorfian hypothesis is not simply that "language directly affects perception" and that "what is perceived depends on the availability of appropriate linguistic categories", but that what is actually *thinkable* is determined by the grammatical structure of one's language. Defining 'Machian positivism' in three lines is also rather pushing it! These are exceptions, however, and in general the definitions are clear and concise with enough additional information for the reader to be able to locate more expansive sources if needed. The eponyms fall into a wide range of categories: statistical tests ('Duncan's multiple range test'), "laws" ('Ribot's Law'), perceptual and auditory phenomena (the 'Hess effect'), schools of thought and therapies (the 'Decroly method'), equipment ('Schaffhautl phonometer'), physiology ('Oppenheim's reflex'), psychiatric syndromes ('Jehovah complex'), and psychological tests (the 'Wartegg Drawing Completion Form') comprise the bulk of the entries, though some, like 'Pavlovian Wednesdays' elude such classification. However, doubts are not entirely dispelled about the underlying rationale. Whether or not a psychological test, syndrome, or phenomenon acquires an eponymic title is to some extent arbitrary and thus Zusne does not provide a comprehensive dictionary for any specific category—in principle I remain unconvinced that this is really a sensible basis for an academic work. Nonetheless, it must be admitted that Zusne has managed to pull it off and