

Book Reviews

wet-nursing in England appears to be in the seventeenth century when the urban growth of London in particular presented mothers with similar problems regarding their infants. Evidence for bureaucratic intervention, however, is lacking in England.

The conclusion of the author that economic pressure was the predominant cause in the rise and decline of wet-nursing is convincing. The sheer intensity of the business supports the theory that mothers, often poorly fed, sold their milk and were often ruthlessly exploited by middlemen and some female *meneuses*. It is to be hoped that this excellent book will encourage further research into the field of conflict between maternal instincts and economic necessity.

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G. E. R. LLOYD, *Science, folklore and ideology: studies in the life sciences in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge University Press, 1983, pp. xi, 260, £25.00 (£8.95 paperback).

This work consists of twelve essays on the "life sciences" between the sixth century BC and the second century AD. They are arranged to form three separate studies: on zoological taxonomy, theories and treatment of women from the Hippocratic corpus until after Aristotle, and developments in three specific areas of medicine (pharmacology, anatomy, and gynaecology).

These three areas are in turn linked by a common theme, suggested in the title; that is, how ancient "science" and "folklore", although often self-consciously separated by their proponents, nevertheless shared an "ideology", a set of assumptions about such subjects as the central place of man in the universe, and the nature of woman as an incomplete form. Although "science" sometimes analysed these assumptions and rejected them from its discourse, it was often itself so embedded within the world-view which they supported that they remained unchallenged. This complex picture of reciprocal influence and support replaces that of a few superstitious "survivals" within an otherwise pure "science".

In an excellent introduction, which deserves a wider audience, Lloyd proposes *using*, rather than merely bemoaning, the "loaded" nature of the ancient sources. This recalls the maxim of Adorno, "The splinter in your eye is the best magnifying-glass" (*Minima Moralia*). The section on women illustrates this. All Hippocratic texts were written by men but, rather than wishing women's views survived, we can use the texts to see how the ideology of women as inferiors interacted with the male writers' experience of women as patients. Lloyd also traces those theories of woman's role in reproduction which ran contrary to this dominant ideology.

Throughout the book an impressively wide range of the humanities is drawn upon both to furnish a conceptual framework and to make comparisons. Thus in the third section, on the relationship of Theophrastus, Pliny, Soranus, and Rufus to popular beliefs and to earlier written sources, Lloyd makes effective use of recent work in anthropology and history on the importance of literacy in the transmission of knowledge. There is also a commendable reluctance to apply modern categories to ancient thought, including an acknowledgement that the category of the "life sciences" was itself not familiar to the Greeks.

Lloyd's latest book is therefore a model of eclectic methodology, giving a fascinating picture of ancient views of animals, man, and medicine at the interface of popular belief and philosophy, of folklore and science, of ideology and criticism.

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J. BÜTTNER (editor), *History of clinical chemistry*, Berlin and New York, Walter de Gruyter, 1983, 4to, pp. 91, illus., DM. 98.00.

Writing in 1851, Henry Bence Jones looked back to the experiments of A. L. Lavoisier on pneumatic chemistry some seventy years previously as symbolizing a first *rapprochement* between physiology and chemistry proper. According to Bence Jones, doctors needed to understand the workings of the body in chemical terms. Such knowledge was legitimately the province of medicine – "it ought", he wrote, "to be possessed by those who attempt to understand and regulate an apparatus that only works while oxygen is going into it and carbonic acid coming out of it."