

Book Notices

ARNALDO CHERUBINI, *Medici scrittori d'Europa e d'America*, Rome, Antonio Delfino editore, 1990, fol., pp. 344, illus. (88-7810-048-X).

This beautifully produced volume includes the names of more than 2,500 medical men and women in this century who have made a contribution to literature as poets, novelists, historians, and the like. Although most entries are naturally brief, major authors, such as Carlo Levi, Somerset Maugham, Alfred Döblin, and Mikhail Bulgakov, are discussed at length, with pertinent illustrations. Although one may note the occasional omission or quarrel over the allocation of space devoted to medical historians, these are as nothing compared with the abundant information given and the amazing geographical range covered, from Albania to Venezuela. Professor Cherubini's wide reading puts to shame those who are unable to give a country, let alone a title, to Louis Delattre, Pío Baroja, Tadeus Boy-Zelenski, Mariano Azuela, and João Guimarães Rosa, five of his major authors, to say nothing of lesser names. This is not just a work of reference but an open invitation to a wider world of literature.

GEORG RECHENAUER, *Thukydides und die hippokratische Medizin: naturwissenschaftliche Methodik als Modell für Gesichtsdeutung*, Spudasmata 47, Hildesheim, Georg Olms, 1991, pp. xii, 395, DM 98.00 (3-487-09226-3).

This is a careful plod through some well-worn pastures, comparing the views of the Greek historian Thucydides with contemporary medical writings in the Hippocratic Corpus. So we visit "aetiology", "nature", and "prognosis", in an attempt to delineate Thucydides as a historian of crisis within the Greek body-politic. Parallels are scrupulously noted, and the description of the great plague of Athens in 430 is analysed in some detail for its medical language (although, oddly, the author does not make much of the ways in which Thucydides chooses to highlight his medical material). But, although there are occasional new insights, the conclusion, that Thucydides was considerably influenced by contemporary medical thinkers, adds little to what C. N. Cochrane had argued in 1929.

MICHAEL JEROME CARELLA, *Matter, morals and medicine: the ancient Greek origins of science, ethics and the medical profession*, American University Studies V, Philosophy, vol. 110, New York, Peter Lang, 1991, pp. xiv, 361, £24.00 (0-8204-1432-8).

This book grew out of a series of lectures on medical ethics. In its broad sweeps, it manages to convey only the obvious, and, since its author shows little acquaintance with any language save English, its original contribution to ongoing debates is limited. Jouanna, Thivel, Diller, Kudlien, and Phillips have worked in vain; Lonie and Smith need never have written on the Cnidians; and Lloyd, whose numerous books and papers have centred on the themes of this book, is represented only by one article (of 1975) and his little (1973) book on early Greek science. Even on his own subject of medical ethics, Carella does not appear to realize that *Decorum* and *Precepts* were composed perhaps centuries later than the other tracts he mentions. Pedagogic regurgitation of the works of others is no substitute for a close involvement with the original texts.

H. BEUKERS et al. (eds), *Red-hair medicine: Dutch-Japanese medical relations*, Nieuwe Nederlandse Bijdragen tot de Geschiedenis der Geneeskunde en der Natuurwetenschappen 36, Amsterdam and Atlanta, Rodopi, 1991, pp. 114, illus., Dfl. 40.00, \$20.00 (paperback, 90-6203-680-5).

In 1982 and 1983 the Netherlands Association for Japanese Studies organized a series of lectures on the medical aspects of relations between the Dutch and the Japanese, relations which until the 1850s were of special interest because the Dutch were the only Westerners permitted in Japan. We can welcome this somewhat delayed publication, because it is clear

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from the contents that the infiltration of Western medical science through the Dutch doctors stationed at Deshima was an early and important part of the eventual breakneck "modernization" which Japan underwent after 1850. The contributions cover a time-span from the first century BC to the present century. The subjects are equally diverse, including Japanese medicine before the coming of the Dutch, Dutch influences on Japanese medicine in the later eighteenth century, Dutch surgery in Japan in the early seventeenth century, and Dutch influence on Japanese ophthalmology. The most substantial contribution is by Harm Beukers on the introduction of smallpox vaccination, and there is a short essay (by A. Schouten) on one of the more prominent Dutch physicians in Japan, J. L. C. Pompe van Meerdervoort. Only one contribution looks at the reverse traffic, from Japan via the Dutch to the West, focussing on the introduction of acupuncture into Europe (by G. T. Haneveld). This slim volume also contains a bibliography of relevant works by Dutch authors, compiled by M. J. C. Stokman, Rodopi always produces attractive books, and, with the caveat that it is written predominantly from and about the Dutch side of things, it is a welcome addition to our knowledge of this unique commercial relationship.

OVE HAGELIN (comp.), *The byrth of mankynde otherwyse named the womans booke: embryology, obstetrics, gynaecology through four centuries. An illustrated and annotated catalogue of rare books in the library of the Swedish Society of Medicine*, Stockholm, Svenska Läkaresällskapet, 1990, pp. xi, 165, illus. (0349-1722).

This volume follows the aims and methods of its predecessor, noticed in this journal, 1990, 34: 470, but on a narrower theme. The major works of embryology, obstetrics, and gynaecology are here, from Eucharis Rösslin and Henrik Smith to Simpson, Sims, and Retzius, as well as many popular handbooks (albeit badly treated by binders and cataloguers). The plates, of frontispieces and selected illustrations, are well produced, and the biographical and bibliographic information, given at length, provides useful preliminary orientation. The title of Harvey's work on generation, p. 47, is wrongly transcribed, and Paré everywhere loses his accent.

P. H. CULLUM, *Cremetts and corrodies: care of the poor and sick at St Leonard's Hospital, York, in the Middle Ages*, University of York Borthwick Paper 79, York, Borthwick Institute (St Anthony's Hall, York YO1 2PW), 1991, pp. 35, £2.00 + .35 p&p, overseas + .55 p&p (surface post).

This is a valuable study of one of the largest hospitals of medieval England, with 225 sick and poor on its books in 1287. Although proper attention is paid to the medical services it provided, to admission procedures, and to the diet of the inmates, the bias of the surviving sources is towards matters of finance. Maladministration and corruption between 1386 and 1399 almost led to catastrophic bankruptcy, and problems in collecting rents from its East Riding estates may have resulted in a substantial fall in the numbers supported by St Leonard's between 1461 and the 1530s. The system of corrodies, by which in return for a gift of property, money, or services inmates secured a place for the rest of their lives, brought advantages to both parties, but, as Dr Cullum shows, it was also open to abuse and manipulation. Problems in hospital management are no new thing.

ROGER ROLLS and JEAN and JOHN R. GUY (eds), *A pox on the provinces: proceedings of the 12th Congress of the British Society for the History of Medicine*, Bath University Press, 1990, pp. 222, illus., £35.00 from Oxon Distribution, P.O. Box 171, Deddington, Banbury, Oxford OX16 8YG (0-86197-112-4).

Twenty-one papers with a lot of illustrations in a shortish book correctly suggests a pot-pourri. The "provinces" range from druidic Wales to the twentieth-century Devon; the subjects from dentists to orthopaedic surgeons, from medicine chests to subscription lists, from cottage hospitals to literary editors. Despite the deliberate theme, London still looms large.

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FRANK COCKETT, *The Maltese penguin: stories from the background fog of war 1942–1943*, London, SG Books, 1990, pp. 105, illus. (1–85463–049–0).

Frank Cockett, MS, FRCS shares his war experiences while stationed as an RAF medical officer in the Maltese Islands for a year in the aftermath of the siege of the Islands in October 1942 and during the preparation for the Sicily invasion. Written in a highly individual style, these memoirs recreate the atmosphere of stress, starvation, camaraderie, and heroism of those times as seen through the eyes of a young, recently qualified doctor. The book is a tribute to the heroism of the observers based on the Islands and the Fleet Air Arm pilots who with their attacks on the Mediterranean shipping lines became such a thorn in the Axis side. It deals little with the medical aspects of the conflict except for some personal anecdotes of the author.

ELSIE M. WIDDOWSON (comp.), *The Nutrition Society 1941–1991. Presidents and Honorary Members: their stories and recollections*, Wallingford, Oxon, CAB International on behalf of The Nutrition Society, 1991, pp. vi, 130, illus., £15.00 (paperback, 0–85198–716–8).

Based mainly on transcripts of taped recordings of interviews conducted by Dr A. M. Copping and others from 1970, Dr Widdowson, a past President of the Society and its Honorary Archivist, has provided a fascinating set of reminiscences from major figures in the science of human and animal nutrition including Sir Joseph Barcroft, Dr Leslie Harris, Dame Harriette Chick and Sir Rudolph Peters.

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.)

PETER BROWN, MD, *The hypnotic brain: hypnotherapy and social communication*, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1991, pp. xiii, 322, £25.00, \$40.00 (0–300–05001–1).

GUILLERMO OLAGUE DE ROS, JORGE MOLERO MESA, MIKEL ASTRAIN GALLART, ALFREDO MENENDEZ NAVARRO, ESTHER ROSADO CAMACHO, JOSE VALENZUELA CANDELARIO, *Catálogo de la biblioteca histórica del hospital San Juan de Dios de Granada*, Diputación provincial de Granada, 1991, pp. 230, paperback (84–7807–028–1).

PIET VAN SPIJK, *Definition und Beschreibung der Gesundheit: ein medizinhistorischer Ueberblick*, Schriftenreihe der SGGP No. 22, Muri, Gesellschaft für Gesundheitspolitik (SPPG), 1991, pp. 126, illus. (3–85707–0226).