

### Book Reviews

Ladurie, F. Lebrun, J.-N. Biraben, J.-P. Peter, and J.-P. Goubert. With the exception of one article by David Gaunt which originally appeared in Swedish, all of Imhof's choices were first published in French, so the translations into German are unlikely to be of particular use to English-speaking historians. However, Imhof has also written an excellent sixty-five-page introduction to his subject and provides a useful thirty-page bibliography of recent work in historical human biology. Unusual in collections of essays, the volume is indexed.

EDWIN HARTMAN, *Substance, body and soul: Aristotelian investigations*, Princeton University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xi, 292, £11.80.

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Historians of psychology will find this tough-minded study of Aristotle's views on personal identity greatly rewarding, although by no means easy reading. Aristotle, it is argued, sees the world as populated by individual material objects, rather than by their parts or by universals: material objects are identical with their particular essence, not a combination of form and matter. The author traces the consequences of this theory as applied to the person, a substance whose essence is his soul, and to the relationships between body and mind as expressed in perception, sensation, and thought. These investigations, even if not all equally convincing, have the great merit of taking Aristotle seriously, as a philosopher-scientist worth arguing with, rather than as a historical totem-pole to be noticed, respected, and then preserved as an ineffective curiosity.

GARY WERSKEY, *The visible college. A collective biography of British scientists and socialists of the 1930s*, London, Allen & Unwin, 1978, 8vo, pp. 376, £10.00.

Five British scientists who turned to socialism at about the time of the First World War are featured in this book by an American-born sociologist: J. D. Bernal, J. B. S. Haldane, Lancelot Hogben, Hyman Levy, and Joseph Needham. By their writings and publicity on science and socialism they became known as leading intellectuals, and they here relate the stories of their lives and of their times through their own eyes. One of the absorbing aspects is the difference between the individuals' approaches to their common interests, and their varying backgrounds. It is a scholarly work which will prove to be attractive and valuable to a wide range of readers, including scientists, politicians, and historians of the twentieth century and of its science.

WESLEY W. SPINK, *Infectious diseases. Prevention and treatment in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*, Folkestone, Dawson, 1978, 8vo, pp. xx, 577, illus., £22.50.

Dr. Spink has specialized in infectious diseases for almost fifty years and now presents a history of their control. There are three sections. The first, 'Background of the control and treatment of infectious diseases', includes very pedestrian chapters on early concepts of infection and its control, and the development of bacteriology, immunology, and virology, together with a survey of the evolution of public health in Great Britain and the U.S.A., and of the World Health Organization. The second

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is concerned with the development of prophylaxis and therapy for infectious diseases in the twentieth century, and deals mainly with the sulpha drugs and antibiotics. The third discusses the evolution of knowledge of specific infectious diseases and is the largest part of the book. It is enlivened by accounts of the author's own experiences. The volume ends with an extensive and valuable bibliography.

Although this book consists of medical history of medicine, thus providing little information on non-medical aspects, it will be a valuable source of information on the recent history of infectious diseases. Material dealing with earlier periods cannot be relied on for accuracy or interpretation.

GERALD W. HARTWIG and K. DAVID PATTERSON (editors), *Disease in African history*, Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xiv, 258, \$13.75.

These essays were presented at a symposium of Africanists on the theme 'Disease and history in Africa', held in April 1975. They cover both general topics, such as 'Social consequences of epidemic diseases: the nineteenth century in East Africa', and more specific ones, for example, 'Louse-borne relapsing fever in the Sudan, 1908-51'. Each is a scholarly exercise, well written and well documented, and there is a useful 'Bibliographical essay' appended.

The six contributors are historians, except for a geographer and a political scientist. Nevertheless, they handle the medical data with competence. Understandably they are mostly concerned with the social and economic repercussions of tropical diseases, but it would have been valuable to have had contributions from medical men assessing medical factors which have operated in the past and may well have a role to play today and in the future. In particular, Dr. Cecil Hackett's studies are of relevance here, and an extension of them would have made an important theme.

HENRY CORNELIUS AGRIPPA, *His fourth book of occult philosophy*, facsimile of 1655 edition, with introduction by Stephen Skinner, London, Askin Publishers, 1978, 8vo, pp. xvi, 217 [facsimile], illus., limited leatherbound edition, [no price stated].

Agrippa (1486-1535) was a typical Renaissance figure: physician, scholar, writer, and soldier. His book, here reproduced in facsimile, appeared first in 1655 in English, and is concerned with various aspects of practical magic and divination. It comprises six treatises, but only the first two are certainly by him. The remaining four were probably written by Peter de Abano (1250-1317), Georg Pictorius Villinganus (c. 1500-1569), Gerard Cremonensis (1114-1187), and an anonymous writer.

There is an excellent introduction and the volume is elegantly produced. It will be of value to scholars and students who are unable to consult the original, and it is to be hoped that the response to it will encourage the publishers to reprint further titles.

GEORGE M. FOSTER and BARBARA GALLATIN ANDERSON, *Medical anthropology*, Chichester, John Wiley, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 354, £9.75.

The authors present a general survey of medical anthropology as they view it,