

Book Notices

C. H. WADDINGTON, *The evolution of an evolutionist*, Edinburgh, University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xii, 328, illus., £6.00.

Professor Waddington's last book is made up mainly of selected articles already published, and the preface shows how each takes its place "... within the developing body of theory and experiment, which is the essential subject of the book. . . ." The end result is unity, which may be surprising when it is seen that the pieces have been written over a period of thirty years. The papers reveal how the author has viewed the theory of evolution, set against an autobiographical background. The latter derives from the first chapter which describes his earlier years which act as a guide to all his later work.

Waddington, by combining modern genetics with embryological tenets, was responsible for the important principle of "genetic assimilation", which he first thought of about 1942. By means of it phenotypic effects of the environment become incorporated into the genotype, so that the inheritance of acquired characteristics can be satisfactorily explained. He was also concerned with the logical analysis of the evolutionary theory and manifested an increasing interest in behaviour in evolution. His book is a fascinating record of a brilliant, articulate, and creative man, and it is a pity that his recent death prevents us from having similar products of his genius.

ARNO LÖFFLER, *Sir Thomas Browne als Virtuoso. Die Bedeutung der Gelehrsamkeit für sein literarisches Alterswerk*, Nürnberg, Hans Carl, 1972, (*Erlanger Beiträge zur Sprach- und Kunst-wissenschaft*, Band 43), 8vo, pp. x, 174, DM.27.

In the seventeenth century the virtuoso was a collector of opinions, arguments and facts from books, as well as of curios, rarities and other artefacts. Every object was worthy of his attention, and so it was with Browne. This book analyses his later writings, themselves akin to repositories, with this in mind, and it deals in detail with his multifarious collections and publications. It is a scholarly well-documented, work and forms an important contribution to the study of Sir Thomas Browne. New interpretations and ideas are plentiful and it is a most welcome addition to our knowledge of Browne, most British efforts to understand and analyse him having so far been superficial and usually unscholarly.

FRIEDRICH AUGUST BERNHARD STURM, *Albrecht Von Haller's Lehre über die Entstehung der Missbildungen*, Inaugural-Dissertation, Bonn, Universität Bonn, 1974, pp. 280, illus.

Much has been written about the renowned Swiss physician and scientist Haller (1708–1777), but so far his contribution to the origin of congenital malformations has not been investigated closely. This M.D. thesis makes good the deficiency by describing each anomaly in turn, with Haller's statements and those of others on examples of each of them, translated into German. It provides a useful catalogue of teratology for reference purposes, and there is also a remarkably complete bibliography of 838 items, as well as 336 detailed notes and references accompanying the text. An excellent source book.

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J. OVERBEEK, *History of population theories*, Rotterdam, Rotterdam University Press, 1974, 8vo, pp.xi, 232, DF1.49.50.

No one has previously attempted to review population theories from Plato to the present day, so the author provides an unique book. As he points out, the study of population is an interdisciplinary subject, the history of medicine being one of them. Being an economist, he is primarily concerned here with the economic factors that influence population, and with the effects its size, rate of change and composition have on a community's resources and economic prosperity. He deals at length with the arguments between those who do not fear population congestion and those who do. The economic stagnation theory originating in the 1930s is discussed, and the author also surveys present-day population theories.

The end result is a most useful treatise, and in view of the growing interest in historical demography it will be welcomed by those wishing to expand their knowledge of this topic. Each chapter has end-notes and there is also an excellent selected bibliography. The only criticism concerns the occasional typographical errors.

SEYMOUR PERLIN (editor), *A handbook for the study of suicide*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xii, 236, £5.75 (£3.45 paperback).

Suicidology is an increasingly important aspect of psychiatry and this book provides a background to the understanding of suicidal behaviour. It comprises eleven essays, representing the disciplines of history, literature, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, biology, epidemiology and psychiatry.

The history of suicide is surveyed by Professor George Rosen in an excellent essay which deals with both medical and social aspects. Mr. A. Alvarez discusses 'Literature in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries', and the role that suicide has played amongst writers, poets, novelists, and others. 'The morality and rationality of suicide' by Professor R. Brandt also contains historical material, but most of the remaining essays deal with the present-day problem, with little reference to the more distant past. Each contribution is well written and documented. Without doubt this book will be widely popular, and certainly the first three essays can be strongly recommended. It would be an important advance if other anthologies of this kind could include so many disciplines, but especially an historical introduction.

ROBERT JALBY, *Sorcellerie, médecine populaire et pratiques medico-magiques en Languedoc*, Nyons, Editions de l'Aygues, 1974, 8vo, pp. 181, Fr.50.

Languedoc is a region and former province in southern France bounded by the Pyrenees, the upper Garonne river, the Auvergne Mountains, the Rhone and the Mediterranean, with Toulouse its principal city. The peasants are as varied as the topography of the region, and their folklore and local traditions are as extensive as they are persistent. Making use of original documents, the author discusses the history of their medical aspects in two parts: witchcraft, and popular medicine together with medico-magic practices used as therapy. The book is full of interesting customs relating to disease in man and animals and provides a useful addition to our knowledge of witchcraft practices and of folk-medicine. The material is well documented and indexed.

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VERNON W. LIPPARD, *A half-century of American medical education: 1920–1970*, New York, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 1974, 8vo, [4 11.], pp. 134, \$7.50.

Dr. Lippard is a distinguished medical educator and dean emeritus of the Yale School of Medicine. He has spent most of the period under review in medical school administration, and no more experienced and enlightened person could have provided the survey presented here. It begins when Abraham Flexner's famous Report of 1910 was starting to have effect, for by 1920 the diploma mills were mostly closed, and American medical education and medicine were making a new surge forward. The author deals with the curriculum, medical students, academic medicine, veterans' hospitals, research, licensure, specialization, national organizations and foundations, and finally with new medical schools, a topic to which Dr. Lippard has already contributed importantly.

For an excellent, yet brief, account of recent American medical education, this book provides admirably.

JOHN ROMANO (editor), *To each his farthest star. University of Rochester Medical Center. 1925–1975*, Rochester, N.Y., University of Rochester Medical Center, 1975, 8vo, pp. xxiv, illus., paperback, [no charge].

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of this important institution thirty-one essays have been collected together. They concern the history of the Center and are divided into several sections; early history, medical students then and now, views from the University at large and from the community, etc. The central aim is to “. . . try to capture that which is original and that which is clearly representative of this University Medical School and Hospital”.

Although concerned primarily with domestic events, this book contributes usefully to the history of American medical education and of medical research in the last half-century. It will be of interest, and occasionally of practical value, to educators and researchers elsewhere to observe how this thriving Center has coped successfully with the many problems facing a new venture and its subsequent evolution.

MICHAEL T. GHISELIN, *The economy of nature and the evolution of sex*, Berkeley, Los Angeles and London, University of California Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xii, 346, illus., £8.40.

The author is extending from an earlier work, *The triumph of the Darwinian method* (1969), and seeks to analyse a number of theoretical topics mostly to do with the evolutionary interpretation of sex and other phenomena of reproduction. They range from fundamental issues such as the reasons for sex and for hermaphroditism to the purposes of society and the biological utility of poetry, art and religion. They are concerned principally with the differences between the sexes and the approach adopted is opposed to vitalism and teleology, which the author prefers to replace with a methodology founded on Darwinism. In so doing he rejects the usually accepted role of Mendelian genetics, which will seem strange to most historians of biology.

Nevertheless Professor Ghiselin's book is a useful contribution to their field and can be recommended, especially for the sections on hermaphroditism and the meaning of sex. Throughout, the text is fully documented and there is a most valuable bibliography of 169 pages.

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ALFRED BADER (editor), *Geisteskrankheit, bildnerischer Ausdruck und Kunst. Eine Sammlung von Texten zur Psychopathologie des Schöpferischen*, Berne, Stuttgart and Vienna, Hans Huber, 1975, 8vo, pp. 166, illus. [no price stated].

The editor has compiled an anthology of articles on the art of the insane and the psychopathology of the artist, ranging in time from 1907 to 1974. He includes many fascinating topics on this double theme and includes a bibliography of literature cited, which contains only a very few that refer to material anterior to 1900.

GERHARD HENNEMANN, *Grundzüge einer Geschichte der Naturphilosophie und ihrer Hauptprobleme*, Berlin, Dunker & Humblot, 1975 (*Erfahrung und Denken*, Band 44), 8vo, pp. 208, DM.49.80.

There are two sections in this monograph on physics or natural philosophy. The first is the historical part dealing with the subject from the pre-Socratics to the present century, with particular notice given to the nineteenth century. The author emphasizes that the great physicists have sought to base their science on philosophy, each attempting to clarify its theoretical aspect. He also discusses the many links that physics has had with society and culture, especially since the seventeenth century.

The second part deals with the philosophy of physics as represented by the ontological background of modern atomic physics, positivism in physics, causality in physics, and space, time and matter; finally philosophical biology is mentioned very briefly.

Although most of this book is concerned with the physical sciences there are parts which are of relevance to the historian of biology or of medicine, especially those dealing with men like von Humboldt, Fechner, Lotze and Wundt.

GÉRAUD DE CORDEMOY, *A philosophical discourse concerning speech (1668) and A discourse written to a learned friar (1670)*, facsimile reproductions with an introduction by Barbara Ross, Delmar, N.Y., Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1972, 8vo, pp. xix, 210 [no price stated].

WILLIAM SHARPE, *A dissertation upon genius (1755)*, a facsimile reproduction with an introduction by William Bruce Johnson, Delmar, N.Y., Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1973, 8vo, pp. xvi, [iv], 140, [no price stated].

These three reprints are part of a History of Psychology Series which reproduces historically interesting works that have "... helped to prepare the way for the science of psychology. Most of the books are long forgotten, but their relevance to the field of psychology is unmistakable . . ." Each has a brief, scholarly introduction and the reproduction of the original text is of high quality. The first two are concerned with Cartesian dualism and are in support of Descartes' physics with some modifications, clarification, and the inclusion of an atomistic development of his theory of matter. Today the mind-body problem, which was prominent in these considerations, is still an enigma.

Sharpe is manifesting the new interest of eighteenth-century England in the psychological make-up of the creative personality, and the book containing his essay can, like the previous volume, be highly recommended as a scholarly contribution to the history of psychology. Each is all that a good reprint should be.

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[F. R. COWELL], *The Athenaeum. Club and social life in London 1824–1974*, London, Heinemann, 1975, 4to, pp. ix, 177, illus., £12.00

From the beginning, the Athenaeum has been associated with the medical and scientific professions, for it was instituted to encourage “. . . the association of individuals known for their scientific or literary attainment . . .” This “house biography”, which serves as a commemorative volume, is an extension of Humphrey Ward’s standard club history of 1926. Whereas the latter was concerned more with an account of notable club members, the present volume deals with general issues and recent events, such as ‘Ladies and The Athenaeum’, an undreamed-of topic fifty years ago, and ‘Winds of change in Clubland’. The chapter on the Library is of especial interest in view of the size and quality of the collection of books: it has 75,000 volumes and is thus the largest club library in the world. ‘The spirit of place’ defines what the Athenaeum stands for and its distinctive *aura* which also makes the club unique. On the other hand, the chapter on its food leads to a less laudatory conclusion.

This book is well written but there is no documentation of the text. Nevertheless it is an important social document *per se*, which contributes to the background of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century doctor and scientist.

DONALD RUMBELOW, *The complete Jack the Ripper*, London, W. H. Allen, 1975, 8vo, pp. 286, illus., £4.95.

Jack the Ripper and the five hideous murders and mutilations he carried out in London’s Whitechapel during the autumn of 1888 must constitute the best known criminal case in the history of British law and legal medicine. The gruesome features have always captivated the public imagination, and the mystery surrounding the unknown murderer, now almost a folk-hero, has activated many authors; it has even been the subject of a musical comedy produced in London recently. The literature on the subject is therefore very large, but this book is unique. It is by far the best so far, it is the best illustrated, and it is written by a serving London policeman who has had access to new materials.

However, nothing new emerges concerning the Ripper, except that Colin Wilson in his ‘Introduction’ suggests Frank Miles, the homosexual artist and friend of Oscar Wilde. But, in addition to handling the available evidence skilfully, and considering carefully the possible perpetrators, Mr. Rumbelow provides an excellent account of London and its social problems in the 1880s. His book is therefore an important contribution to the history of social, as well as forensic, medicine and to the history of homicide psychology. It can be read with profit by all who are studying these aspects of nineteenth-century medicine.

M. J. ALLISON and GERSZTEN E., *Paleopathology in Peruvian mummies. Application of modern techniques*, Richmond, Va., Virginia Commonwealth University, [n.d.] 8vo, pp. 66, paperback [no price stated].

A brief, but valuable, practical manual which gives information on dating, ageing and sexing, and on the techniques of radiology, histology (light and E.M.) and serology. Most of the pamphlet deals with the last two, and paleo-pathologists will be glad to have details of the methods the authors have explored and found useful.

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IRENE B. TAEUBER, *General censuses and vital statistics in the Americas*, Detroit, Blaine Ethridge, 1974, 8vo, pp. viii, 151, [no price stated].

This is an unadorned reprint of a book originally published in 1943, the contents of which are best described by its subtitle: 'An annotated bibliography of the historical censuses and current vital statistics of the 21 American republics, [Argentina to Venezuela], the American sections of the British Commonwealth of Nations [Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador, Colonies in the Caribbean], the American colonies of Denmark [Greenland], France [French Guiana, etc.], and the Netherlands [Curaçao and Surinam], and the American territories and possessions of the United States [Alaska, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands].' Each area is considered under three headings: 'Historical'; 'National population censuses'; 'Current national vital statistics'.

Although this information is now over thirty years old and the source locations of the material referred to are all American, mainly Library of Congress, this book is still a valuable reference tool for data concerning the population censuses and vital statistics of the Americas.

THEODORE K. RABB and ROBERT I. ROTBERG (editors), *The family in history. Interdisciplinary essays*, New York etc., Harper Torchbooks, 1973, 8vo, pp. xii, 240, \$3.95 (paperback).

The papers reprinted here have all appeared before, in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*: only three have been amended. Admittedly the topic dealt with has received inadequate attention in the past, but the reappearance of these papers, all but two of which were published in a special number of the *Journal* in 1971, seems difficult to justify.

NATHAN G. GOODMAN (editor), *The ingenious Dr. Franklin. Selected scientific letters of Benjamin Franklin*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xi, 244, illus., \$3.95 (paperback).

Franklin's scientific and technological ingenuity and curiosity were exceeded only by his inventory versatility, and collected here are fifty-seven letters, illustrating his 'Practical schemes and suggestions' (18), 'Divers experiments and observations' (20), and 'Scientific deductions and conjectures' (19). We all recall his contribution to the new science of electricity, to spectacles and the stove named after him, but he also wrote about gout, lead poisoning, dreams, flying, meteorology, smallpox and cancer, and prehistoric animals. This anthology was first published in 1921 and its reappearance is welcome, especially in this commemorative year of 1976 which celebrates the bicentennial of the American nation, of which one of the architects was Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790).

PHILIPPE ARIÈS, *Essais sur l'histoire de la mort en Occident du moyen âge à nos jours*, Paris, Seuil, 1975, 8vo, pp. 225, [no price stated].

Ariès' book, *Western attitudes toward death*, was noticed in this journal (1975, 19: 317) and the first part of the present volume contains the French version (pp. 15–75).

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The rest of it is a heterogeneous collection of essays on death produced between 1966 and 1975. But, whereas the first part was intended for an American audience, having been presented as lectures at the Johns Hopkins University, these were addressed to a variety of groups with inevitable repetition, especially the theme of medieval "tamed" or forewarned death. Nevertheless they allow the author to state general conclusions which could not be included in the American book. They all have relevance to the historian of medicine, and several will make profitable reading for those who in the medical and para-medical professions are concerned each day with life and death.

ANDRÉ ARMENGAUD, *Les français et Malthus*, Paris, Presses Universitaires de France, 1975, 8vo, pp. 142, paperback, [no price stated].

The author has grouped together brief extracts selected from a wide range of general and specialized literature to illustrate many demographic themes and aspects of Malthusian doctrine. They range in time from the first half of the nineteenth century to the 1970s, but most have appeared during the present century. The editor introduces them with an essay on Malthus and the constraints of the "pill", and in his selections he illustrates the influence of Malthus on France and the controversies he has produced. The limitation of the French population has come about by means other than those he commanded, but the problem he posed is much the same today, as illustrated by the recent debate concerning contraception and abortion.

In a small space this excellent little book gives a great deal of information on French demography and the ever-present influence of Malthus.

JOHN BORRIE, *Art and observables in the Otago Medical School*, Dunedin, University of Otago Medical School, 1975, 8vo, pp. 32, illus.

GORDON PARRY, *Otago Medical School, 1875–1975. An historical sketch*, Dunedin, University of Otago Medical School, 1975, 4to, pp. 39, illus.

D. W. TAYLOR, *The Monro Collection in the Medical School Library of the University of Otago*, Dunedin, University of Otago Medical School, 1975, 8vo, pp. 11, illus.

Each of these attractive monographs has been published in a very limited edition as part of the School's centennial celebrations. They show how this vigorous school, young by European standards, has already established its reputation in the fields of medical education, clinical practice and medical research. May its second century be as successful as its first!

Professor Taylor's booklet is of special interest to medical historians, and his forthcoming catalogue of the Monro Collection will be most valuable.

The first ten years of Book of the Month articles from the Women's Hospital Melbourne 1962–1972. Eighty essays, Melbourne, 1975, fo, pp. 229, paperback [no price stated].

Each month a book or journal article of interest from the Hospital's Library was described and discussed briefly, some being recent publications and others from earlier periods. These essays have now been grouped together to provide a fascinating collection of miscellaneous information, much of it historical and mostly obstetrical and gynaecological. The idea is an excellent one and could well be adopted elsewhere.

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WILLIAM FARR, *Vital statistics; a memorial volume of selections from the reports and writings of William Farr*, with an introduction by Mervyn Susser and Abraham Adelstein, Metuchen, N. J., The Scarecrow Press, 1975 (The History of Medicine Series issued under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, No. 46), 8vo, pp. xiv, xxiv, 563, illus., \$20.00.

In 1885 a memorial volume, now reprinted in facsimile here, was published to commemorate the contributions of William Farr (1807–1883) to epidemiology, which he had founded as a medical science. There is a good introduction dealing with the extent, significance and influence of his work, and there is a 'Biographical sketch' of him at the beginning of the reprinted work. The latter contains papers on population, marriages, births, deaths, life tables and a group of miscellaneous topics also dealing with vital statistics.

It is of the greatest value to have a first-rate reprint of this pioneer's work, and it will be of interest to all those concerned with the history of public health, epidemiology and vital statistics. In addition, however, workers dealing with present-day problems in these subjects will be rewarded by examining the results of Farr's remarkable and extensive research, for they are still worth consulting.

At a time when economic factors are limiting the publication of scholarly works, it is good to know that this excellent series emanating from the renowned New York Academy of Medicine continues to be viable.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

BRIAN ABEL-SMITH, *Value for money in health services. A comparative study*, London, Heinemann, 1976, pp. vii, 230, £5.50 (£2.25 paperback).

Anales de la Sociedad Mexicana de Historia de la Ciencia y de la Tecnologia, no. 4, special number dedicated to Dr. José Joaquín Izquierdo (1893–1974), 1974, pp. vii, 348, illus., \$8.00.

F. BUJOSA I. HOMAR, *La Academia Médico Práctica de Mallorca (1788–1800). Catálogo de sus disertaciones, censuras y documentos*, Valencia, Cátedra e Instituto de Historia de la Medicina, 1975, pp. 163, [no price stated].

LUCIEN MALSON, *Wolf children*, and **JEAN ITARD**, *The wild boy of Aveyron*, London, New Left Books, 1972, pp. 179; paperback edition 1976, £2.00. [Reviewed in *Medical History*, 1975, 19: 407.]

HANS-JOACHIM ROMSWINKEL, 'De sanguine humano destillato.' *Medizinisch-alchemistische Texte des 14. Jahrhunderts über destilliertes Menschenblut*, inaugural dissertation, University of Bonn, 1974 [no pagination].