

Book Notices

The daughter of a physician and niece of a professor of pathology, Fraser was educated at a "Young Ladies' School" until she went to the local, preponderantly male, Grammar School. At the age of sixteen she enrolled at Queen Mary College, Glasgow University, to attend Junior classes to prepare herself for matriculation. Due to her father's preference for Arts, she initially became a student at this faculty, but later changed to the faculty of Science, from which she received a BSc in 1900. Now Fraser entered medical school, graduating three years later. She gained some hospital experience before she went on to pursue postgraduate studies, spending time in Vienna and Paris. Her MD thesis on 'Mental deficiency of feeble-minded children' was passed in 1913. The year of the outbreak of the war, Fraser became a deputy commissioner of the Board of Control for Scotland, which had succeeded the Board of Commissioners in Lunacy. In 1935 she became the first woman to be appointed senior commissioner.

Sholem Glaser, *The spirit of enquiry: Caleb Hillier Parry, MD, FRS*, Far Thrupp, Alan Sutton, 1995, pp. xii, 177, illus., £14.99 (0-7509-0998-6).

Caleb Hillier Parry was born in Cirencester in 1755. He qualified as an MD in Edinburgh in 1778. After marriage and a continental tour he settled into lucrative medical practice at Bath. He bought a farm in the neighbourhood where he bred sheep and established a reputation as a scientific agriculturist. Not surprisingly he was a correspondent of Sir Joseph Banks. Parry's medical fame rests on his pathological and clinical observations, notably on angina pectoris. Sholem Glaser has produced a small but useful biography of Parry by fleshing out earlier accounts of Parry's life with portraits of Bath, details of letters to and from Edward Jenner, elaborations of Parry's publications in *The Farmers Journal and Agricultural Advertiser* and so on. The book is carefully footnoted and sticks fairly close to the subject. It does not stray into modern

medical historiography but is none the worse for that. There is a wonderful book to be written by someone about the community of eighteenth-century West Country physicians, indeed Bath alone would make a fine study. Parry was surrounded by William Falconer, Anthony Fothergill and John Haygarth to name but three. Glaser's volume will be of much assistance to whoever seeks to accomplish such a task.

John H Cule and John M Lancaster (eds), *Russia and Wales: essays on the history of state involvements in health care*, Cardiff, History of Medicine Society of Wales, 1994, pp. x, 139, £10.00 (p&p UK £1.00; abroad £2.00) (09523481-0-1). Orders to The Librarian, University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff CF4 4XN, Wales.

Four of these seven papers, the product of a meeting in Cardiff in 1991, cover, in varying detail, the history of state involvement in medicine from Ivan the Terrible to Yeltsin. Those unfamiliar with the topic may find here a useful introduction, especially to Russian Health problems in the Gorbachev era. The Welsh contributions are more diverse; an elegant summary of Aneurin Bevan's role in the establishment of the NHS; an article on the medieval Court mediciner, reprinted unchanged from the *Journal of the History of Medicine*, 1966; and sidelights on the precautions taken against cholera coming from the Baltic in the late-nineteenth century. Outside Swansea, Cardiff, and Newport, only the minimum was done. For example, Carmarthen's "infectious disease hospital" was part of the old gaol in the middle of the town.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title 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.)

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Frank Dikötter, *Sex, culture and modernity in China: medical science and the construction of sexual identities in the early republican period*, London, Hurst & Co., 1995, pp. ix, 233, illus., £19.50 (1-85065-166-3).

Enid Goldberg, *The history of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, 1939-1991*, Pittsburgh, 1996, pp. vi, 222, illus.

Mary Percy Jackson, *Suitable for the wilds: letters from northern Alberta, 1929-1931*, ed. Janice Dickin McGinnis, Toronto and London, University of Toronto Press, 1995, pp. 264, illus., UK £35.00, Europe \$62.00, USA \$55.00 (hardback 0-8020-0582-9), UK £12.50, Europe \$21.00, USA \$18.95 (paperback 0-8020-7187-2).

José M López Piñero and Jorge Navarro Pérez, *Los estudios sobre la salud pública en la ciudad de Valencia 1880-1900: Constantino Gómez Reig*, Valencia,

Ayuntamiento, 1994, pp. 235, illus., no price given (84-88639-32-5).

Peter M Marcuse, *Disease: in search of remedy*, Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press, 1996, pp. x, 156, \$21.95 (0-252-02215-7).

Robert N Proctor, *Cancer wars: how politics shapes what we know and don't know about cancer*, New York, BasicBooks, 1994, pp. ix, 356, \$25.00 (0-465-02756-3).

Guy A Setticone (ed.), *Columbus and the new world: medical implications*, Providence, RI, OceanSide Publications, 1995, pp. xxi, 125, illus., inside USA \$49.50, outside USA \$79.50 (hardback 0-936587-07-5); paperback inside USA \$29.50, outside USA \$49.50.

William W Stein, *A Peruvian psychiatric hospital*, Lanham and London, University Press of America, 1995, pp. xii, 300 (0-7618-0093-X).