

Book Notices

NORIKO USHIDA, *Etude comparative de la psychologie d'Aristote, d'Avicenne, et de St. Thomas D'Aquin*, Tokyo, Keio Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies, 1968, 8vo, pp. vi, 231, [no price stated], (paperback).

Aristotle's discussion of soul, life, mind, body, and motion in his *De anima* put psychology on the rational and biological basis which was to dominate the discipline until the seventeenth century. Professor Ushida systematically examines *De anima* in detail, showing how Avicenna and St. Thomas adopted its doctrine and modified it under the influence of their respective theologies and, especially, of Neoplatonism. The author eschews a historical approach in favour of a comparative method. The book is divided into three main sections: concepts of soul, types of soul, and vital functions. The last section, concerning nutrition, growth, generation, sensation, motion, and the intellect, should be of special interest to the medical historian. Numerous diagrams and an index to important terms (in French, Latin, Greek, and Arabic) add to the book's usefulness as a reference work.

Professor Ushida deliberately limits himself to primary sources, and bases much of his argument on the precise definition of philosophical terms. With so much depending on textual criticism, it is surprising that he does not state in his, at times vague, bibliography which of the many editions and translations listed he has chosen as his base text. Numerous mistakes in proof-reading and in form contribute further distractions to an otherwise carefully considered and useful book.

M. D. GRMEK (editor), *Hippocratica. Actes du Colloque hippocratique de Paris (4-9 Septembre 1978)*, Paris, Editions du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1980, 8vo, pp. 486, 250F.

This volume well reflects the variety of ways in which the Hippocratic corpus is currently viewed. There are detailed accounts of manuscripts, studies of the development of technical terms, and broader investigations of larger theories in early Greek medicine. It is good to see that the traditional dichotomy between Cos and Cnidos is at last being rejected and that the consequences of the rejection are being considered with due attention. Tentative though they may be, the first steps are being taken out of the Hippocratic labyrinth. It would be invidious to single out any one contribution from this collection, which shows the vigour of contemporary Hippocratic studies, but two general points can be made. Little is said here, in contrast to previous *Colloques*, of the effects of Hippocratic doctrines on later medical writers: this is a large topic, yet one that has rarely been studied in sufficient detail. Second, the contributions show a high level of technical competence in coping with some of the most difficult Greek there is. It may perhaps be premature to ask for a similar sophistication in relating particular discoveries to a more general historical and medical context. The value of this collection is, however, diminished by the absence of any index, which effectively leaves in obscurity many of the interesting *aperçus* that are to be found here. When the *Acta* of the next *Colloque* are published, they should be provided with indexes at least of Hippocratic passages, topics, and manuscripts.

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DE LACY O'LEARY, *How Greek science passed to the Arabs*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1980. 8vo, pp. vi, 196, £5.95.

On its first appearance, in 1949, this book was welcomed as a valuable study in English of the ways in which Syriac Christians, Indian Buddhists, and heterogeneous Muslims collaborated in the transmission of Greek medicine, science, and philosophy to the Islamic world. The tale is fascinating and important for our understanding of medieval science. It is therefore all the more to be regretted that in what claims to be a new edition there has been no revision in the light of modern research and, as far as can be checked, little attempt to remove the many misprints and inconsistencies that disfigured the first edition. The work of Vööbus and Brock on Syriac, and of Ullmann and Strohmaier on the Arabic transmission of classical learning, to mention but four names, has considerably sharpened our understanding of the methods and processes of this transition, and emphasized both its fidelity and its variety. This "new" edition is neither located historically as a summary of the scholarship of the 1930s nor revised to give a true picture of the vitality of contemporary research.

ROY R. GRINKER, sr., *Fifty years in psychiatry. A living history*, Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 263, \$15.50.

Although sometimes bearing the self-indulgent hallmarks of autobiography, this volume attempts to assess major themes and issues which have faced psychiatrists during the past half-century. Grinker turned to psychiatry after a brief, successful career in neurology. He was analysed by Freud, though he has subsequently been more concerned with developing an eclectic approach to psychiatric disorders. Individual chapters on psychiatric diagnosis, psychosomatic disorders, depression, schizophrenia, and borderline states focus on research conducted by Grinker and his colleagues at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, where the author spent much of his career. He is eloquent about the difficulties which he and fellow-psychiatrists experienced in the 1930s when attempting to establish an academic discipline, and the volume as a whole conveys a useful sense of the current disarray in American psychiatry.

J. M. W. BINNEVELD and M. J. VAN LIEBURG, *Psychiatric reform in the Netherlands in the 19th century*, Rotterdam, Erasmus Universiteit (Information bulletin no. 7), 1979, 8vo, pp.24, [no price stated].

The psychiatric reforms which took place in early nineteenth-century Britain, France, Germany, and the United States were delayed for a generation in Holland. This pamphlet summarizes these Dutch developments as they relate to institutional psychiatry, the non-restraint system, and the involvement of the State in the provision of psychiatric services.

JOHN J. BLOM (translator and editor), *Descartes. His moral philosophy and psychology*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxi, 288, £11.50.

Descartes' views on moral philosophy and psychology are mostly in his correspondence (1643–1649) with Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia, Queen Christina of Sweden, and Pierre Chanut, the French Ambassador to Sweden. These Blom presents

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in excellent translation, together with the preface to the *Principles of philosophy*, which deals with education. They are preceded by a lengthy discussion of Descartes' metaphysics, a knowledge of which is essential for an adequate comprehension of his moral philosophy and psychology because of its influence on them. In the letters, most of which have not appeared in English before, Descartes is providing moral advice based on general metaphysics, medicine, and the relation between mind and body, in order to solve problems concerning the nature of human action. Psychosomatic medicine and physiological theory are prominent, so that anyone concerned with seventeenth-century medicine will find this book profitable. For a deeper understanding of Descartes' attitude to science in general, Dr. Blom's book can be warmly recommended. A valuable and unusual feature is a conceptual index to help the reader discern the structure of Descartes' moral philosophy and psychology.

NORMAN KLEIN, *Culture, curers, and contagion: readings for medical social science*, Novato, Calif., Chandler & Sharp, 1979, 8vo, pp. viii, 246, \$6.95 (paperback).

This volume of essays is undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable books yet to have appeared on the medical-anthropological stage. The more discerning historian will be immediately gratified to discover that all of the pieces were originally published elsewhere, in such estimable journals as the *Lancet* and *Penthouse*. Most of the articles have been skilfully abbreviated and shorn of their footnotes to enhance their readability. Nearly all have been chosen because they are, loosely interpreted, anthropological, and frankly relativistic examinations of concepts of health and disease, images of the body, and the role of medicine in different cultures, with a predominant emphasis on the modern West. The contents range from an account of the ritual of the American public urinal to a splendid article on *Volkshelkunde* in modern Germany and its relation to homoeopathy and German culture generally. Different methods and styles are reflected in a sociological account of the different languages of nurses and doctors to an idiosyncratic narrative of what it feels like to be an Oriental in a modern Western hospital. Funniest of all is Horace Miner's "Body ritual among the Nacirema". How this extraordinarily backward people, who bear remarkable similarities to the inhabitants of Erewhon, have adapted to twentieth-century technology and consumerism is truly remarkable. It looks now, however, as though it threatens to devour them. This book ought to find a place in any history of medicine course not committed to the idea of privileged knowledge.

The handbook of medical ethics, London, British Medical Association, 1980, 8vo, pp. 94, [no price stated].

In an age of computer banks, organ transplants, strikes by medical personnel, and psychiatric control of dissidents, the ethical problems in medicine have become more complex and more difficult to resolve. This handbook, firmly in the Western ethical tradition, modestly intends its suggestions as topics for debate rather than iron rules of practice. The very valuable appendix of ethical codes and decisions, from the *Oath* of Hippocrates to the conclusions of British Medical Association conferences, aptly shows the slow transition from professional certainty to sociological doubt. To the

layman, some of the book's advice may seem inordinately bland (on strikes, for example), and even confusing (why reject osteopathy but not, apparently, acupuncture?), but it is good to have such a clear statement of an official view against which to measure one's own reactions.

PAUL V. A. WILLIAMS, *Primitive religion and healing. A study of folk medicine in North-East Brazil*, Cambridge and Woodbridge, D. S. Brewer; Totowa, N.J., Rowman and Littlefield: for the Folklore Society, 1979, 8vo, pp. xi, 212, £12.00.

Based on ten months' fieldwork in 1973–74 for a Ph.D. thesis, the present version newly prepared for the public eye exhibits none of the defects of this genre, or of amateur folklorism. In covering the healing aspects of the Yoruba-descended *Candomblé* cult, and more extensively, of the extraordinary amalgam of African, European (pre-Christian, Christian, and Spiritualist), and indigenous Tupi cultures known as *Candomblé de caboclo*, the study stands on the solid ground of personal observation and on the evidence of well-documented informants.

With sections on the religious backgrounds of the cults, on the use of herbs, on ritual beating, fumigation, ritual baths, ritual powder, amulets, the curing prayer, and the *ebó* (sacrifice, offering), and with a set of elaborate appendices, a glossary, and a bibliography, the whole forms a graphic, well-constructed, and well-written case-study of mediumistic, ritualistic, and magical curing practices. It is likely to remain useful as a lively record of these practices in a restricted time and area, and as a work of reference in this rather lightly documented field. It is an unusual pleasure to read an account at once so scholarly and so graphic of this strange area of human belief and action.

JANE C. BECK, *To windward of the land. The occult world of Alexander Charles*, Bloomington, Ind., and London, Indiana University Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. 1, 309, illus., £9.00.

As an unprotected and therefore endangered woman, the folklorist author was able to achieve and maintain an unusually close rapport with Alexander Charles, a lower-class West Indian born in St. Lucia. Abandoned early by his family and exhibiting those qualities of self-reliance, virility, and generosity required by his culture, he travelled the Caribbean from Haiti to Guyana, learned much of *obeah* and protective magic and medicine, and supported himself by sailing, fishing, and odd-jobbing.

Edited from the original tapes partly as autobiography and partly as conversation, the book makes interesting, sometimes horrifying, and often perspicacious lighter reading. As an illiterate, Charles depended on oral tradition to an extent which probably now scarcely exists. His account therefore, where it is truthful, provides an unusual insight into the assumptions of a culture where distrust, fear, and jealousy are countered by physical violence, courage, apparent openhandedness, and the seeking of power by *obeah*, protective magic, and occasionally by the practice of the darker arts. It is not so much an occult world as one dependent on the ambivalent problem of how to exist antisocially in a social complex. At best Charles represents the archetypal trickster-hero of those peoples whose physical and social environment is harsh; and he

was “wise” within his culture because he had survived, and he had survived because he had learned to operate in his limited worlds both natural and “supernatural”.

It is, unwittingly, a somewhat sad book, demonstrating in a crude and recognizable form how easily man is manipulated by his own artefact. Culture is survival; it is also a cage.

DUNCAN BYTHELL, *The sweated trades. Outwork in nineteenth-century Britain*, London, Batsford Academic, 1978, 8vo, pp. 287, £12.50.

Duncan Bythell does an admirable job of answering the questions he poses about outworkers in his introduction: why did such workers survive so long into the nineteenth century? Why were they so poor? What did they try to do about their lot? Could society at large have done more to help them in their plight? Why did they eventually disappear when they did? In so doing, many common assumptions about outwork in Britain during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are disputed. For example, the traditional assumption that the replacement of the labour-intensive hand-spinning process by the spinning inventions of the late eighteenth century constituted a blow to outwork is proved to be untrue. To the contrary, the new spinning techniques created a great demand for weaving, which was still done at home. Thus, Dr. Bythell persuasively argues, the outwork system was not static, “some dying pre-industrial dinosaur,” but was “a perfectly rational, viable, and adaptable form of organization in many industries”.

Technically, the book is carefully constructed. Commonly used terms (such as “outwork”) are defined, and the methodological problems intrinsic to the topic are set out. The book is then divided into three parts. The first part includes a long discussion of outwork in textiles and in the clothing trade, with a detailed analysis of the geographic location of the industry over the course of the century, the dynamic interface between the industrialized sector and the outwork sector, and the characteristics of the outworkers themselves. There is also a shorter discussion of several other outwork industries. Part two is an economic analysis of outwork, and part three is a discussion of attempts, both by the outworkers and by the state, to ameliorate outwork conditions.

On the whole, the book is successful. The sole criticism is that the meticulous numerical and geographic discussions could be more easily both presented and understood with the use of comparative tables and maps.

G. R. QUAIFFE, *Wanton wenches and wayward wives: peasants and illicit sex in early seventeenth-century England*, London, Croom Helm, 1979, 8vo, pp. 282, £11.50.

This attractive study of “the way we were then” is based on an examination of the depositions presented between 1601 and 1660 to the Quarter Sessions of the County of Somerset and to the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Quaife uses these records to illuminate the variety and consequences of illicit sexual activity among the lower orders (his use of this word “peasant” to describe his subjects is problematical) in seventeenth-century Somerset. Pre-marital intercourse, adultery, prostitution, and bastardy are among his topics. Two particular themes permeate this

book. One is the extent to which a double standard applied to men and to women, the latter almost inevitably paying more heavily for their indiscretions. The second is the fundamentally economic – as opposed to strictly moral – attitude which governed the official responses to illegal sexual activity. Officials were above all concerned that bastards did not become charges on the rates, and if marriage or child support by the father followed an extra-marital pregnancy, courts tended to be lenient. Quaife's local study challenges some of the more sweeping generalizations recently made by Lawrence Stone and Edward Shorter and contradicts Patricia Branca's rather silly pronouncement that women before about 1750 did not enjoy sexual intercourse. Medical historians will also find Quaife's discussions of abortion, contraception, venereal disease, and folk healers of interest.

FRANCES FINNEGAN, *Poverty and prostitution. A study of Victorian prostitutes in York*, Cambridge University Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xi, 231, illus., £9.75.

A great deal has been written on the history of prostitution, but detailed surveys of its practice in specific regions and periods derived from archival sources are rare. This excellent book is, therefore, most welcome, because it presents a scholarly study of prostitution in a provincial city between 1837 and 1887. It is based on the large amount of material available and includes accounts of individual prostitutes and brothel-keepers. Although it deals with a limited community, its findings can be applied elsewhere and will contribute to a clearer understanding of Victorian morality and society. It is a brilliant example of how local history can have a wider than local significance.

In addition to its central theme, Mrs. Finnegan's work highlights other social evils of the nineteenth century, including poverty, intemperance, the Irish community, and living conditions. The illustrative material is also of great interest and value. This book can, therefore, be warmly recommended to all students of the social history of Victorian Britain.

J. R. BIGNALL, *Frimley: the biography of a sanatorium*, London, Board of Governors of the National Heart and Chest Hospitals, 1979, 8vo, pp. viii, 181, illus., £3.75. (Obtainable from: The Administrator, Brompton Hospital, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5QE.)

This affectionately-written account of the tuberculosis sanatorium at Frimley makes lively use of the patient and administrative records accumulated since the institution was opened in 1905. Frimley was conceived as a complementary, rural adjunct to the Brompton Hospital for Chest Diseases and was founded when the fresh-air treatment for tuberculosis was in vogue. It had all the hallmarks of what Erving Goffman called the 'total institution': the sexes were strictly segregated, the routine was as regimental as the individual patient's condition permitted, and the patients discovered that a significant portion of their "treatment" could involve working the Sanatorium's garden, or woods, or pig farm. Unsurprisingly, some of the patients rebelled, while others found that this extended family became another home and stayed on the staff long after recovery. Dr. Bignall has an eye for a good story, and the extant records permit him to follow some of the patients' life stories for decades after

discharge. He also discusses the various changes in therapy, including work, fresh air, artificial pneumothorax, thoracoplasty, and, eventually, chemotherapy. The latter, combined with improved sanitation and control of the disease, eventually rendered Frimley redundant as a tuberculosis hospital. This little volume is well illustrated and printed, has a bibliography and index but lacks footnotes.

MAXWELL M. WINTROBE, *Blood, pure and eloquent. A story of discovery, of people, and of ideas*, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1980, 8vo, pp. xxiii, 771, illus., \$30.00.

Haematology stands in relation to the rest of medicine rather in the way that theoretical physics does to the physical sciences. It is from dealing with the properties of the blood that some of the most sophisticated and fundamental biological theories have emerged. Maxwell Wintrobe, a scientist whose name might be said to be a household word in the laboratory, has collected in this volume a series of essays by haematologists on the history of their discipline. The accounts are all uncompromisingly internalist and aimed at demonstrating the intellectual progress within the subject. For historians who are not deterred by this undeniable fact, these essays will be a valuable source for the history of twentieth-century science. They are technical, well referenced, and most important, learned in that many of the authors are recounting debates encountered in their own lifetimes. The work, however, does have a transatlantic bias, reflected in the choice of authors, and in the absence of some important names in European haematology. Cecil Price-Jones and his work on red cell sizes receives no mention, for instance.

W. R. KLEMM (editor), *Discovery processes in modern biology*, Huntington, N.Y., Robert E. Krieger, 1977, 4to, pp. xvi, 338, illus., \$14.50.

The editor has gathered together thirteen autobiographies of prominent biologists who are still active in research. In the case of some, their studies have received universal approval, but with others their research has stimulated controversy, thereby having a major impact. Thus the book presents a variety of researchers, and by means of their life stories, the process of biological discovery can be examined in detail. It will, therefore, be of great interest to those who wish to know more of scientific behaviour. So often the scientist hides behind his data and results without revealing his plans, hopes, anxieties, fears, and other personal reactions to his work. Each autobiography is preceded by biographical details, a photograph, and an editorial introduction. It is a pity, however, that most of the individuals selected are American, and that other nations are not adequately represented.

EFRAIM RACKER, *Science and the cure of diseases. Letters to members of Congress*, Princeton University Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xvi, 105, £7.50 (£2.95 paperback).

This lucid little volume, by a professor of biochemistry at Cornell University, is a plea for the value of basic medical research. It is aimed primarily at optimists who believe that the allocation of sufficient resources can produce instant cures for cancer, stroke, and other complex disorders, and at critics of medical research who insist that

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molecular biology, genetics, and biochemistry are irrelevant for the pragmatic curing or controlling of disease. Drawing on the results of a variety of research programmes during the past few decades, Racker strikes a cautiously optimistic stance. He extols the value of the peer review system, insists on the integrity of the vast majority of medical scientists, and suggests that the most promising results are likely to be obtained by giving gifted scientists the freedom to pursue their own inclinations. Although focusing primarily on the American scene, Racker raises international issues. His book provides a provoking contrast to the perspectives offered by Professor McKeown and Ivan Illich.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

S. W. HAMERS-VAN DUYNEN, *Hieronymus David Gaubius 1705–1780. Zijn correspondentie met Antonio Nunes Ribeiro Sanches en andere tijdgenoten*, Amsterdam, Van Gorcum, 1978, 8vo, pp. ix, 288, illus., Dfl. 48.00 (paperback).

'Medicine and history', *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, Series V, vol. I, no. 4, December 1979, pp. 247–331, \$7.50 (paperback).

H. WAYNE MORGAN, *Yesterday's addicts. American society and drug abuse, 1865–1920*, Norman, Okl., University of Oklahoma Press, 1974, (paperback edition, 1980), 8vo, pp. viii, 220, \$12.95. [See review in *Medical History*, 1976, 20: 342.]

J. PERELLO, *The history of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics, 1924–76*, Barcelona, Editorial Augusta for IALP, 1979, 8vo, pp. 75, illus., [no price stated.]

WAYNE VINEY, MICHAEL WERTHEIMER, and MAY LOU WERTHEIMER, *History of psychology. A guide to information sources*, (Vol. I in the 'Psychology Information Guide Series'), Detroit, Mich., Gale Research Co., 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 502, \$26.00.