

Book Reviews

compiled by medically-trained men and published only for medical men". This may have been true two decades ago, but it is certainly insupportable now. In fact it casts doubts on the author's qualifications for writing medical history.

Nevertheless, he orientates his work to the patient and looks at a number of ways whereby medicine in the period under discussion impinged upon him: childbirth, infancy, childhood and youth, adulthood, and old age. He presents a great deal of well-documented information which frequently reveals his lack of medical knowledge. A lot of it is already known and available elsewhere, but even so, this book will be a useful source-book of general and particular information, but limited in circulation by its high price. It is a pity that Mr. Smith's prejudices against medical men, especially those that write medical history, are so obvious, and he will not be applauded by the growing band of professional historians of medicine for some of his incautious and inaccurate remarks contained in his "Introduction", not to mention his social and political bias.

MARK GIROUARD, *Life in the English country house. A social and architectural history*, New Haven, Conn., and London, Yale University Press, 1978, 4to, pp. [vi], 344, illus., £10.00.

As a scholarly, well-written, and lavishly illustrated work, this book is an outstanding contribution to an important, but so far relatively unexplored, aspect of English social life. The author's primary object is to explore the purpose of the country house, and his answer is that it gave its owner power both at a local and a national level. He traces its history, making use of public and family records, and also draws upon fiction. Until the nineteenth century it maintained its position, the land which belonged to it being as important as its fabric and contents. But with the rise of industrialization and the transfer of power from the country to the towns its significance waned, and today its survival becomes increasingly uncertain. All aspects of the country house are dealt with; the social activities of the inhabitants and of the servants are of special interest. The measures to support health and treat illness in this select community would make a fascinating addendum to Professor Girouard's excellent and highly recommendable study. As an account of living conditions among the gentry and their retainers it will be of great interest to historians of medicine, especially those concerned with the social aspects.

GILLIAN WAGNER, *Barnardo*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1979, 8vo, pp. xv, 344, illus., £8.95.

Despite the fact that the name of Thomas John Barnardo (1845-1905) is universally known, curiously a full biography, in particular giving details of his early years in London, has so far not been available. The author, with the use of material previously untouched, has remedied that defect. Moreover, she presents a re-assignment of a flamboyant and autocratic man who made many enemies and came into conflict with the law, but who achieved undeniable success in the relief of child destitution. In the absence of adequate legislation, he championed the homeless child and created the largest children's charity then in existence. It is still the largest voluntary child-care organization in Britain.

Lady Wagner presents the first frank account of Barnardo's character and career,

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and she concentrates on his work and achievements with little concern for his private life. Her scholarly book, therefore, becomes the definitive biography of a complex but fascinating individual.

OWEN H. WANGENSTEEN and SARAH D. WANGENSTEEN, *The rise of surgery. From empiric craft to scientific discipline*, Folkestone, Kent, Dawson, 1978, 4to, pp. xviii, 785, illus., £25.00

Professor Wangenstein is a distinguished American surgeon whose name is known world-wide, and his wife, a historian, has collaborated with him in several articles on the history of surgery. Their main aims in this huge book are to show that history is of importance in the teaching of medicine, and that by following the history of emergency surgery it can be demonstrated how surgery as a craft has grown into a scientific discipline. Thus, they discuss the evolution of amputation, lithotomy, intestinal obstruction, tracheostomy, ectopic pregnancy, ovariectomy, etc. Each topic is examined in detail with profuse notes and references, but despite the amount of data packed in through commendable industry, the text is more like a review of the literature than real history. Thus the influence of background events and pressures, medical, scientific, and social, are insufficiently discussed, and there is less interpretation than there should be. There is also a tendency to over-emphasize the contribution of American surgery, great as it certainly has been.

This book is, therefore, a compendium of information, much of which is readily available elsewhere, and it is not entirely "a thoughtful look at the history of surgery" as the dust-jacket claims. It certainly can be consulted as a source-book, but a comprehensive survey of the evolution of surgery, taking into account the many factors impelling it and impeding it, has yet to be written. The book is well illustrated and a quarter of it is devoted to 'Notes and further readings' and indexes. Unfortunately the type is faint, making some of the smaller print difficult to read.

L. VAN BOGAERT and JEAN THÉODORIDÈS, *Constantin von Economo. The man and the scientist*, Vienna, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1979, 8vo, pp. 138, illus., DM. 34.00 (paperback).

Von Economo (1876-1931) is remembered mainly on account of his work on epidemic encephalitis. However, his other contributions to neurology, in particular his classic, *The cytoarchitectonics of the human cerebral cortex*, are often overlooked. A full, accurate, and sympathetic survey of his work has, therefore, been long overdue. In this excellent monograph the authors make good the deficiency. They form a perfect pair: Professor van Bogaert, the renowned Belgian neuro-clinician and -scientist who knew von Economo; and Dr. Théodoridès, the well-known French medical historian and a nephew of von Economo. Together they have produced a praiseworthy book, which has been elegantly printed and illustrated. It is a good example of the best type of scientific biography and deserves wide circulation in the neurological and medical historical fields.