

Book Reviews

In turn, pre-eminence passed from Padua to Leyden in the seventeenth century and then on to Edinburgh in the early eighteenth century. The intellectual current from Holland to Britain did not, however, flow in only one direction. Some of the principal influences on Boerhaave were British: Robert Boyle and Isaac Newton in physical science, Francis Bacon in general philosophy, John Ray in Botany, his Scottish teacher Archibald Pitcairne as well as Thomas Willis, William Harvey and of course Thomas Sydenham in medicine.

Continental precursors of Boerhaave receive more attention in the book. For example, Lester King compares in fascinating detail Boerhaave's *Institutiones medicae* with that of Lazarus Riverius and with the *Fundamentae medicinae* of Friedrich Hoffmann.

The book is handsomely produced. Its English texts are excellent and contain only a handful of minor spelling mistakes. However, it is still not possible to choose the 'correct' spelling for the place where Boerhaave lived and worked: the publishers and most of the contributors in English or German use the local form 'Leiden', the Italian scholar Dr. Belloni writing in French uses 'Leyde', but the editor himself and one other contributor use the familiar 'Leyden'.

In no other respect does the book fail to satisfy the inquisitive reader, and it forms a most worthy companion to Dr. Lindeboom's splendid biography of Boerhaave.

SYDNEY SELWYN

Herman Boerhaave (1668–1738): His Life, Thought and Influence upon Japanese Medicine in the Period of Dutch Learning, by GORO ACHIWA, Tokyo, Ogata Bookstore, 1969, pp. 206, illus., no price stated.

The history of medicine is studied with enthusiasm in Japan and Dr. Achiwa is one of its ablest exponents. He has travelled widely in Europe and America in pursuit of his researches and now gives us a valuable monograph on the crucial influence of Herman Boerhaave in the development of Japanese medicine.

The only communication between Japan and the world at large between the years 1639 and 1868 was with Holland, through the port of Nagasaki. European medicine first reached Japan through books printed in Holland and the books of Boerhaave first arrived in Japan around the year 1800. Before 1850 more than thirty European medical works, Boerhaave's and van Swieten's among them, were translated into Japanese and helped to frame the Japanese modes of scientific thought in a western mould. As one of Europe's leading clinicians and medical teachers Boerhaave is seen as paramount by Dr. Achiwa at that crucial period.

The book is in Japanese, with a brief English summary and a foreword in English by that authority on Boerhaave, Professor Lindeboom. It is well produced in hardback, with index, portraits and other illustrations.

F. N. L. POYNTER

The Discovery of the Unconscious. The History and Evolution of Dynamic Psychiatry, by HENRY F. ELLENBERGER, London, Allen Lane (The Penguin Press), 1970, pp. xiv, 932, £6.50.

This really magnificent book must become one of the classics of medical, let alone of psychiatric, history. From Zilboorg onwards an unfortunate bias has marred