

# Book Notices

---

KURT MAUDEL (editor), *Wege zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte II*, Wiesbaden, Steiner Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 139, illus., DM 28.00 (paperback).

Readers of this journal will be particularly intrigued by this fascinating book, which presents the autobiographical reflections of seven distinguished historians of medicine, science and technology, A. G. Drachmann, W. Kock, V. Møller-Christensen, W. Pagel, K. E. Rothschuh, W. Schneider, and W. Treue. They illustrate the varying ways in which, in the virtual absence of any organized professional structures and institutions specifically devoted to the subject, individuals inspired by a parent, a professor, or just natural curiosity, became historians of science and established departments and museums. The authors' own comments often help us to understand the general intellectual tendencies in their, often abundant, writings, and there are many pleasant anecdotes – and also advice to the young. Drachmann consoled himself for not becoming a chief librarian with the thought that the advantage of remaining an under-librarian was that one had ample time to devote to other things, including scholarship. These essays are warmly recommended to any reader of German.

A. C. ARNTZENIUS, A. J. DUNNING, and H. A. SNELLEN (editors), *Blood pressure measurement and systemic hypertension*, Breda, Holland, Medical World Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. 340, [no price stated].

These are the papers from the second Einthoven meeting on past and present cardiology. The first one, on cardiac catheterization, contained a number of interesting historical recollections. The two historical papers in this volume are culled straight from the secondary literature, and the remaining papers are devoted to modern concepts of hypertension. This is a pity. The Einthoven meeting seems to be the perfect arena for bringing together cardiologists with experience of the 1920s and '30s, who could be encouraged to record their early working lives.

LEON EDEL, *Stuff of sleep and dreams. Experiments in literary psychology*, London, Chatto & Windus, 1982, 8vo, pp. xii, 352, £15.00.

Professor Edel here reprints some of his major essays in the field of literary psychology, which he defines as “the adaptation of psychology and psychoanalytical concepts to the study of mankind's ability to create and use myths and symbols”. These explorations of Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Emerson, Auden, and particularly the James family focus upon the capacity of the author to crystallize, explore, and resolve personal, psychological dilemmas through the act of writing. Edel feels more comfortable with those authors for whom art was successful therapy (e.g., Henry James) than with those, like Joyce, for whom it was neither sublimation nor resolution, but the very demon itself.

J. JANCAR, *Research at Stoke Park. Mental handicap (1930–1980)*, Bristol, Stoke Park Hospital, 1981, 8vo, pp. 70, illus., (paperback). (Copies obtainable free of charge from Stoke Park Hospital, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1QU.)

Stoke Park Hospital, near Bristol, was founded early in this century through the philanthropy of a clergyman, H. N. Burden. Now part of the National Health Service, it has always been concerned with research into the causes of, and the care of those afflicted with, mental handicap. This booklet summarizes some of the achievements of the Stoke Park staff between 1930 and 1980, particularly in the understanding of the genetics and biochemistry of mental retardation. The author has been on the hospital's staff for many years.

JOHN SOMMERVILLE, *The rise and fall of childhood*, London, Sage Publications (Sage Library of Social Research), 1982, 8vo, pp. 254, £17.25 (£7.25 paperback).

There is much to admire in John Sommerville's synoptic survey, not least the energy with which he sweeps in 250 pages from Classical Antiquity to the present, synthesizing modern research and taking in such topics as education, the family, infant mortality, and child psy-

## Book Notices

chology. Perhaps in result, however, the parts are better than the whole, for ultimately the status of the history of childhood is left unclear – is it social history or conceptual history? reality or the story of literary representations of children? This ambiguity is reflected in the title's cycle of fortune. Childhood allegedly peaked in the Victorian myth of infant innocence and was demystified by Darwin and by Freud. Yet Sommerville's own strident value judgements undercut this view, for he shows scathing contempt for Rousseau's primitivism and its successors. Altogether, however, it is an enterprising and stimulating volume.

I. L. C. FERGUSSON, R. W. TAYLOR, and J. M. WATSON (compilers), *Records and curiosities in obstetrics and gynaecology*, London, Baillière Tindall, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 115, £7.50.

This is a book for those who want to know such interesting trivia as the oldest mother, longest (or shortest) pregnancy, the heaviest (or lightest) surviving baby on record. These reproductive and gynaecological feats have been gathered from a variety of sources from antiquity to personal communications from contemporary practitioners. The compilers usually indicate how much stock they place in their authorities, who are always identified. Fittingly, their first reference is to the *Guinness book of records*. These memorabilia remind us how much the female of the species has endured: Rebecca Town, for instance, who died in 1851, aged forty-four years, having borne thirty children, of whom only one survived to the age of three.

### 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.)

Adler Museum of the History of Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, *Bulletin*, vol. 8, no. 2, November 1982, pp. 34, illus.

G. H. TEN CATE-WITTE and C. TWIGT-VAN DER GOOT, *Proeve van een bibliografie van des geschiedenis der verpleegkunde in het bijzonder in Nederland*, Amsterdam, Rodopi, 1983, 8vo, pp. 60, Dfl. 20.00.

RICHARD S. J. CLARKE, *The compleat anaesthetist*, [lecture], The Library, Queen's University of Belfast, 1981, 8vo, pp. 16, illus., 40p + postage.

WILLIAM W. FOX, *Arthritis: is your suffering really necessary?*, London, Sheldon Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 127, illus., £1.50 (paperback).

DOMINIQUE HOECHLI, *60 Jahre schizophren. Die Lebensgestalt R.G. als Spiegel einer Krankheit der Psychiater, der Psychiatrie*, Zurich, Juris Druck, 1982, 8vo, pp. 49, SFr. 11.00 (paperback).

MARTIN ISRAEL, *Living alone. The inward journey into fellowship*, London, SPCK, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 132, £3.95 (paperback).

KENNETH McALL, *Healing the family tree*, London, Sheldon Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. 106, £2.95 (paperback).

S. J. MARTIN, *A new pair of genes*, [lecture], The Library, Queen's University of Belfast, 1982, 8vo, pp. 26, 40p + postage.

'Medicine and History', *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, Series V, vol. IV, no. 2, June 1982, 8vo, pp. 87–169, illus., \$9.00 (paperback).

JESSIE VAN ONGEN-GARRAD, *Invisible barriers. Pastoral care with physically disabled people*, London, SPCK, 1983, 8vo, pp. xii, 156, £3.95 (paperback).