

### Book Reviews

manipulative therapy. He discusses at length the vexed question, and defends vociferously the use of manipulation only by doctors and physiotherapists in well-selected cases. When employed correctly it can usually bring about symptomatic relief. The iniquities of lay manipulators, the adverse attitudes of some medical practitioners and the lack of adequate facilities and how they may be corrected are dealt with.

The historian should be aware of these contentious present-day issues, for their etiology lies in the past. This excellent book can, therefore, be strongly recommended as a unique study.

**VIOLA SKULTANS**, *Madness and morals. Ideas on insanity in the nineteenth century*,

London and Boston, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1975, 8vo, pp. xv, 260, illus., £5.50.

The easiest way to produce a book is to choose a respectable number of extracts from the works of outstanding contributors to a given topic and to introduce them with a small number of pages of text. If the selection can be from books written in English so much the better, because tedious translations can thereby be avoided. Such is the format of this book: twenty-eight pages of introduction, including a few references to relevant literature, and the rest is the anthology, without annotation or comment. The author has training in philosophy and social anthropology, which one must assume she considers adequate qualification for her deliberations.

In fact there is nothing new here, and there are several deficiencies. Dr. Skultans elects to discuss and illustrate only British psychiatry, with no reference whatever to events in other countries; her bibliography is thus composed entirely of works in English, and even so many important secondary sources are omitted. She claims that this is necessary in order “. . . to limit the field of interest . . .” (p. 1), and because ideas on mental disease are comprehensible only by knowing something of the society producing them. But Britain has never been an intellectual island, and French and German influences on nineteenth-century British medicine are undeniable and cannot be ignored. Another defect is a complete silence on the influence of phrenology on nineteenth-century psychiatry. This is now being shown to be of great importance, and Professor E. H. Ackerknecht, to whom no reference is made in this book, has claimed that its effect was comparable to that of psychoanalysis in the present century.

**PETER WINGATE**, *The heretics*, London Macmillan, 1975, 8vo, pp. 219, £3.95.

Historians differ in their attitudes towards the historical novel. On the whole, they may agree on the entertainment it can provide, but they find difficulty in accepting the fictional extrapolations. The scene of this one, written by a medical practitioner, is Basle in the early sixteenth century and the events are seen through the eyes of Oporinus, whose career is the central theme; he is probably best known by his publication of Vesalius' *De fabrica* in 1543. Other outstanding figures are encountered, such as Paracelsus, Erasmus, Calvin and Froben. A good deal of research has gone into the writing of this book and the author transmits vividly the intellectual turmoil of the Renaissance and Reformation. The conflict of personalities and the unorthodox against the orthodox are strikingly portrayed, but the ever-present violence is tempered by the humanity of the times and by the tolerance of Basle.

However, despite the skills of the author in depicting this scene and despite an