

Book Reviews

ARTHUR KLEINMAN, PETER KUNSTADTER, E. RUSSELL ALEXANDER, JAMES L. GALE (editors), *Medicine in Chinese cultures; comparative studies of health care in Chinese and other societies*, Bethesda, Md., National Institutes of Health (Fogarty International Center), [1975], 8vo, pp. xvi, 803, \$11.00.

In order to assess American medical needs, systems in other countries are under review. In the case of China a conference on the comparative study of traditional and modern medicine in Chinese societies was held in 1974 and the forty-nine contributions are published here, grouped into five sections. The first 'Medical systems in Chinese societies', deals with historical perspectives and provides an excellent survey and discussion of traditional Chinese medicine. A second part of this section concerns 'Contemporary sociocultural studies'. The other sections are 'Medical systems in the periphery of China', 'Demographic and epidemiological aspects', 'Implications for future research', and 'Implications for health care'. Many reports are in the form of field studies, epidemiological, anthropological, and clinical. Each chapter is fully documented and there is an excellent index.

Those concerned with the history of Chinese medicine will find this book of the greatest value. Not only is the historical section most useful, but throughout there is information that will be pertinent to their studies and which will acquaint them with the present-day medical systems in Chinese cultures, although none of the material concerns mainland China.

EDWARD KREMERS and GEORGE URDANG, *History of pharmacy*, fourth edition, revised by Glenn Sonnedecker, Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, (Oxford, Blackwell), 1976, 4to, pp. xv, 571, illus., £19.20.

Since it first appeared in 1940 this book by Kremers (1865–1941) and Urdang (1882–1960) has been a classic, and it still has no rival. It has received acclaim on the appearance of each new edition and the reaction to the present one will not be different. The book has been totally replanned with double-column pages and has an increased number of illustrations, together with complete and extensive revision, which involves almost every page. There is ample documentation and a thoroughly scholarly treatment of the material throughout.

Without doubt it is the best history of pharmacy in English available today. It traces pharmacy from the Mesopotamian cultures to the twentieth century and, after dealing with pharmacy in Italy, France, Germany, and Britain, it incorporates a lengthy history of American pharmacy (pp. 145–351 and 377–386). No doubt the presence of this, together with the high price, will deter non-American intending purchasers.

Nevertheless the book should be available in institutional libraries for it will be in frequent demand both for reference and for more continuous reading.

JEAN LINDSAY, *The Scottish poor law. Its operation in the north-east from 1745 to 1845*, Ilfracombe, A. H. Stockwell, 1975, 8vo, pp. 265, £2.50.

The Scottish poor law differed markedly from that in England and Wales during the century of the Industrial Revolution, but historians have paid less attention to it.