

## Book Reviews

Wernicke's aphasia, Wernicke's encephalopathy, Wernicke-Mann hemiplegia, Wernicke's area, Wernicke's bundle, Wernicke's fissure . . . : such monuments to the localization of mental disorders in cerebral pathology are familiar to every student of psychiatry and higher cortical function. In this workman-like, if brief, biography, Lanczik shows how Wernicke exemplified the achievements of the German-Austrian materialist traditions pre-eminent in the study of "nervous diseases" in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A Silesian, trained in the neurological clinics of Griesinger's Berlin and Meynert's Vienna, Wernicke was singularly well-qualified, and well-placed, when he took up his professorship in Breslau in 1885, to capitalize on the geographical advantages which made this university town open to both Prussian and Austro-Hungarian influences. Convinced that psychological states and processes could be localized to precisely demarcated areas of the brain, Wernicke went beyond meticulous clinical and anatomical description, of which he was a master, to classify and schematize his observations, and thence to over-simplify them. Lanczik pays little attention to the rumblings of dissent from strict cerebral localization in the medical literature of Wernicke's time. He confirms, however, that shortly after Wernicke's death, when the rumblings had swelled to a roar, the dogmas of localization fell into disrepute. Wernicke's many distinguished pupils—Bonhoeffer, Heilbronner, and Liepmann, among them—made plain that his lasting contribution lay in his masterly observations, which called for supplementation and systematic interpretation rather than the rejection of all localization, as the anti-materialist critics would have it, as so much "cerebral mythology".

With recent advances in the study of higher cortical function in the neurosciences, principally in the field of vision and perception, the pendulum has swung back towards "materialism". But analysis is at a different level to that practicable in Wernicke's time and the focus is now not on cortical areas but on their cellular architecture, functional organization, and neurochemical and neurogenetic correlates. With the emergence of a new precision in the description of cortical structure and function, clinical observation and its interpretation in the light of the "new" neuroanatomy has become even more instructive. We would do well to follow Wernicke's lesson in this regard.

This little book, in cataloguing the distinctive contributions of Wernicke, with a sketch of their subsequent history based on a modest selection of the voluminous sources available, demonstrates the need for broader intellectual biography which would illuminate a decisive chapter in the history of the search for a physical basis of mind.

Elizabeth Whitcombe  
Birkbeck College

SYDNEY A. HALPERN, *American paediatrics: the social dynamics of professionalism 1880–1980*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London, University of California Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. xi, 228, \$27.50.

Not least of the reasons for welcoming this sociological study of American paediatrics is the author's firm belief that medical specialization (seen as a variant of professionalization) "is best explained through genuinely historical inquiry" (p. 160). Although, in reality, only scant attention is paid to the wider socio-economic, political, and intellectual contexts within which American paediatrics developed, this book's historically grounded, rigorous analysis of the evolution of career strategies and structures in paediatrics is a model of its kind. Drawing largely on paediatricians' own statements of the nature and purpose of their speciality, Sydney Halpern exposes the conceptual discontinuities over time and provides jargon-free explanations for the underlying social processes.

Despite the untypical origins and character of this non-organ based specialism, the contours of the specialization process present few surprises. Deceptively, perhaps, Halpern's exposure of the means by which paediatricians established their place in the medical division of labour, organized professional associations, secured status, captured markets, and consolidated their knowledge and power bases conforms to a familiar pattern. Moreover, in discussing these phenomena, Halpern reveals herself a pluralist, as willing to acknowledge the catalytic, and

## Book Reviews

sometimes causal, role of scientific and technological innovation in the specialization process at some moments in time, as the dominant role of social and market forces at others (whilst laying most stress on the importance of organizational innovation). The child welfare movement of the early twentieth century is thus seen as crucial to the second phase of the specialty's development, while developments in internal medicine (endocrinology in particular) and behavioural psychology are seen as more significant after World War II. The latter chapters, on 'Pediatric endocrinology' and the so-called "new" 'Psychosocial pediatrics', present, in fact, some of the most original and historically interesting material in this book, other studies of American paediatrics (including sociological ones) having concentrated largely on the first half of this century. Halpern's broader sweep allows her to make some valuable comparisons with the earlier period and, thus, within the history of this single field, to comment effectively on different modes of specialization.

But much more might have been said about opposition to specialization in paediatrics, especially on the part of general practitioners both during the early years of the specialism and, more recently, with the revival of the family practitioner in America. More curious, given the occasional references to the relatively high proportion of female paediatric practitioners, is the absence of any discussion on their place and relations within the evidently male-dominated professional structures. Finally, it is to be regretted that while appropriate intra-professional comparisons appear frequently throughout the text, international comparisons are never made—an omission that seems all the more odd in light of the author's emphasis on the role of "emulation" in specialty and sub-specialty formation.

Nevertheless, as a well-sustained case study, abounding in facts and figures on a century of American paediatrics, this cogently revised doctoral thesis might be profitably read by historians, sociologists, and paediatricians alike.

Roger Cooter  
Wellcome Unit, Manchester University

MICHAEL SHEPHERD, *A representative psychiatrist: the career, contributions and legacies of Sir Aubrey Lewis*, *Psychological Medicine* Monograph Supplement 10, published in association with The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The Maudsley Hospital, Cambridge University Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. 31, illus., £2.50, (paperback).

This monograph brings together two of Professor Shepherd's memorial lectures—the 'Adolf Meyer' of 1976 and the 'Aubrey Lewis' of 1985—thus providing a brief overview of twentieth-century psychiatry in Britain and the essence of Lewis's work. The two are not synonymous, or even synchronous: Lewis was Jewish, Australian, literate, and learned, but there is no doubt that a full biography could provide the core of a post-Freudian history of psychiatry in these isles, warts and all. According to Dr William Sargant, Lewis had "very remarkable qualifications", but "lacked Mapother's unique gift of coordinating and holding together so restive and opinionated a clinical team". But Sargant had just been effectively kicked out of the Maudsley by Lewis, whose scientific braininess made many enemies. Other reminiscences—he had a "baleful, unblinking stare" and could be "devastatingly critical"—attest to the fear, distress, and ambivalence occasioned by his inquisitions. Shepherd insists on the "essential kindness" of the man, and his commonsense in placing the canteen next to the library in the new Institute of Psychiatry, to encourage "personal contacts". It is hard not to conclude that the "task of keeping psychiatry sane" (to quote from Professor Leighton's preface) required a robust sense of reality.

There are some annoying misprints (e.g. "First" for "Second" World war, p. 10), and missing commas, but the two pieces meld nicely, not least because of Shepherd's own stylistic clarity. Oddly enough, he regarded Lewis's "general legacy" as the Institute of Psychiatry in 1976, yet by 1985 "it is generally concluded that the Institute of Psychiatry is the specific legacy". Whatever the general specifics, it is clear that Lewis, like his protégé, wrote beautifully. From schoolboy presentations on the Bacon vs. Shakespeare debate or the origin and history of words, via student papers (e.g. 'Quacks' written in "brilliant style"), to the maturities of *States of depression*