

Book Reviews

centuries (C.B. Schmitt); science in the early Royal Society (M.B. Hall); science and religion in the seventeenth century (P.M. Rattansi); the growth of Netherlands science in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries (W. D. Hackmann); the rise and fall of Scottish science (J. R. R. Christie); scientific careers in eighteenth-century France (R. Hahn); the development of a professional career in science in France (M. P. Crosland); German science in the Romantic period (D. M. Knight); science and the German university system, 1790–1850 (W. V. Farrar).

Each paper is by an accepted expert on the topic he discusses, so that the book is a collection of authoritative essays, well written and well documented. On the whole it succeeds in its objective of relating the growth of science to national cultures, by the discussion of social, economic, political and religious factors, which influenced the evolution of medicine as well as of science. Institutional developments are also taken into account. Science is, therefore, regarded from the social and institutional angles rather than from its content. Clearly all factors must be inspected when analysing scientific or medical progress.

Professor Crosland's book can be strongly recommended as an excellent survey and comparative analysis of an important aspect of the origins of modern science, considered in terms of space and time. For the adequate understanding of the seventeenth century in particular by students of the history of science and of medicine these papers will be required reading.

F. W. DILLISTONE, *Charles Raven. Naturalist, historian, theologian*, London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1975, 8vo, pp. 448, illus., £5.25.

Charles Raven (1885–1964) was an outstanding theologian and also a first-class scientist. He achieved great distinction in the academic world, being Regius Professor of Divinity in Cambridge, Fellow and Master of Christ's and Vice-Chancellor. He wrote many books both historical and apologetic and became a brilliant, dramatic and inspiring speaker, with hosts of friends and admirers.

From an early age Raven was a devoted student of fauna and flora, and his *In praise of birds* (1925) was greeted more enthusiastically than any book he ever wrote. His life of John Ray (1942–1950) is a biographical classic, and *English naturalists from Neckam to Ray* (1947) reached a similar standard. He accepted wholeheartedly Darwinian evolutionary theory and equated it with religious expression. In fact, throughout his life he eagerly sought to integrate religion and science; see, for example, his books, *Evolution and the Christian concept of God* (1936), *Science, religion and the future* (1943), *Science and the Christian man* (1952), *Science, medicine and morals* (1959), *Teilhard de Chardin; scientist and seer* (1962). His thesis was that the universe could be interpreted as a remarkable phenomenon, with both physical and mystical manifestations dependent upon the same Creator.

Raven's biographer is a fellow theologian, also with a scientific background, and is, therefore, an ideal person to appraise and interpret. His book is a sensitive and admirable study, if somewhat biased in favour of his subject. It should nevertheless be known to historians of medicine, biology and natural history, for, in addition to being an outstanding biography *per se*, it forms a useful approach to the vexed question of the relationships in history between religion, medicine and science.