

### Book Reviews

the discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Buddhist and Hindhu philosophy testify also that such manifestations are, in every age and culture, the by-products of spiritual maturity. They cannot be curtly diagnosed and dismissed as archaism. If the author is implying that it is undesirable that we should be preoccupied with visionary experience at the expense of our total development, then certainly we must agree with her, but one must refute altogether any idea that the phenomenon itself is basically pathological.

Dr. MacDermot could well have given more space to the contrast between the visionary experience of her Middle Eastern seers and those of our contemporary layabouts, but we should not ask too much of one who has put us so much in her debt by opening a window on aspects of culture previously inaccessible to us. I cannot see any early prospect of her being overtaken in the field she has explored with such diligence and competence.

ARTHUR GUIRDHAM

*Purkyněs Weg. Wissenschaft, Bildung und Nation*, by ERNA LESKY. (Veröffentlichungen der Kommission für Geschichte der Erziehung und des Unterrichts. Heft 12) Vienna, Cologne, Graz, H. Böhlau, 1970, pp. 68, illus., OS.76.

One aspect of Jan Evangelista Purkyně [1787–1869], the great physiologist, is shown in this monograph in detail: his political views and their influence on his academic career. A Czech in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time of romantic nationalism on the part of the minorities, and repression and reaction on the part of Metternich and his Government, Purkyně was not a *persona grata* at either Prague or any Austrian university. He had to spend the greater part of his life teaching at Breslau University where, paradoxically, he had to use the German language against the use of which he had agitated in Bohemia. While expecting justice for the claims of his Czech co-nationalists, he also believed in the universal brotherhood proclaimed by the Freemasons and was disliked by the Prague and Austrian University authorities for this affiliation. Only at the age of sixty-two, Purkyně was made Professor of Physiology at the Medical Faculty of Prague University, through the intervention of Leo Count Thun-Hohenstein who was, in spite of his name, a Czech nobleman. In an appendix, Professor Lesky is making all the material on this appointment, extracted from the Archives of the Ministry of Education in Vienna, available to the public for the first time. The result of this late appointment was a certain intolerance of competition in his field on the part of the septuagenarian Purkyně, who was overburdened, without allowing J. N. Czermak to become Extraordinary Professor at Prague. Until his death at eight-two Purkyně continued to give physiology lectures, finally most of them in Czech; the fulfilment of his aspirations. In a final chapter, Professor Lesky attributes the sentiments expressed in Purkyně's utopia on tolerance between nations, 'The Policy of Love', to the influence of his early teacher, Bernard Bolzano.

MARIANNE WINDER

*The New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association 1870–1970*, by DAVID L. COWEN, Trenton, N.J., The New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, 1970, pp. xii, 240, illus., \$7.00.

The New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, celebrating its centenary in 1970, could have chosen no one more fitted than Professor David L. Cowen to write its

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history. Cowen has already identified himself with New Jersey's medical interests in many publications, notably his *Medicine and Health in New Jersey: A History* (Vol. 16 of the New Jersey Historical Series, 1964) and the present volume is only one more manifestation of his wide-ranging interests in pharmaceutical history.

Out of an ill-assorted group of pharmacy practitioners, whose varying degrees of competence stimulated New Jersey medical men in 1869 to form a 'Committee on Dispensers of Medicine', came a determination by Newark (N.J.) pharmacists to organize themselves for the advancement of their profession. This they did first by forming a State Pharmaceutical Association, next by seeking legislation that would protect the public until the Association's own rules should guarantee safety in medicines. How successful were the founding members in attaining their objectives proves a fascinating story. The pharmacists' professional relationships with doctors, and with the public, increased their confidence in themselves and within seven years of their formation they secured legislation to form a New Jersey Board of Pharmacy. In subsequent nation-wide movements for the betterment of pharmacy this Association was always to the fore.

Inevitably it was individuals who carried the major burden, notably the presidents and secretaries. The author particularly summarizes two leaders in New Jersey pharmacy—G. M. Beringer, Sr., a Remington medallist, known as 'The Glycerin Man' for his new processes relating to glycerates, and F. B. Kilner, writer on scientific topics, who became a Director of the Scientific Laboratories of Johnson & Johnson in 1889.

The scope and direction of the Association increased: its members made important contributions to the revising of the U.S. Pharmacopoeia and, as the author shows, added weight to all legislative proposals for the good of pharmacy and for the greater protection of the public. They made no mean advance when they set up the New Jersey College of Pharmacy and a 'University of the State of New Jersey', later to become known as 'The College of Jersey City'.

The author's compilation of a Biographical Register of members of the Association throughout the whole century of its activities is a task few would undertake. Fortunately the records are reasonably complete but the byeways have had to be well searched. Illustrations of the leaders of the Association and vignettes of personalities and of the practice of pharmacy over the period add point and purpose to this narrative. In a Foreword, Glenn Sonnedecker, Director of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, Wisconsin, rightly notes: 'The author tells us much that we did not know about the evolution of pharmacy in one of our oldest States'. In the opinion of the reviewer this history will serve as a model for any other State Pharmaceutical Association intending to have its history written and it will indeed be fortunate if it can find another Professor Cowen to undertake it with the success and scholarship that the author has brought to the present volume.

LESLIE G. MATTHEWS

*The Changing Scene in General Practice*, by LAURENCE DOPSON, London, Johnson Publications, 1971, pp. 248, £2.50.

The general practitioner has had much with which to contend during the last twenty years. State medicine came and brought with it all the difficulties that changes in customs which had existed for centuries were bound to create. At the same time the