

### *Book Notices*

it has a full bibliography of all the works, editions and translations of Walaeus, text variants, a synoptic time-table, a full list of references of the secondary literature and fine plates including iconographic *exemplaria* which have probably influenced Walaeus' illustrations. Alas, there is no index. Nor are the numerous and important footnotes where they would help the scholar without molesting the amateur, namely at the foot of the page, being as they are painfully and short-sightedly divorced from the text—minor blemishes, however, which, we hope, will soon be remedied in an English translation of a welcome and desirable work.

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*Teufel-austreibungen: die Praxis der katholischen Kirche im 16. u. 17. Jahrhundert*, by CÉCILE ERNST, Berne, Hans Huber, 1972, pp. 147, S.Fr.29/DM.26.

This extremely interesting book deals with the practice of exorcism for cases of diabolical possession during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Most of the documents used are French, because the French sources are more complete and richer in detail than those of other countries. The study falls into three parts, the first dealing with the social conditions of the times, the second giving vivid summaries of ten day-to-day reports, and the third assessing the evidence in terms of modern psychiatry.

The kind of people subject to diabolical possession appear to have been the lowlier members of society, farm-labourers, shepherds, maidservants or nuns whose background belonged to the simpler classes. In times of famine, pestilence and war they were the first to suffer and, having no state or ecclesiastical organization to care for them, they roamed the countryside as beggars and vagabonds, husbands becoming separated from their wives and children, and the children succumbing to want and disease. Uneducated and uncared for, they had no means of drawing attention to themselves except by unorthodox means and in a milieu dominated by religion, whether Catholic or Huguenot, the devil seemed as good a pretext as any for the explanation of their sufferings. This, added to their suggestibility, accounts for much of the diabolical possession of those days.

The accounts of actual cases are fascinating. The examinations of the possessed people, carried out not merely by ecclesiastics, but also by physicians and surgeons, are described in detail. It is surprising to learn that the exorcisms attracted thousands of people to the cathedrals where they were carried out and led to extraordinary scenes.

Of the many conclusions that the writer draws from an examination of the evidence two in particular are worth noting, in view of the fact that wide acceptance is given to the opinion that during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries most possessed people were treated as witches and burned, and that most witches, like the possessed, were mental cases. The author disputes both these theses and says that according to the evidence most possessed people are exorcised, not burned, and that most witches were not mentally sick, but were social outcasts who had got caught up in the mill of the Inquisition.

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*Mnésithée et Dieuchès*, by JANINE BERTIER, (Philosophia Antiqua: a series of monographs on ancient Philosophy, ed. W. J. Verdenius and J. H. Waszink, vol. xx) Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1972, pp. xi, 280, illus., Dfl.80.

Our knowledge of what developments took place in the medical field between the time of Hippocrates and Galen is restricted by the paucity of writings that have survived from that period. Our only means of filling this gap lies in collecting the fragments that are attributed to certain writers in the compilations of later authors. This has been done in a few cases, as for instance, Diocles of Carystos, Praxagoras of Cos and the Greek Empirics. The present volume attempts to do the same for Mnesitheos and Dieuches, two physicians mentioned together on an ex-voto from the Asclepion of Athens. No firm dates can be given for these two persons and there seems to be some controversy as to whether they flourished in the fourth century B.C., the date of the ex-voto, or whether they belong to the third century B.C. The first date would link them with Plato, the second with Aristotle.

The fifty-two fragments of Mnesitheos fall mainly into three groups, dietetics, therapeutics and child-hygiene, whilst the nineteen pieces from Dieuches deal with the preparation of food for the sick. The author compares the various fragments with the doctrine found in the Hippocratic Corpus, with Plato's *Laws* and Aristotle's *Politics* in order to discover what relationship, if any, can be found between these works. The conclusion arrived at is that Mnesitheos cannot be considered a disciple of Aristotle and that his treatise on child-upbringing, possibly the first systematic work on this subject, was a medical rejoinder to the philosophical ideas expressed by Plato in the *Laws*.

It cannot be said that the content of the fragments is of a high intellectual order or that they tend to raise our admiration for the medical ideas current in their day. In fact, on looking through the list of foods that are easy or difficult to digest one notes with some astonishment the mention of donkeys, mules, foxes, wolves, small dogs and tree mice.

The book is very well researched, the comparisons and criticisms are well argued, the Greek fragments are accompanied on the opposite page with translations, there are two indexes and, as one expects from Brill, the text is beautifully printed.

*Marceli Nencki 1847–1901*, by MARCEL H. BICKEL (*Berner Beiträge zur Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften*, Neue Folge, Band 5), Berne, H. Huber, 1972, pp. 102, Fr.Fr.18/DM.16.

Nencki was born in Poland and at the age of twenty-four was called to the University of Berne where he eventually was appointed professor of medical chemistry. Here he carried out the majority of his research but moved to St. Petersburg in 1891. Nencki's life was undramatic and unspectacular and many may have never even heard of him. Nevertheless his contributions to the embryonic field of biochemistry were of considerable importance. His researches involved many parts of the field but his most significant advances concerned the chemistry of urine, haemoglobin, bile pigments, amino acids, and of micro-organisms.

Dr. Bickel has written an excellent monograph, which deals briefly with Nencki's life and then considers in detail his work.

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*Soul murder: persecution in the family*, by MORTON SCHATZMAN, London, Allen Lane, 1973, pp. xiv, 173, illus., £2.50.

The voices speaking to Daniel Paul Schreber (1842–1911) the German judge, described his illness as the result of somebody having committed “soul murder” on him. The search for “the culprit” has engaged many an alienist since. However, the auditory hallucinations, the uncertainty about his own sex, the disordered bodily sensations, his preoccupation with a gradual merging into the cosmos, may be confidently placed amongst his recognizable symptoms falling within the diagnostic entity of schizophrenia. His autobiographical *Denkwürdigkeiten eines Nervenkranken*, Leipzig, 1903, is available in translation by I. Macalpine and R. A. Hunter, *Daniel Schreber: memoirs of my nervous illness*, London, 1955. Sigmund Freud, who knew the condition as paranoia, in his monograph on the Schreber case (P. Rieff, (ed.), *Three case histories, the collected papers of Sigmund Freud*, New York, 1963) recognized that he was upon the familiar ground of the “father-complex which was the dominant element . . . and with the wish-phantasy round which the illness centred”. He concluded his analysis with his classic explanation of the mechanism of paranoia in terms of rejection of a homosexual wish-phantasy in which his father, his personal physician Dr. Flechsig, and God played a part.

Dr. Schatzman in *Soul murder* deals with the part that Schreber’s father not only played in the emotional composition of his son, but in that of thousands of other hapless Teutonic infants. Dr. Daniel Gottlieb Moritz Schreber (1808–1861) was a stern paediatrician, whose authoritarian views on the upbringing of children were harsh even in that unfeeling age. He was a prolific author, and his books included *The harmful body-positions and habits of children including a statement of counter-acting measures* (1853) and *The systematically planned sharpening of the sense organs* (1859). He is most probably responsible for the admonition to generations of children, “Keep your elbows off the table!” He was obsessed with the importance of symmetry and of straightness of posture, and he invented horrifying devices, including the “Schrebersche Geradhalter” to force children into an erect position.

It is not surprising that such disciplinarian didactics left an indelible imprint upon young Daniel Paul, and Schatzman interestingly compares the dicta of the father with the memoirs of the son. But whether one believes that they did any more than colour the delusion of schizophrenia, and actually form the primary cause of the illness, depends on the psychiatric sect to which one belongs. Environment or genes? The other son went mad and committed suicide. Was his father responsible environmentally or genetically for this? The patient’s own marital life was traumatic; his diabetic wife had six full-term stillbirths.

It is surprising that Freud does not refer to the paternal repressive element, nevertheless noting the father as “no insignificant person . . .” (Rieff, op. cit., p. 151). Freud appears to have relied entirely upon the loan, from his colleague Dr. Stegmann of Dresden, of some biographical notes in *Der Freund der Schreber-Vereine* (vol. 2, no. 10), commemorating the centenary of Dr. Schreber’s birth. Dr. Schatzman has made up for Freud’s deficiency with his convincing evidence of the father’s character. In the New Germany there still remains the eponymous Schrebergarten—municipal gardening clubs—a happier memorial than the Schrebersche Geradhalter.

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*Wesbrook and his university*, by W. C. GIBSON, Vancouver, The Library of the University of British Columbia, 1973, pp. xiii, 204, illus. [no price stated].

This book is about the life and career of Frank Fairchild Wesbrook, whose dream it was to found on the Canadian Pacific coast a university fit to stand comparison with Cambridge, his model; and who finally did so, after much effort and tribulation, just three years before he died in 1918. The story, fluently written, is told by a distinguished professor at that same university which has now grown into one of the finest and most beautiful in North America. Dr. Gibson is to be congratulated on the judicious use he has made of his sources (e.g. letters, diaries, newspapers and minutes) and on presenting us with an attractive and clearly defined portrait of this energetic and capable man.

Born in Ontario in 1868, Wesbrook did postgraduate studies in pathology and bacteriology at London and Marburg before proceeding to Cambridge to work under C. S. Roy. From there (where he met Foster and Sherrington) he returned to America to the Chair of Bacteriology in the University of Minnesota. Later he became the university's first full-time Dean of Medicine and in that capacity he was able to display his great talent for administration: founding, in the space of only nine years: a university hospital (out of funds collected by himself); a dispensary for the poor; a school of nursing; a medical school of such high quality that, by the time he left for British Columbia in 1913, it gained a grade A mark in Abraham Flexner's famous Report.

Dr. Gibson devotes about three-quarters of his book to Wesbrook's period in Vancouver and includes detailed accounts of the talks he had with officials and architects, of his search for staff in at least three countries, of his efforts to build up a library, and of his quest for a suitable motto and coat of arms. When, in September 1915, the university was finally opened in temporary buildings, it had no less than 342 registered students plus fifty-six more who were absent on active service. The effects of that war were of course severe, expenditure being kept low and courses restricted, but despite all difficulties the university endured and progressed. It is sad to reflect that Wesbrook died a comparatively young man and was thus robbed of the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of his exertions.

This book is handsome in every respect and reflects great credit on the newly founded University Press that produced it. The index contains some anomalies, but there is a good selection of plates as well as a bibliography of Wesbrook's publications.

*Anesthesiology progress since 1940*, by E. M. PAPPER, S. H. NGAI, and LESTER C. MARK, Coral Gables, Florida, University of Miami Press, 1973, pp. 192, \$7.95.

Believing that a new phase of progress in anaesthesiology began after World War II, the authors provide a critical analysis of all aspects of the subject, 1946–1973. They group these into: the application of physiology to anaesthesia; physical chemistry and the practice of anaesthesia; scientific growth and developing clinical skills. There are altogether 806 references to the literature and an index. For those who wish to study the immediate past of present-day knowledge, this is an excellent and authoritative guide.

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*Microbes and morals. The strange story of venereal diseases*, by THEODOR ROSEBURY, London, Secker & Warburg, 1972, pp. xvii, 361, illus., £3.10.

That syphilis and gonorrhoea should continue to present with increasing frequency is the most noteworthy anachronism of modern medicine.

Dr. Theodor Rosebury tells us why. This book is a worthy successor to his *Life on Man*. His aim is to present a well-researched and readily readable account of all aspects of the venereal diseases. His hope is clearly to enlighten and entertain by a popular presentation of a taboo subject. There is no doubt that he has been successful.

He writes extensively on the origin of syphilis, marshalling the notable facts for and against both the Columbian and the Unitarian points of view. He comes out in favour of the Unitarian theory of treponematosis, leaning heavily on the evidence as presented by Hudson and Hackett. Not all will find his argument convincing, and your reviewer, for one, found the dogmatic statement that the two theories were irreconcilable to be unacceptable.

The history of gonorrhoea fills a long-felt need and the chapters covering venereal diseases in literature, art and biography offer excellent source material. It is all well presented and adequately supported by an appendix of notes, a reference list and a useful index.

When he comes to the writing of present-day history Rosebury is less perceptive. He uses "spirochete" instead of the modern "treponeme", he confuses us with his use of "immunity" (pp. 24, 79, 80 and 300) and he has no real appreciation of why the term "venereal diseases" is being replaced by "sexually transmitted diseases". It is fair to say that this does no more than reflect, albeit dramatically, just how far behind the U.S.A. is in understanding these infections and infestations and their psycho-social setting. We find echoes of this in the heartfelt call to be done with stigmatizing the venereally infected and the disclosure (p. 170) that in the U.S.A. discovery of masturbation still evokes "threat of punishment".

Some of the best chapters concern history in the making, "Control", "After penicillin-failure" and "The social diseases". In these, he deals with the need everywhere for nationwide networks of acceptable clinics, the tracing of all consorts of infection and public and professional education. He calls for new approaches on how to bring the infected and their cure together; better morbidity reporting and greater attention to health education. On the latter he has some misgivings but as his title suggests, he sees the need to teach the young "habits of life and modes of conduct" as of prime importance in prevention.

When a bacteriologist so boldly invades the clinical field inaccuracies are to be expected. Gonorrhoea is said to affect the vagina (p. 11) and primary sore is described as exhibiting a ring [*sic*] of rubbery or cartilagenous tissue (p. 74).

At a time when a National Commission and a World Health Organisation Team have both reported and recommended ways and means of dealing with the venereal diseases epidemic in the U.S.A., this book may well be the catalyst that ensures an age of enlightenment in their control, long awaited by America's friends and neighbours. This book certainly deserves such a place in the history of medicine.

### Book Notices

*Iconographia Gyniatrica: a pictorial history of gynecology and obstetrics*, by HAROLD SPEERT, Philadelphia, Pa., Davis, 1973, pp. viii, 540, £20.

Depicting the history of medicine pictorially is becoming increasingly popular. Organs, disciplines, diseases, even concepts have been the central themes and a varying degree of success has been achieved. This technique is on the one hand easier than writing an unillustrated history and on the other it can occasionally be a more informative medium, if handled effectively.

Dr. Speert has set out to illustrate various aspects of the history of obstetrics and gynaecology, and if one judges the book as a spectacle he has been successful. There are some 927 well-reproduced illustrations, all but two in black and white, which deal with many aspects of childbirth and diseases of women: female anatomy, pregnancy, midwives, birth scenes, embryology, labour and its complications, caesarean section, the newborn, nursing, monsters, multiple pregnancies, fertility, gynaecology, etc. Each has an explanatory legend, and connecting them together is a brief text. It is a pity, however, that more precise references for the pictorial material are not given and that in some instances the provenance cannot be traced. There are also few citations of the secondary literature, although in some instances they are to be found in the list of pictorial credits. Thus, Fritz Weindler's classic work, *Geschichte der gynäkologisch-anatomischen Abbildungen* (Dresden, Zahn und Jaensch, 1908), from which Dr. Speert has taken twenty-six of the seventy-four illustrations in Chapter I, is not referred to in the text. On the whole, the latter is patchy and inadequate.

However, it can be consulted with profit and interest and is a useful contribution to the iconography of medical history, although the price is alarmingly high even for this type of book.

*Obstetrics and gynaecology. Short title catalogue of books published before 1900 and available in Australia*, by IAN COPE, FRANK M. C. FORSTER and SHEILA SIMPSON, Paddington, N.S.W., Benevolent Society of New South Wales, 1973, pp. xii, 138 [no price stated].

Because of the scattered locations of early books on obstetrics and gynaecology in Australia, the Australian Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Benevolent Society of New South Wales encouraged the authors to prepare this catalogue. Additional aims are to "... stimulate interest in historical background study, lead to more careful preservation of books and prevent their careless disposal, encourage gifts and bequests, and support national purchase of volumes which are now often very scarce and command high prices." (p.v.).

The first section lists by author and with location books and pamphlets published through 1850, and the second, books only that were published 1851–1900. The third lists by subject references, and the fourth, books and pamphlets on obstetrics and gynaecology with an Australian background.

This small book continues the praiseworthy Australian biobibliographical tradition as represented by Bryan Gandevia's source books of Australian medical works, Kenneth Russell's *British anatomy*, and the work of others. It is a pity that we in the home country are not more active in this way, taking to heart the authors' commendable objectives.

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*The Old English Medicina de Quadrupedibus*, by H. J. DE VRIEND, Tilburg, H. Gianotten, 1972, pp. civ, 162, illus., Dfl.48.

Anyone who has used Cockayne's *Leechdoms, Wortcunning and Starcrafts of Early England* will recognize this text which appears under the name of Sextus Placitus. Cockayne printed the version found in the Cotton Vitellius manuscript and added variants from two other contemporary texts. Dr. Vriend's purpose is to study another version, which is contained in Harley Ms. 6258, from a philological point of view. As such it does not fall within the purview of the history of medicine, but the historian would be well advised to read it all the same. It is a perfect example of the kind of medical literature that was circulating in the fifth century and which undoubtedly represented some aspects of late Alexandrian medicine. It takes most of its remedies from Pliny, but many of them have parallels in Galen, whilst the incantations and magic rituals, though superficially gibberish, emerge as originally Greek. Strong as the element of folk-medicine appears, there is much that was taken from accredited physicians and many of the remedies recommended for women's ailments can even be found in Hippocrates.

There is a very good commentary at the end of the book comparing the Old English version with the Latin original and showing that the Anglo-Saxon translator did not always understand his text. But there are reasons also for thinking that in some instances, as in the case of *pterygium*, the corresponding technical term did not exist in Anglo-Saxon. The book is well furnished with indexes and a bibliography, and is thoroughly scholarly.

*International Symposium on Society, Medicine and Law, Jerusalem, March 1972*, ed. by H. KARPLUS, Amsterdam, London and New York, Elsevier, 1973, pp. x, 204, Dfl.30.

The aim of this meeting, which was sponsored by the Society for the Social History of Medicine of London, "... was to generate co-operation among a group of scholars interested in the historical development of medicolegal thought in different cultures . . ." and the contributions to this laudable objective by an international group of experts are now published, along with the discussions generated.

As with any collection of essays, its quality is uneven: some are brief, undocumented and factual, but many are critical discussions of topics such as compensation for injury or illness, medical ethics, forensic medicine, abortion, infanticide and legal medicine in cultures ranging from Ancient China to the civilizations of the New World. On the whole, therefore, this symposium can be welcomed as a preliminary step opening up a field of medical history that has been somewhat neglected so far. It will, no doubt, stimulate others to investigate problems that are of the greatest importance to modern medicine.

Another result of the meeting has been the establishment of an international documentation centre in Freiburg-im-Breisgau, directed by professors of medical history, forensic medicine, and law. This is just the sort of interdisciplinary activity that is needed in the history of medicine, and the organizers of the Symposium, in particular Professor H. Karplus of Jerusalem, who has edited these proceedings, are to be congratulated on a development that will, it is hoped, take place in other parts of the history of medicine.

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*History of physiology*, by KARL E. ROTHSCHUH, trans. and ed. by Guenter B. Risse, Huntington, New York, Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, 1973, pp. xxi, 379, illus., \$21.50.

Professor Rothschuh's *Geschichte der Physiologie* has been a standard work since its first appearance in 1953. For the book's English debut, the author has expanded his coverage of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century British and American physiology, and the translator and editor, Professor Guenter Risse, has incorporated the relevant secondary literature in English into the full set of footnotes. The product is a survey of a vast topic which will prove especially useful to those who need a reliable skeleton summary of "Who's Who" in the history of physiology. Unfortunately, the fact that Rothschuh deals with approximately 1,000 physiologists in one-third that many pages means that only the barest analysis is possible. At times the narrative becomes little more than a catalogue of names, dates, and research interests, though of course even catalogues serve their function.

Despite Rothschuh's polite bow in the direction of British and American physiology the book's principal value for English-speaking historians lies in the sections surveying the development of nineteenth-century German physiology. There Rothschuh charts the institutional careers and major scientific achievements of Johannes Müller, Carl Ludwig, Hermann von Helmholtz, and the host of scientists who made Germany the Mecca of physiologists for more than a generation. When the sparse text is supplemented by the luxurious footnotes, the work increases in value as a bio-bibliographic guide to its subject.

The general standard of accuracy is excellent, though occasional misprints slip through. (For example, the erroneous date given for the founding of the *Journal of Physiology* on page 154 is corrected on page 306. Lamarck used the word *biologie* a decade earlier than is stated on p. 170.) There are more than 150 illustrations and tables, and a name index.

*Gerard Van Swieten und seine Zeit*, by ERNA LESKY and ADAM WANDRUSZKA, Vienna, Cologne, Graz, H. Böhlau, 1973, pp. 194, illus., DM.54.

From 8 to 10 May 1972 a symposium to commemorate the bicentenary of Van Swieten's death was held in Vienna, organised by the outstanding Austrian medical historian Professor Erna Lesky with Dr. Adam Wandruszka, Professor of Austrian history. It was reported in *Medical History* by one of the participants, Grete Klingenstein, and her brief summary of the event (*Med. Hist.*, 1973, 17: 68–69) is also a résumé of the contents of this book, which is a scholarly work, beautifully printed and illustrated. It represents another important product of Professor Lesky's Institute for the History of Medicine and is an excellent example how the general and medical historian can collaborate to give depth, detail and greater meaning to a theme which might be thought to be entirely medical. It will remain a standard source-book of information concerning one of Boerhaave's most renowned pupils and the man who established the first Viennese Medical School. In this respect it can be contrasted with a book by F. T. Brechka, reviewed in these columns (*Med. Hist.*, 1973, 17: 322–324) by Professor Lesky. A valuable 359-item bibliography of the life and work of Van Swieten is included but no index. A book to be recommended.



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*Treatise of Man. René Descartes*, French text with translation and commentary by THOMAS STEELE HALL, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press; London, Oxford University Press, 1972, pp. xlviii, 115, 107 [facsimile reproduction], £5.25.

In the last few years there have been new French editions of Descartes' classic, and Professor Karl Rothschuh's excellent German version has appeared recently. Hall's English translation is all a good translation should be. It is provided with an introduction, an account of Descartes' physiology, copious elucidatory footnotes, a bibliography of the various editions of the book and of secondary sources, a facsimile reproduction of the original text, and an index. The *Treatise* is one of the classics of the seventeenth century and a detailed knowledge of it is essential for an adequate understanding of physiology in the Scientific Revolution. Professor Hall's scholarly book is, therefore, an important addition to the history of science and medicine. In addition it sets new standards for those who wish to participate in the present-day popular exercise of providing reprints, facsimiles, and translations of seminal works. Hopefully, over the years a corpus of similar volumes will be assembled, and if they can each attain the excellence of this one, the scholarly world will indeed be grateful for the talent and labours of the devoted scholars following in Hall's footsteps.

*The treatment of the insane without mechanical restraints*, [1856], by JOHN CONOLLY, with an introduction by Richard Hunter and Ida Macalpine, London, Dawsons, 1973, pp. xii, 380 (facsimile), £7.50.

Over the last eighteen years Ida Macalpine and Richard Hunter have edited Dawson's Psychiatric Monograph Series, which has so far included reprints of two of John Conolly's psychiatric writings: his *An enquiry concerning the indications of insanity with suggestions for the better protection and care of the insane* appeared in 1964 and *The construction and government of lunatic asylums and hospitals for the insane* in 1968.

This third volume maintains the very high standard established by its predecessors. There is the customary excellent and scholarly introduction by the editors and the elegant photolithographic facsimile of Conolly's book is technically perfect.

John Conolly (1794–1866) was one of the most outstanding psychiatric physicians of the nineteenth century, equivalent perhaps to Pinel in France. He was also a practical reformer and this book, his last major publication, promotes his revolutionary non-restraint system, first introduced in 1842. It is probably the most fascinating of Conolly's writings for it serves as a review of his life and his work, and not only does he report his new system and the results of its use, but he also discusses "Old methods of treatment".

In all it is a remarkable contribution to the handling of the mentally diseased and those involved with psychiatric therapy today will profit from reading it. Drs. Macalpine and Hunter must be thanked for making it available and also for providing in the introductions to Conolly's three treatises of the series a detailed account of the man. This cannot, however, be styled "the first modern biography", as the book-jacket blurb claims, in view of Denis Leigh's chapter in *The Historical Development of British Psychiatry* (Vol. I, 1961, pp. 210–270). Nonetheless, it can be highly recommended.

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*Rise up to life. A biography of Howard Walter Florey who made penicillin and gave it to the world*, by LENNARD BICKEL, London, Angus & Robertson, 1972, pp. xix 314, illus., £3.50.

Until quite recently most of the credit for the discovery and use of penicillin has been given to Fleming, while the contributions of Florey and Chain have usually been considered much inferior. It now seems likely that the reverse is, in fact, the case. Professor Ronald Hare's book, *The birth of penicillin and the disarming of microbes* (London, 1970), has demolished some of the myth surrounding Fleming's discovery and Professor Sir Ernst Chain has given his account of the sequence of events ('Thirty years of penicillin therapy', *J. Roy. Coll. Physcns Lond.*, 1972, 6: 103–131). Now comes a biography of Lord Florey (1898–1968) to further redress the balance.

It is written by a highly competent Australian science writer and journalist who points out that Florey, aided by a biochemist, Chain, while investigating antibacterial agents came across penicillin, previously discarded by Fleming. He was mainly responsible for the discovery of its chemotherapeutic power, and its production on a large scale. Eventually, with the assistance of the Americans, sufficient was available to treat battle casualties in World War II. This was a remarkable achievement for Florey and for Anglo-American co-operation.

Mr. Bickel has written an authoritative, well-researched book in a captivating style, which covers all of Lord Florey's career up to his final honour when he became the first Australian President of the Royal Society. Most of it, however, deals with his work on penicillin and provides a new dimension to the oft-repeated story. Errors and omissions there may be but Mr. Bickel helps us to construct a much more balanced picture of one of the greatest advances in therapy. Perhaps others will be inspired to detail further aspects of it.

*On acid humor arising from foods and on white magnesia*, [1754], by JOSEPH BLACK, trans. by Thomas Hanson, with an introduction by Stacey B. Day, Minneapolis, Minn., Bell Museum of Pathology, 1973, pp. xiv, 40, \$6.00 (\$3.35 paperback).

To honour the distinguished American surgeon, Owen H. Wangensteen, this book was prepared. Unfortunately the "Introduction" is quite inadequate, and it is unfortunate that reference could not have been made to the recent study by J. Eklund and Audrey B. Davis, 'Black maticulates: medicine and magnesia alba' (*J. Hist. Med.*, 1972, 27: 396–417) in which they explore the background to the Thesis. Moreover, the translation leaves much to be desired, for there are many curious renderings and spelling mistakes.

*Missionsapotheker. Deutsche Pharmazeuten im Lateinamerika des 17. und 18 Jahrhunderts*, by RENÉE GICKLHORN, Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1973, pp. 113, illus., DM.18.50.

An account of eight German missionary-apothecaries in Rio de la Plata, Chile, Mexico, the Phillipians, Paraguay, and in the Amazon region, based on their printed and manuscript writings, and introduced by a general account of the conquest of Latin America, and of its medical personnel.

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*Abraham Colles (1773–1843)*, by MARTIN FALLON, London, Heinemann Medical Books, 1972, pp. xiv, 238, illus., £2.25.

In the so-called “Dublin” school at the beginning of the nineteenth century the leading surgeon was Colles. Not only is he remembered for his description of the fracture of the radius and for other important contributions to the advancement of surgery, but also for his devoted service to the Surgeon’s School of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland as teacher and administrator, and for his honest and modest nature.

Mr. Martin Fallon has written an excellent biography, based on extensive research into contemporary sources and family papers. But it is more than just an account of an outstanding individual’s progress and his work, for it provides a valuable survey of one of the most important periods in the history of medicine, when our present-day approach to disease was being established and Dublin was one of the principal centres responsible. It can be heartily recommended.

*Zacharias Gottlieb Huszty 1754–1803. Mitbegründer der modernen Sozialhygiene*, by NORBERT DUKA ZOLYOMI, Bratislava, Verlag der Slowakischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1972, pp. 280, illus. [no price stated].

Huszty was born in Rust, Hungary, on 13 March 1754, and studied medicine in Vienna. He became physician to Pressburg, the ancient capital of Hungary, and his main contributions to medicine concerned the Austrian pharmacopoeia, medical police, and other aspects of public hygiene. In the latter he was a disciple of his famous contemporary, Johann Peter Frank (1745–1821), and so shared in founding the care of the public’s health as an essential function of the state. He died on 30 March 1803.

This detailed well-documented biography not only depicts Huszty, but also provides a useful account of medicine in eighteenth-century Austria, especially Vienna, and in Hungary. In addition, it deals with little-known aspects of the history of pharmacy and of public health.

*Nobel Lectures. Physiology or Medicine 1963–1970*, Amsterdam, Elsevier Publishing Co., 1972, pp. xi, 505, illus., Dfl.110.00/\$34.50.

A fourth volume in the Elsevier series is, like its predecessors, most welcome. The same pattern is preserved so that for each year there is first the presentation speech by a member of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine. The Lectures follow with a brief biography of each prize-winner.

Here then is a remarkable source of authoritative information, not only concerning the laureate’s individual contribution to a subject for which the award has been made, but also the historical development of a research area, which can be followed over the years. Those fields receiving most attention in this period (1963–1970) have been nerve function, biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology. The biographical data is also most useful.

The publishers plan to continue the series and should be applauded for this decision as well as for the excellence of their product so far.

### Book Notices

*The city that was* [1911], by STEPHEN SMITH and *The Report of the General Committee of Health, New York City* [1806], with a preface by John Duffy, Metuchen, N. J., Scarecrow, Reprint Corp., 1973, pp. xiii, 211 (facsimile), 101 (facsimile), \$9.00.

The History of Medicine Series issued under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine has included reprints of many important classics. This volume is Number 36 and comprises two items: a facsimile reprint of a book published in 1911 by Dr. Stephen Smith (1823–1922), which depicts the public health and sanitation problems of New York City as they were in the 1860s, and a *Report* which describes these same conditions sixty years earlier. Each is provided with brief introductions, and together these two documents give a vivid picture of appalling health conditions, which at this time were universal in large, growing towns anywhere in the Western world. They were just the same, for example, as in London and the account of hygiene and sanitary reforms initiated in New York by Dr. Smith, who was a leader of the public health reform movement, mirror the changes brought about in other countries during the last few decades of the nineteenth century and depict the appearance of public health agencies at all levels of government. The 1806 *Report* deals mainly with yellow fever in the city but points up much the same problems as met with later in the century.

These are important and fascinating social documents, now made readily available. The only criticisms are that some of the illustrations have reproduced poorly and, although a lot of extra work for the editor, modern annotations would have greatly enhanced the value of the text. It would, for example, be interesting to know whether the city's population in 1900 approximated or not the figure estimated in 1806 (p. [101] of the *Report*); in fact it fell short of the extrapolation by 1.8 million.

*Medical men at the Siege of Boston, April, 1775–April, 1776. Problems of the Massachusetts and Continental Armies*, by PHILIP CASH, Philadelphia, American Philological Society, 1973, pp. xi, 185, illus., \$3.00.

The author, a general historian, analyses with great thoroughness and scholarship all the medical aspects of the American forces in their encounters with the British, and includes what he calls “. . . the ecological factors of military medicine—food and drink, clothing, fuel and shelter, hygienic practices, and prevalent diseases within the area.” He has advanced not only American history, but also the history of eighteenth-century American medicine and of military medicine in general. For those interested in these areas, Professor Cash's book can be strongly recommended.

*Grandeur et déclin d'une maladie. La tuberculose au cours des âges*, by CHARLES COURRY, Suresnes, Lapetit S.A., 1973, pp. 264, illus. [no price stated].

There are available several histories of tuberculosis. The late Professor Courry has provided another, which traces the story from prehistoric times to the present day, and includes a consideration of both the pulmonary and the extra-pulmonary disease. It is well written, documented, and illustrated and of special interest is the section dealing with the most recent developments in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. There is a list of famous tubercular patients and the name index includes dates, nationality and profession. The book can be recommended as a readable and accurate survey of an important topic in the history of medicine.

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*Mental institutions in America, social policy to 1875*, by GERALD N. GROB, London, Collier Macmillan, 1973, pp. xiii, 458, illus. [no price stated].

The evolution of mental institutions is a vital aspect not only of medicine but also of society, and Professor Grob, who is a general historian, surveys this process in America from colonial times to 1875. The way in which individual countries have tackled the problems generated is invariably enlightening, and the response of American society to the handling of mental illness makes a most instructive and interesting history. The author has elected to tell the story in the context of the period under consideration instead of presenting it as a commentary on the present; he has thus made a most valuable contribution to the history of psychiatry.

His task has, of course, been a vast one, due to the volume of material available for study, and Professor Grob has, therefore, made his history analytical and interpretative rather than risk losing his themes in a welter of data. In this he has been entirely successful and offers us a scholarly and outstanding work which looks at a group of distressed individuals in urgent need of care and at a medical institution, against the complex background of American social policy and welfare facilities. In addition, he shows how the beginning of the professionalization of psychiatry was determined by the founding of mental hospitals. There are two large appendices dealing with the establishment of state mental hospitals to 1860, and with selected statistics of individual institutions. The bibliography is extensive and is itself a valuable research tool, as well as an indication of the enormous amount of research upon which this excellent book is based. We can now look forward to Dr. Grob's second volume on the same topic, which he promises us.

*The American disease, origins of narcotic control*, by DAVID F. MUSTO, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1973, pp. xiii, 354, £4.75.

One of America's major social problems today is narcotic addiction and Dr. Musto traces its history from the nineteenth century to the present day by exploring both the toleration and the repression it has evoked. Much is to do with legislation and with the various controlling agencies and measures, but although these are particular for the U.S.A. and although the problem is not of the same dimensions in this country, we can, nevertheless, learn from the way in which another state has tackled the menace.

Unlike so many books on drugs there is no dramatization here. Dr. Musto, who is both psychiatrist and historian, has compiled an exceedingly useful work, the scholarly nature of which is indicated by the fact that one-quarter of it consists of notes and references.

*Die Hand als Werkzeug des Arztes*, by M. MICHLER, Wiesbaden, F. Steiner, 1972, pp. 56, illus., DM.10.

An excellent survey of the use of palpation in clinical medicine and surgery since prehistoric times to the present day. Its use as a diagnostic technique began with the Ancient Egyptians and only within the last few decades with the introduction of more sophisticated procedures has it become less important. Professor Michler's excellent, well-documented and well-illustrated monograph is an important addition to the history of diagnosis.

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*Notes on the history of nutrition research*, by CLIVE M. MCCAY, ed. by F. Verzár, Berne, Stuttgart, Vienna, H. Huber, 1973, pp. 234, illus., S.Fr. 42/DM.38.

For many years Professor Clive McCay (1898–1967), an animal nutritionist, collected material for a history of nutrition. Unfortunately, illness prevented him from achieving this aim and his notes, therefore, have been edited by his friend, Prof. Dr. F. Verzár of the University of Basle. They were assembled in the 1930s and deal mainly with the history, up to the 1920s, of fats, nitrogen, proteins and inorganic substances. They provide an excellent guide to the literature on these topics and are to be used for reference purposes rather than for sequential reading. Documentation in the form of 432 footnotes is adequate. In addition to the text, there is an appendix of brief biographies. Despite the numerous spelling mistakes and the lack of recent secondary literature, this is a useful addition to the relatively small amount of literature on the history of nutrition.

*Geschiedenis van de medische wetenschap in Nederland*, by C. A. LINDEBOOM, Bussum, Unieboek n.v., 1973, pp. 198, illus., Dfl.27.50

The contribution of Holland to the advancement of medicine has been of outstanding importance. We only have to recall such names as Yperman, Wier, Ruysch, de Graaf, Leeuwenhoek, Sylvius, Boerhaave, Donders, Snellen, Einthoven, and van den Bergh to realize its extent. The world-renowned medical school at Leyden that set the pattern of eighteenth-century European and American medicine, must also be taken into account.

Professor Lindeboom, the Boerhaave authority, presents a beautifully printed and illustrated account of Dutch medical science, which is adequately documented and has at the end biographical sketches of the less well-known men. Dare we hope that an English version will follow?

*Arzneimittel-Standardisierung im 19. Jahrhundert in den Pharmakopöen Deutschlands, Frankreichs, Grossbritanniens und der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika*, by ERICKA HICKEL, Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1973, pp. x, 294, DM.55.

Pharmacopoeias establish standards and from the beginning this has been one of their main functions. Thus the London Pharmacopoeia of 1618 was produced so that “. . . all falshood, differences, varieties and incertainties in making or composing of Medicine” could be avoided, and the demand for safety standards covering new drugs, food additives and many new chemical products continues today.

Dr. Hickel is already known for her work on the synthesis of alkaloids, using methods employed by their nineteenth-century discoverers, and showing the high degree of impurity of most of them. Her book is in three parts: pharmacy and pharmacopoeias as related to national circumstances in Germany, France, Great Britain, and the U.S.A.; the influence of scientific advancement on drug standards found in pharmacopoeias; and the influence on them of socio-political factors. It is a scholarly work impeccably documented, and will remain for a long time the authoritative source on the history of drug standardization in the nineteenth century.

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*Death in New England: regional variations in mortality*, by JOHN W. FLORIN, Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina, 1971, pp. viii, 172, illus., \$4.

The mapping of disease, as Professor Howe has reminded us (in Edwin Clarke (ed.), *Modern methods in the history of medicine*, London, Athlone Press, 1971, p. 336), began in the United States, maps of yellow fever being published in the eighteenth century.

*Death in New England* is a computer study of the causes of death in the north-eastern United States. Birth and death rates can be determined for some New England regions back to the 1630s when local records were first kept. In the colonial period death rates were less than in England and France, but the causes of death are often obscure.

A mathematical approach to change in Massachusetts in 1750–1850 (Chapter IV) precedes an original and thorough study of spatial and temporal patterns of change in the period of 1861–1960, for which statistics are abundant. New trends in causes of death are shown to begin in the healthier suburbs of the cities and to spread westward. The author emphasizes that reported causes of death are subject to a “changing terminology” or to changing fashions in diagnosis.

This book is excellent as a pioneer study. The significance of the conclusions will be more easily assessed when similar studies are available for New York, Philadelphia and for those parts of Europe where causes of death have been recorded for several centuries. There are numerous maps, but no index.

*Ernst Tavel (1858–1912) Bakteriologe und Chirurg in Bern*, by OSMAN KARAMEH-MEDOVIC, Berne, Huber, 1973, pp. 71, illus., [no price stated]. (Bernser Beiträge zur Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften, new series, Bd. 7.)

Tavel was born in La Bretonnière, Switzerland, and studied medicine at Strassburg, Basle, and at Berlin. After graduating in 1880 he specialized in surgery under Theodor Kocher and then for a while turned to bacteriology, being appointed professor in the University of Berne (1892–1906) and establishing an institute in this subject. Returning to surgery he was made professor there in 1906. He introduced a number of new techniques and published mainly on surgical infection and its prevention. Dr. Karamehmedovic's dissertation is a detailed account of Tavel's life and work, which also provides a valuable source of information concerning the early years of the new discipline of bacteriology and its application to surgery.

*History of Science*, Volume 11, 1973, Science History Publications Ltd., pp. 320, £9.

The high academic standard set by this serial is maintained, but there have been changes in its production. Usefully, it can now be obtained quarterly, or as an annual publication as previously, made up of the four quarterly parts. It is thereby increased to more than twice the size of the previous annual volume. This year there are the usual excellent surveys, essay reviews and book reviews. *History of Science* is now an accepted periodical of outstanding scholastic merit, and the modified method of publishing will increase its popularity, its sales, and therefore its important influence in the history of science, technology, and medicine.

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*Historia de la medicina a la Corona d'Arago (1162–1479)*, by ANTONI CARDONER I PLANAS, Barcelona, Editorial Scientia, 1973, pp. 299, illus., [no price stated].

The kingdom of Aragon, in spite of its diminutive size, was of prime importance for the history of medicine during the Middle Ages. It extended from Barcelona across the present frontiers of France to Avignon and Usez and contained within its borders not only towns like Narbonne and Carcassonne, but also the university centre of Montpellier. Because its rulers were liberal in outlook, Aragon became a refuge for Arabs and Jews, and consequently the country became a melting-pot of ideas, particularly in the field of medicine. It had no less than six medical schools, at Montpellier, Barcelona, Lerida, Perpignan, Osca and Valencia; it had contacts with Sicily and South Italy, whilst at Lunel flourished the most important Jewish cultural centre in Western Europe.

Dr. Cardoner, who has spent thirty years investigating the medical history of this long-neglected area, has now, in his seventieth year, put together his findings. His book, based almost exclusively on material taken from archives in the region, records the facts with the minimum of comment or elaboration. It is expressed with such an economy of words that long documents (as can be seen by examining those illustrated in the text) are oftentimes reduced to a bare couple of phrases. For this reason all his manuscript references are precious, because they may perhaps be made to yield even further information.

There are only seven chapters in the book. The first describes the geographical and political situation of the kingdom and is followed by a discussion of the hospitals and ecclesiastical medicine. The second outlines the influence of the Salernitan school and gives a list of the manuscripts containing Salernitan material which still survive at Ripoll, Gerona and Saragossa. This is followed by a most interesting chapter on the translations made from Arabic into Hebrew, from Arabic into Latin, from Hebrew into Latin and vice-versa, with a list of the authors, translators and the localities in the kingdom of Aragon where the translations were made. Then follows a general outline on the teaching of medicine at the universities with particular attention paid to the developments at Montpellier, Barcelona, etc., and the intriguing episode at Lerida, where the attempt to found a purely secular university failed through lack of lay support. The actual exercise of medicine in all its forms provides a fascinating glimpse, in the fifth chapter, of social conditions of the time, whilst the sixth chapter deals with the theoretical basis of medical practice. The book ends with a study of the pseudo-sciences, like astrology and alchemy, and their application by medieval physicians in the exercise of their profession. There are several indices, twenty figures and twenty-four plates; the printing is clear, the paper is good and the binding is strong.

The fact that the text is written in Catalan should deter no prospective reader with a smattering of French and Spanish. The book deserves the highest commendation for its reliance on original sources and its author, Dr. Cardoner, is to be congratulated on the results of his patient and laborious researches.

*History of science and technology in India*, by O. P. JAGGI. Vol. 3, *Folk medicine* (pp. xxxii, 228, illus.); vol. 4, *Indian system of medicine* (pp. 260, illus.); vol. 5, *Yogic and*



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*tantric medicine* (pp. xvi, 176, illus.); Delhi, Atma Ram, 1973, [no price stated].

Volumes 1, 2 and 6 of Dr. Jaggi's encyclopaedia appeared as *Dawn of Indian technology* (1969), *Dawn of Indian science* (1969) and *Scientists of Ancient India* (1966).

Volume 4 deals with Āyurvedic medicine, which Jaggi divides into three sections covering the sources, contents and comparative evaluation of the classical system. The same approach has been used several times already (Mukhopadhyay, Kutumbiah, *et al.*) and with better synthesis and selection. It is hardly enough simply to serve up verbatim extracts from Susruta and Caraka without adding anything on the problems of chronology and identity of these and other medical writers. A list of some of the post-fourteenth-century writers is given, but such a list is of little help to the researcher, and much less to the non-specialist.

Volume 5 has two sections. The first is on yogic medicine and is a straight account of yogic practices, as culled from the medieval Hatha-yoga-pradīpika of Svātmārām Svāmin and the original Yoga-sūtras of Patañjali. The medical benefits and physiological accounts of these techniques are the most interesting part of the book and have useful bibliographies. The second section, on tantric medicine, contains an unoriginal account of tantrism itself, followed by short chapters on the Tamil sitters and the growth of alchemy in medical works and in the tantras. The final chapter on comparative alchemy is too brief to be of any value; for example, there are only nine lines on Chinese alchemy.

Volume 3 is a work of anthropology, interesting enough in content, but again it contains only facts with neither methodology nor direction. The first part deals with magic among indigenous Indian tribes, while the latter treats of it in the milieu of the Indian village. The bibliography draws on a large number of respected Indian and foreign anthropologists, but the author's summaries of their material are usually wanting.

The fault of all three volumes is that they have nothing new to say. If they are admitted to be only secondary, compilatory works, then they could have at least been made comprehensive. As it is, they are more like the *belles-lettres* of an enthusiastic and widely-read amateur than the original academic works these areas so badly need.

*The history and philosophy of the brain and its functions*, ed by F. N. L. POYNTER, Amsterdam, B.M. Israël, 1973, pp. x, 272, illus., [no price stated].

In July 1957 a highly successful Anglo-American Symposium on this topic was held in London as an historical prelude to the First International Congress of Neurological Sciences at Brussels. Its proceedings were published the following year, edited by Dr. F. N. L. Poynter who had organized the meeting. Those contributing included Wilder Penfield, Macdonald Critchley, Lord Brain, Walter Pagel, W. P. D. Wightman, E. H. Ackerknecht, Aubrey Lewis, G. W. Harris, Sir Francis Walshe, Pearce Bailey, Sir John Eccles, Bernard Hart, Sir W. Le Gros Clark and Sir Henry Dale. These names indicate the high level of authority and scholarship achieved by the meeting, and the published papers have been of great value to those interested in the history of the nervous system. However, the book has been out of print for some time and this is an exact reprint of it. It should be as popular now as it was sixteen years ago. (Reviews of the 1958 edition are in: *Br. med. J.*, 1959, ii: 290; *Endeavour*, October 1959, p. 223; *Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.*, 1959, 52: 483; *Med. Hist.*, 1960, 4: 359.)

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*Cristofano and the plague. A study in the history of public health in the age of Galileo*, by CARLO M. CIPOLLA, London, Collins, 1973, pp. 188, £2.75.

Carlo M. Cipolla is professor of economic history in the University of Pavia and in the University of California at Berkeley. He has already published books on money prices, population, aspects of the history of technology and on literacy.

His present work is a model of scholarship that others would do well to emulate. He focuses down on a single epidemic of bubonic plague in Prato, a town thirteen miles north-west of Florence, where a quarter of the inhabitants succumbed during 1630. Professor Cipolla deals mainly with the work of Cristofano Ceffini, one of four local health officers, and his book is based on the town's rich collection of archives. In particular, he draws upon the diary of Ceffini to reveal the various measures enforced in an attempt to stem the spread of the disease. Of more significance, however, he analyses the economic and social factors operating, and provides the first case-study of plague seen from these points of view. Ceffini was an accountant, probably with no medical training, and his *Libro della Sanità* is filled with figures, from which it is evident that a deficiency of economic resources was responsible for the public health officers' difficulties and failures. Thus Ceffini himself, although rated a salary equal to that of a grave-digger, never received it, and even made contributions to the town's budget from his own pocket.

As well as the medical aspects of the Prato epidemic, Professor Cipolla sketches in the intellectual background of the period and his whole book is written in a lively and lucid style. Documentation is impeccable and there are appendices on wages, standards of living, monetary matters, statistics on the hospitals, mortality, public health instructions, etc.

There is a need in the history of medicine for a variety of scholars, including those whose disciplines overlap with it. This brilliant study illustrates how a historian of economics can contribute, and hopefully it will stimulate others to tackle similar problems from the same viewpoint. Meantime it can be judged as one of the most outstanding additions to the subject in recent years, and can be unreservedly recommended.

*Pasteur. The history of a mind*, by EMILE DUCLAUX, trans. by ERWIN F. SMITH and FLORENCE HEDGES, Philadelphia and London, W. B. Saunders, 1920. Reprinted under the auspices of The Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Reprint Corporation, 1973, pp. viii, xxii, 363 (facsimile reprint), \$12.50.

The biography of Louis Pasteur by René Vallery-Radot describes the man himself, with only a general account of his researches. However, Duclaux (1840–1904), the pupil, friend and successor of the master, provided a detailed survey of them, first published in 1896. Reviews of the English translation of 1920 (*Lancet*, 1920, ii: 130–131; *Times lit. Suppl.*, 26 August 1920, p. 545; *Nature*, 1920, 106: 303–304; *Br. med. J.*, 1920, ii: 994) acclaimed the book's excellence as a scientific biography and it is now reprinted, with a brief *Foreword* by René Dubos. There is also a useful annotated list of persons mentioned, compiled by the translators (pp. 323–352).

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*Grundzüge der Hospitalgeschichte*, by DIETER JETTER (Grundzüge, Bd. 22), Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1973, pp. viii, 135, illus., DM. 21.

In recent years Professor Dieter Jetter of Cologne has established himself as one of the world's experts on the history of hospitals. He has published many papers and monographs on this subject and now presents its main features in a conveniently compact treatise. He begins with Classical Antiquity and ends with the nineteenth century, although he gives more attention to the earlier periods. The general development of hospitals in different periods, countries, and cultures is dealt with, as well as special types of hospitals for specific diseases. In each instance Professor Jetter discusses social determining factors and the physical structure of the buildings.

For all those who seek a brief, accurate and authoritative account of the growth of hospitals, this monograph can be highly recommended. An English translation would be most welcome. Likewise if Professor Jetter could examine more closely the evolution of British hospitals we would be grateful to him. We have shelves of parochial histories, but no one has yet subjected this topic to the deep, scholarly analysis that Professor Jetter has used in his studies of European hospitals.

*Classics of neurology* (from EMERSON C. KELLY'S "Medical Classics"), Huntington, N.Y., R. E. Krieger, 1971, pp. iii, 377, illus., \$15.00.

Kelly's *Medical Classics* are well known. They appeared September 1939 to June 1941, and in each issue classical contributions to medical literature by selected authors were reprinted with biographies and bibliographies. Those relating to the nervous system, by Charles Bell, Argyll Robertson, Parkinson, Hippocrates, Hughlings Jackson and Morgagni have now been collected together. However the value of the resultant book would have been much increased if a brief bibliography of recent writings on these men and their work had been included. Moreover, it is unfortunate that the error concerning the portrait of Parkinson is once again perpetuated. (See, M. Critchley (ed.), *James Parkinson 1758-1824*, London, 1955, p. 1, fn1.)

*In pursuit of the common cold*, by SIR CHRISTOPHER ANDREWES, London, Heinemann 1973, pp. xi, 112, £3.25.

In 1946 the Common Cold Research Unit was opened at Salisbury and its first twenty-six years of activity are here related by our most outstanding present-day expert on coryza, who, in addition to being in general scientific charge of research from its inception until his retirement in 1961, has been associated with it since. It occupies the buildings originally put up and staffed by Harvard Medical School in World War II, and is thus known as the "Harvard Hospital".

The origins, organization and the arrangements for visits by more than 11,000 volunteers are described. An excellent account of the complex nature of common cold research and the findings made by the unit are given, thus complementing and bringing up to date the author's previous book, *The common cold*, published in 1965. It is a fascinating survey of the investigation of man's commonest affliction, and reveals that the problem has by no means been neglected, as is often thought. As a contribution to the very recent history of medical sciences, it will interest medical practitioner and historian alike. Unfortunately its price, for a slender volume, seems excessive.

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*The royal touch: sacred monarchy and scrofula in England and France*, by MARC BLOCH, trans. by J. E. Anderson, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul; Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1973, pp. ix, 441, illus., £6.50.

This is an English edition of Marc Bloch's *Les rois thaumaturges* (1961). It probes in detail the story of the once universally accepted "miracle" that the anointed kings of England and France could cure by their touch a specific illness. By the Middle Ages, these sovereigns were specialists in the treatment of *écrouelles* or scrofula, an illness which fits the clinical picture of tuberculous adenitis, a disease usually of cervical distribution.

In the twelfth century, Guibert, abbot of Nogent-sous-Coucy exposed the false claim of the neighbouring monks of St-Médard of Soissons that they possessed the relic of a milk-tooth belonging to Christ. Not only did he castigate them in his *De Pignoribus Sanctorum*, but added a few observations on the general subject of relics. God alone was the author of miracles; man was but his medium. Guibert then gives the first eye-witness account of Louis VI (1108–1137) touching for the scrofula, as his father Philip I (1060–1108) had done before him. It is likely that this specialization derived from a more general application of healing powers practised in earlier times. Robert the Pious (996–1031), the second Capetian king, was held to possess the general gift of healing.

In England, the first documentary evidence is found in a letter by Peter of Blois concerning Henry II (1154–1189) who was able to effect "the disappearance of that plague affecting the groin and by the healing of scrofula". This does not necessarily coincide with its first performance, and Clovis in France and Edward the Confessor in England are still widely considered as founders of the rite. William Shakespeare favoured Edward the Confessor, for Malcom tells Macduff that he

strangely visited people,  
All sworn and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,  
The mere despair of surgery, he cures,  
Hanging a golden stamp about their necks,  
Put on with holy prayers; and 'tis spoken,  
To the succeeding royalty he leaves  
The healing benediction. (*Macbeth*, IV, iii)

The golden emblems hung about the patients' necks became a Plantagenet custom on Good Fridays to add to the adoration of the "Cross of Gyneth", a relic acquired from the Welsh Wars of Edward I, with an offering of gold and silver. These were immediately redeemed with an equivalent sum in ordinary coin and made into a number of rings, *anuli medicinales*.

The royal touch seems last to have been used in England by Queen Anne on 27 April 1714, although the liturgical service for the healing of the sick by the king remained in the official prayer book until well on in the reign of George II (1727–1760). In France, Charles X (1824–1830) after some equivocation, finally agreed as "the first physician of the kingdom", to touch sufferers at the Hospice of St-Marcoul in Rheims. On 31 May 1825, he was the last king of France to lay his hands on the sores of those afflicted with scrofula.

Marc Bloch explores meticulously the changes in the rite itself, in the underlying

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philosophy and in the religious and public attitudes. As will be expected, it is a full and scholarly study. The metaphysical treatment for a clearly physical illness weakened slowly from its first confident acceptance by the people. It ended with a reluctant performance in acquiescence to a contrived popular demand by a physician king, who himself no longer had any confidence in the miracle. Marc Bloch, in his critical detailed analysis, not evading the diagnostic and therapeutic problems involved, has provided an excellent account.

*Kurze Geschichte der Chirurgie*, by W. VON BRUNN, (reprint of 1928 ed.), Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, Springer-Verlag, 1973, pp. v, 339, illus., DM 96/\$39.40.

The original edition of this book appeared in 1928, and apart from a few minor criticisms concerning its illustrations (see *Janus*, 1928, 32: 152–154) reviewers gave it an enthusiastic reception (see, for example, *Ann. med. Hist.*, 1928, 10: 321). It is now reprinted, but as no attempt has been made to bring it up to date the many important contributions to the history of surgery made in the last forty-five years are lacking. Even so it is an excellent, comprehensive survey, supported by 137 illustrations, a nineteen-page bibliography, and extensive indexes. It can still be consulted with profit, its high price, however, being an understandable deterrent to purchasing it.

*The influence of Matthew Baillie's "Morbidity anatomy". Biography, evaluation and reprint*, by ALVIN E. RODIN, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, 1973, pp. vi, 293, illus., \$8.95.

The first book on pathological anatomy in English was published by Matthew Baillie (1761–1823), a nephew of the Hunters; the text appeared in 1793 and the atlas, 1799–1803. However, unlike Morgagni's classical treatise on the same topic (1761) and that of Rokitsansky (1842–1846) it was less influential, mainly because it was entirely descriptive and advanced no concepts. Nevertheless, there were eight British editions (1793–1838), three American (1795–1820), as well as two French versions (1803, 1815) and one German (1793), Italian (1807), and Russian (1826).

The second American edition, which is identical with the third London, is reprinted here, with notes on Baillie's life, character, writings, on the format of the *Morbidity anatomy* and its illustrations, and on his contributions to pathology. Unfortunately the European background is inadequately dealt with, and there is, for example, little mention of the Paris school which was of such exceeding importance in founding and advancing the new clinico-pathological correlation in the early decades of the nineteenth century and which had influenced Baillie and other Englishmen. The text of Baillie's book is alone provided with only three of his excellent illustrations.

*Essays on the first hundred years of anaesthesia*, by W. STANLEY SYKES, 2 vols., [reprint], Huntington, N.Y., R. E. Krieger, 1972, pp. 171; 187, illus., \$22.50.

Appearing first in 1960 to 1961, it is now reprinted with no additional material. Reviews of the first issues are as follows: Volume 1: *Br. med. J.*, 1960, ii: 381–382; *Lancet*, 1960, ii: 189–190; *Bull. Hist. Med.*, 1962, 36: 187–188; *Med. Hist.*, 1960, 4: 364–365. Volume 2: *Lancet*, 1962, i: 518; *Med. Hist.*, 1962, 6: 98–99.

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*El sumario de la medicina con un tratado de las pestíferas bubas*, by FRANCISCO LOPEZ DE VILLALOBOS (introduction, editing and notes by María Teresa Herrera), Salamanca, Universidad de Salamanca, 1973, pp. 294, illus., [no price stated].

Francisco Lopez (1473–1549) published this compendium of Avicenna in 1498. It is written in verse with a Cervantes-like wit and stylistic grace, which make it an important contribution to Spanish literature, as well as an excellent résumé of Arab medicine and a source of information concerning the early history of syphilis. The 439 stanzas in medieval Spanish are here transcribed with an extensive glossary of terms used, and appendices which list the medicaments mentioned and their uses for the diseases dealt with.

The original is excessively rare, for there seem to be only two copies extant, both in Spain; this edition of it is, therefore, valuable. It should be noted, however, that in a book by George Gaskion (*The medical works of Francisco Lopez de Villalobos, the celebrated court physician of Spain, now first translated with commentary and biography*, London, J. Churchill, 1870) the bibliographical, biographical, and etymological aspects of the poet-physician and his work are discussed. There is also a translation into English of that part of the *Sumario* dealing with buboes (Stanzas 366–439), to which the present author makes no reference.

*Great men of Guy's*, ed. by WILLIAM B. OBER, Metuchen N.J., Scarecrow Reprint Corporation, 1973, pp. xxiv, 392, \$12.50.

The title of this book is somewhat deceptive. It deals not with the men themselves but with their work and is made up of facsimile reprints of their most outstanding contributions to medicine: Addison, Bright and Hodgkin on the diseases which now carry their names; Sir Astley Cooper on femoral aneurysm; and less well-known figures, G. H. Barlow, G. O. Rees, A. S. Taylor, Golding Bird, and T. Williams. As with any anthology, the selection can be criticized. Thus it is difficult to know why Sir William Gull, Sir Samuel Wilks, and Norman Chevers are excluded and why some of those chosen should be included. There is an introduction containing short biographies of the men and brief accounts of their work. On the whole, the latter are inadequate for they do not indicate the significance of the contribution chosen nor do they place it fully in the context of its time. Nevertheless, this collection of original papers now made readily available provides a useful source book for the medical historian.

*Sir James Mackenzie, M.D. 1833–1925. General practitioner*, by ALEX MAIR, Edinburgh and London, Churchill Livingstone, 1973, pp. xii, 366, illus., £4.

The career of Sir James Mackenzie reveals how much the general practitioner can contribute to advancement in research, as well as in the handling of disease. He spent twenty-eight years in practice in Burnley, and then nine in London hospitals. His most important work dealt with disorders of the cardiovascular system, and he is remembered especially for the polygraph, which allowed him to investigate the cardiac irregularities. His textbooks spread his fame and they may still be read today with profit. In 1918 he retired to St. Andrews, where, in collaboration with general practitioners, he set up the Institute of Clinical Research, devoted to the study of the earliest

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manifestations of disease. In this he was much less successful, mainly because of limitations in the techniques of investigation then available. It was nevertheless a challenging ideal, perhaps worthy of resurrection today.

Professor Mair traces Mackenzie's life sympathetically, but also critically, and bases his biography on letters and other manuscript material. On the whole, he uses extracts from the former too liberally, at the expense of textual commentary. However, the book gives a more accurate and less biased assessment than Wilson's *The beloved physician* (1926) and can be highly recommended.

*Documents and dates of modern discoveries in the nervous system*, by ALEXANDER WALKER, facsimile of original ed., London, 1839, Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Reprint Corporation, 1973, pp. xi, xii, 172 [reprint], \$7.50.

The Bell-Magendie polemic of the 1820s concerning priorities in establishing the functions of the spinal roots involved a third individual, less well known than the two main rivals. Alexander Walker (1779–1852) in 1809 suggested that the anterior were sensory and the posterior motor. He therefore contested the claims of Bell and Magendie, stating that in addition to being plagiarists they had compounded the felony by reversing the functions. He spent most of the remainder of his life arguing his contention and this very rare book is part of the campaign. It is of additional importance, however, because in it (pp. 37–60) Bell's *New idea* (1811), printed originally for private circulation and enunciating his concept of spinal root functions, was made public for the first time. There are also excerpts from Walker's own writings, as well as from those of Magendie; he also includes extracts from another controversy, the spinal reflex, the main contestant on this occasion being Marshall Hall.

This is a facsimile reprint with a brief, but excellent introduction by Paul Cranefield and a bibliography of Walker's diverse, and often anonymous, writings.

*The house of life Per Ankh. Magic and medical science in Ancient Egypt*, by PAUL GHALIOUNGUI, Amsterdam, B.M. Israel, 2nd ed., 1973, pp. xii, 198, illus., Dfl. 48

The first edition of this book appeared in 1963, entitled *Magic and medical science in Ancient Egypt*, (see reviews: *Times Literary Supplement*, 26 December 1963, p.1068; *Lancet*, 1964, i: 478; *Br. med. J.*, 1964, i: 363; *Med. Hist.*, 1964, 8: 391–392). It was greeted as a competent survey of Ancient Egyptian medicine by a non-Egyptologist; Dr. Ghalioungui was formerly Senior Professor of Medicine in the Ain Shams University of Cairo and is a distinguished Egyptian physician. It has now been subjected to "substantial reshuffling", with the addition of new material and views. Sections on physicians, medical theories, gynaecology, female circumcision, general health, and diseases of special systems have been expanded and partly rewritten. Importantly, Professor Ghalioungui is modestly aware of his deficiencies in academic Egyptology and therefore knows his limitations, a situation relatively uncommon among so-called part-time historians of medicine. He has, nevertheless, produced an improved version of a commendable account of Ancient Egyptian medicine, his medical interpretations being of especial value.

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*History of urology*, by L. J. MURPHY, Springfield, Ill., C. C. Thomas, 1972, pp. xiii, 531, illus., \$32.50.

The history of urology is probably more richly endowed with interest and colourful personalities than any other surgical specialty. Over the years it has been well recorded and documented by able historians. However, two authoritative texts on its early history have been long out of print, namely Ernest Desnos' *Histoire de l'urologie* (1914), and the American Urological Association's *History of urology* (1933).

Part 1 of Murphy's *History of urology* is the first English translation of Desnos' book, edited by a specialist who has expanded the subject matter to fill in omissions in the classical text. This part now covers urology from ancient times to the nineteenth century. The story of the catheter and man's long struggle with urinary stone are graphically unfolded. The history of cystoscopy has received much attention of late, although many histories of the development of the cystoscope are inadequate. The account here is comprehensive and clear.

The second part of the book deals with urology in this century. The reviewer is particularly interested in the history of uretero-intestinal anastomosis, and the thorough and well-illustrated record of this subject is a delight. Precedence in this as in other surgical fields is difficult to establish, but the author has been meticulously fair in his attributions. In the controversial field of surgical innovation for hydronephrosis a full and clear account is given.

The theories of aetiology of urinary stone and its surgical management are excellently reviewed. The thoroughness of presentation represents a lesson in urology from a tutor who has perceptively recorded the leading contributions of the last half-century. Here is a volume to be read with fascination by graduate students in the subject and a work of reference for teachers. It is a work of scholarly precision, colourfully written by a man who conveys the warmest interest in his subject. It is a great contribution to urology.

### BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

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

BELLA ARONOVITCH, *Give it time: an experience of hospital 1928–1932*, London, Deutsch, 1974, pp. 189, £2.50.

HANS HOLZER, *Beyond medicine. The facts about unorthodox and psychic healing*, London, Abelard-Schuman, 1974, pp. xii, 209, £2.25.

J. M. JIMENEZ MUNOZ, *Historia legislativa del cuerpo de médicos forenses*, Universidad de Valladolid, Seminario de Historia de la Medicina (Acta Historico-Medica Vallisoleitana, no.2), 1974, pp. 68, [no price stated].

W. S. MIDDLETON, *Values in modern medicine*, Madison, University of Wisconsin Press for the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association, 1972, pp. ix, 300, illus., £12.75.

S. NEEL, *Medical support of the U.S. Army in Vietnam 1965–1970*, Washington, D.C., Department of the Army, 1973, pp. xv, 196, illus., [no price stated].

E. TOPSELL, *The fowles of heauen or history of birdes*, ed. by T. P. Harrison and F. D. Hoeniger, Austin, University of Texas, 1972, pp. xxxvi, 332, illus., \$15.00.