

Book Reviews

PETER BURBACH, *Das Krankenhauswesen der Stadt Bonn im 19. Jahrhundert*, Münster, Murken-Altroge, 1977, 8vo, pp. vi, 216, illus., [no price stated].

HEINZ RODEGRA, *Vom Pesthof zum Allgemeinen Krankenhaus. Die Entwicklung des Krankenhauswesens in Hamburg zu Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts*, Münster, Murken-Altroge, 1977, 8vo, pp. 136, illus., [no price stated].

HANS SCHADEWALDT (editor), *Studien zur Krankenhausgeschichte im 19. Jahrhundert im Hinblick auf die Entwicklung in Deutschland*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1976, 8vo, pp. 255, illus., DM.58.00.

Dr. Burbach presents a scholarly survey from the Romans to the twentieth century, supported by plans, illustrations, and many references. The clinical facilities of the medical faculty of Bonn University and hygiene in Bonn, both in the nineteenth century, are dealt with, and considerable space is devoted to the city's St. Johannes-Hospital.

Another excellent contribution to German hospital history is by Dr. med. Heinz Rodegra, and, like that of Burbach, is part of the series *Studien zur Geschichte des Krankenhauswesens*, which now has ten titles published or in preparation. It is also a scholarly monograph, and has a summary in almost faultless English. The details *per se* may be of little interest to us, but comparisons with British city hospitals can be induced. At the same time envy that this type of medical history is done so well in Germany is inevitable.

There is also *Studien zur Krankenhausgeschichte im 19. Jahrhundert im Hinblick auf die Entwicklung in Deutschland*, edited by Professor Hans Schadewaldt, which is Volume 7 of a series, *Studien zur Medizingeschichte im Neunzehnten Jahrhundert*, and reprints eleven papers presented at a symposium held by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Krankenhausgeschichte on 23 and 24 February 1972 in Berlin. Five are concerned with German hospitals and provide excellent surveys. The remainder deal with hospitals in England, Paris, North America, St. Petersburg, Norway, and Italy. Each is a scholarly contribution, the one on English hospitals being by Professor Ruth Hodgkinson.

In addition to monographs on hospital history, there is also *Historia Hospitalium*, organ of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Krankenhausgeschichte, Heft 11 of which appeared in 1976 and commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the society. It contains eleven articles, including one by Surgeon-Rear-Admiral P. D. Gordon Pugh on Haslar, a brief but praiseworthy account of its planning.

These publications underline the deficiencies in that part of medical history dealing with the history of hospitals in Britain. We have a large number of parochial histories, but the history of hospitals in one city at a scholarly level has not yet been attempted. We can learn a lot from our Continental neighbours, and the books by Drs. Burbach and Rodegra provide a useful model that could be readily employed in this country.

The French are also active in this part of medical history, and we in Britain have a long way to go to catch up. Perhaps there is a need for a research group or society, which could bring together in fruitful symbiosis, the hospital doctor and members of the allied professions, as well as the administrator, the public health official, the architect, the social and economic historian, and the medical historian.