

Book Notices

Jerome J Platt, *Cocaine addiction: theory, research, and treatment*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1997, pp. xiv, 458, £33.50 (0-674-13632-2).

Historians still know far too little about the history of narcotics and their wider personal, clinical and social implications, and hence Jerome Platt's account is to be welcomed. At the beginning of his book he offers a capsule history of the transformation from the chewing of coca leaves in the traditional societies of South America (a largely harmless activity) to the mass manufacture of cocaine (initially legally, later illegally) in the United States in the last years of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth. At that time, the effect of criminalization was to create a black market and a criminal underworld involved in supplying the drug in ever stronger and hence more dangerous concentrations—rather as the consequences of President Nixon's "war on drugs" was to encourage the development of the exceedingly dangerous "crack".

In highly readable prose, yet with an abundance of scientific evidence, Platt discusses all dimensions of the psychosocial effects and implications of cocaine use. He shows cocaine is fairly high on the list of dependency-inducing drugs (though only half as much so as nicotine), while also admitting that the vast majority of the two-million or so American cocaine users show no signs of becoming addicted. Historians might one day look back in wry amusement at Professor Platt's conclusion. Having noted at some length that almost no treatments so far used for cocaine addiction have worked, he nevertheless maintains that the solution to the cocaine problem lies in developing better treatments, and calls for large sums of public money to be invested in funding research by doctors and psychiatrists like himself. It is difficult not to see this as the "jobs for the boys" approach which has characterized all solutions to the drug demons over the last century.

Alfred Adler, *Über den nervösen Charakter. Grundzüge einer vergleichenden Individualpsychologie und Psychotherapie*, eds Karl-Heinz Witte, Almuth Bruder-Bezzel, Rolf Kühn, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1997, pp. 514, DM 58.00 (3-525-45793-6).

With this volume Karl-Heinz Witte, Almuth Bruder-Bezzel and Rolf Kühn have produced a superb text-critical edition of Alfred Adler's most important work. *Über den nervösen Charakter* went through four editions (1912, 1919, 1922 and 1928). Karl-Heinz Witte has collated these: the main text follows the first, and all subsequent alterations and editions are noted in footnotes. A page concordance of the four editions as well as a comprehensive index are supplied. This arrangement makes it very easy to reconstruct the transformations of the text. An introduction sketches its historical context, and its role in the formation of individual psychology. In addition, there is a commentary of nearly a hundred pages compiled by Almuth Bruder-Bezzel, Rolf Kühn and Michael Hubenstorf. This consists of brief biographical and bibliographical entries for figures mentioned in the text, the supplying of sources not given by Adler, and the explanation of passing allusions.

This edition forms an unparalleled primary source for the history of individual psychology. At the same time, the commentary forms a useful resource for anyone concerned with the early twentieth-century histories of psychology, psychoanalysis and psychiatry.

Cornelia Regin, *Selbsthilfe und Gesundheitspolitik: Die Naturheilbewegung im Kaiserreich (1889 bis 1914)*, Medizin, Gesellschaft und Geschichte, Beiheft 4, Stuttgart, Franz Steiner, 1995, pp. 492, DM/SFr 128.00 (3-515-06432-X).

Selbsthilfe und Gesundheitspolitik is a comprehensive study of the nature therapy

movement during the German Empire. The book centres on the movement's most important association, the Deutscher Bund der Vereine für Gesundheitspflege und arzneilose Heilweise. The association was founded in 1889 and renamed Deutscher Bund der Vereine für naturgemäße Lebens- und Heilweise in 1900. Regin regards the emergence of the nature therapy movement during the late nineteenth century as a critical response to modern scientific medicine and the process of "medicalization", which was initiated during the late eighteenth century and came to fruition during the nineteenth century. She examines the social, cultural and medical context in which the movement developed. The foundation of the Deutscher Bund and its organizational structure is outlined, and the social composition of its leader- and membership is analysed. According to the author, the Deutscher Bund had members from virtually all social classes and was successful in attracting and uniting followers with differing ideological convictions by maintaining internally and externally a party political neutrality. Regin also gives detailed attention to the medical and cultural theories that informed the Deutscher Bund, as well as its campaigns, beliefs, and areas of activity. Furthermore, she explores the relationship between the medical profession and the nature therapy movement. She examines how the continuous expansion of the latter clashed with the attempts by physicians to professionalize and she charts how they attempted to curtail and discredit the movement as part of their campaign against quackery. The comprehensive volume ends with an examination of the attitudes and actions of governments and local authorities with regard to the nature therapy movement.

W F Bynum, Roy Porter (eds), *Companion encyclopedia of the history of medicine*, 2 vols, Routledge Companion Encyclopedia series, London and New York, Routledge, paperback 1997 (first published 1993), pp. 1848, £65.00 (paperback set 0-415-16418-4).

Reviewing the hardback edition of this work, John Harley Warner (*Medical History*, 1994, 38: 471–3) wrote: "Bynum and Porter have taken on an immensely difficult task and executed it brilliantly. No student of the history of medicine will be able to ignore this encyclopedia, which belongs on the shelves of every serious library. . . . Together, the editors and contributors have produced the best synthetic statement we have of the current state of medical history, and the field is greatly in their debt."

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.)

Alice Juch, *De medisch specialisten in de Nederlandse gezondheidszorg. Hun manifestatie en consolidatie, 1890–1941*, Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 1997, pp. 415, illus., Hfl. 69.50 (90-5235-121-X).

François Ledermann, Ingrid Müller-Landgraf, *Medizin und Pharmazie in Bern. Eine Zeitreise*, Bern, Stämpfli, 1997, pp. 88, illus., SFr 20.00 (3-7272-9402-7).

Claudia Pancino, *Voglie materne. Storia di una credenza*, Heuresis 9, Sezione di Scienze Storiche 2, Bologna, Cooperativa Libreria Universitaria Editrice Bologna, 1996, pp. 196, L. 25,000 (88-8091-371-9).

T V N Persaud, *A history of anatomy: the post-Vesalian era*, Springfield, IL, Charles C Thomas, 1997, pp. xiii, 357, illus., \$92.95 (hardback 0-398-06772-4), \$75.95 (paperback 0-398-06773-2).