

Book Notices

IMMANUEL JAKOBOVITS, *Jewish medical ethics*, New York, Bloch, 1975, 8vo, pp. xliii, 435, \$10.00 (\$5.95 paperback).

The first edition of this book appeared in 1959 and this, the second, brings it up to date by the addition of a large chapter dealing with developments resulting from the recently published extensive rabbinical writings on transplantation of organs, contraceptives, abortion, euthanasia, autopsies, etc.

The author is the Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth of Nations and his Ph.D. thesis forms the basis of his book, the sub-title being, 'A comparative and historical study of the Jewish religious attitude to medicine and its practice'. There is a great deal of history throughout, although some naïvety in its handling is occasionally manifest. The scholarly nature of the work is indicated by the textual notes and bibliography which form about a third of the volume. It will remain the most comprehensive work on the subject and an impressive source-book of information, both from the historical and present-day point of view.

SIR JOHN PEEL (compiler), *The lives of the Fellows of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 1929–1969*, London, Heinemann, 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 390, [no price stated].

Accounts of the 318 Fellows created during the first forty years of the College are presented here in much the same form as in Munk's *Roll* and Plarr's *Fellows*, but with the addition of valuable personal recollections in some instances. The comments on the personality of Fellows are in particular of great interest and use. It would, however, have increased the usefulness of the book if some indication of the sources of the biographical material such as obituaries, biographies, etc., had been made. Nevertheless the book is most welcome as an additional reference work in the history of medicine.

ELMER OSGOOD CAPPERS, *History of the Free Hospital for Women 1879–1975*, Boston, Mass., Boston Hospital for Women, 1975, 8vo, pp. [4 11.], 103, illus., [no price stated].

The non-medical author attempts to give historical perspective to his purely parochial history without much success, but with some startling statements. His book is mainly for local consumption and is not a scholarly work.

TERRENCE DES PRES, *The survivor. An anatomy of life in the death camps*, New York and London, Oxford University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. [xii], 218, £4.00.

Most people may find it more comfortable to avoid the details of events that took place in the death camps of Hitler and Stalin. That human beings could treat their own kind by a process of bestiality, utter degradation and lingering death seems unbelievable. And yet it all happened and somewhere a record, no matter how harrowing it is to read, must be preserved. Mr. Des Pres, amongst others, has done this, using first-hand account of survivors and pointing out the qualities and behaviour that they needed in order to surmount their terrible ordeal. The psychology of survival forms, therefore, an important part of this historical record, and medical aspects are understandably numerous.

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CLIVE E. HANDLER (editor), *Guy's Hospital 250 years*, London, Guy's Hospital Gazette, 1976, 8vo, pp. vi, 232, £2.00 (paperback).

There are altogether sixty-one articles and notes in this commemorative volume and they deal with all aspects of Guy's activities both past and present. There is a section reporting the Anniversary events in May 1976, accounts of the Schools that make up Guy's, reports on its departments, and a group of miscellaneous papers. The majority of articles contain historical material, and together they provide a great deal of most useful information on the evolution and present-day functioning of a very famous London teaching hospital and medical school.

P. M. JACOBS (compiler), *History theses 1901–70. Historical research for higher degrees in the universities of the United Kingdom*, London, University of London, Institute of Historical Research, 1976, 8vo, pp. viii, 456, [no price stated].

It has never been easy to discover the existence or whereabouts of U.K. theses, yet to have this information may be of vital importance to intending higher degree candidates. Mr. Jacobs' book is, therefore, an outstanding contribution to bibliography, and it provides entries for 7,633 theses produced during seventy years, with author, title, degree, university, and date.

These are arranged both by chronological periods of history and by topographical location, with an index of candidates' names and one of theses subjects. Themes in medical history are not grouped together and they must be sought by way of the indexes. Nevertheless this book is a mine of valuable data and it should be available to all historians of medicine.

A. G. POWELL and S. CANYNGE CAPLE, *The Graces (E.M., W.G. & G. F.)*, Bath, C. Chivers, 1974, 8vo, pp. 160, illus., £3.20.

First published in 1948, this book describes the sporting prowess of the Grace brothers, especially that of the cricket Champion, Dr. W. G. Grace (1848–1915). There is nothing of the latter's medical career, and he seems to have been what Lord Moynihan called a "truant of medicine".

P. D. GORDON PUGH, *History and Haslar*, Haslar, Royal Naval Hospital, 1975, fo., pp. ii, 42, [no price stated].

The foundations of the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar were laid in 1746, and the author gives a well-written and illustrated historical account of its present state ("A week around Haslar"). He also discusses briefly concurrent general history and "Some past medical officers at Haslar", such as Lind and Spencer Wells.

JUAN RIERA, *Planos de hospitales Españoles del siglo XVIII existentes en el archivo general de Simancas (inventario primero)*, Valladolid, 1975 (*Acta Historico-Medica Vallisoletana, Monografias V*), 8vo, pp. 18, [44 11.], illus., [no price stated].

After a brief introduction, the plans of hospitals, almost exclusively military or naval, are presented, with brief legends but no commentary. Their reproduction is excellent. They will be of interest not only to the historian of hospitals but also to the expert concerned with the medical aspects of military and naval studies, and to the student of architecture or of prints and drawings.

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V. BECKER and H. SCHMIDT, *Die Entdeckungsgeschichte der Trichinen und der Trichinosis*, Berlin, Heidelberg and New York, Springer, 1975, 8vo, pp. [3 11.], 59, illus., DM.28, \$11.50.

It seems that the discovery of *trichina spiralis* and most of the subsequent work on it and the disease it produces in man has been exclusively German. This brief but excellent account of it deals mainly with the polemics aroused by a priority struggle between Rudolf Virchow and Friedrich Albert Zenker. These are illustrated by a number of letters, which have been both photocopied and transcribed. It is an excellent example of how a very small topic may be studied in depth with ample use of manuscript material.

VERN L. BULLOUGH, *Sex, society, and history*, New York, Science History Publications, 1976, 8vo, pp. ix, 185, \$10.00 (\$4.95 paperback).

One of the easiest ways of producing a book is to collect one's journal articles together and supply a brief introduction to them. One thus derives double publicity with no extra toil. All the papers in this collection have appeared before and are reprinted here in facsimile. Although it may be of value to have them available between two boards (or papers) the stigma of the technique is perhaps equivalent to that associated with the method of acquiring a higher degree by accumulation.

ROY WALLIS and PETER MORLEY (editors), *Marginal medicine*, London, Peter Owen, 1976, 8vo, pp. 166, £5.75.

Seven essays, mainly by sociologists, are arranged in three groups: 'Medical change and social change'; 'Beliefs, organization and following of marginal medical groups'; 'Utilization of orthodox and unorthodox medicine'. They explore the nature of marginal or fringe medicines, about which a lot has been written recently, their development, and the kind of people who subscribe to them. Although most of the discussion here concerns present-day situations, these unorthodox varieties of medical theory and practice are of importance to the historian, who can show the historical reasons for their appearance and growth. The 'Introduction' aims to present the latter, but is not wholly successful.

Information on fringe medicine is often omitted from medical school teaching, but the best way of presenting it to the student is with reference to its origins and evolution. This book will prove to be a useful guide for him.

ANNE SAYRE, *Rosalind Franklin and DNA*, New York, W. W. Norton, 1975, 8vo, pp. 221, \$8.95.

The subtitle, on the dust-jacket only is, "A vivid view of what it is like to be a gifted woman in an especially male profession" and this sets the tone of the book. The author claims that Rosalind Franklin (1920–1958) made an important contribution to the elucidation of the molecular structure of DNA, but has been denied credit for it. This book is therefore written to set the record straight. Unfortunately it is too much of a panegyric motivated by women's liberation to be entirely successful. It does, however, provide information previously unknown or overlooked and is

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based on extensive research, using both literature and individuals. It will, therefore, take its place in the corpus of the history of biology, even though some may consider it biased.

FRANCIS W. D. MANDERS, *A history of King James's Hospital, Gateshead*, Gateshead, The Trustees of King James's Hospital, 1974, 8vo, pp. xi, 51, illus., 75p.

One may judge this a slender effort, but it is in fact an excellent example of first-class local historiography. Mr. Manders of the Gateshead Public Libraries has carried out extensive research on a medieval institution existing in the sixteenth century and re-founded in the next (1611). His study is brought up to 1973 and is fully supported by local documents and excellent illustrations. It seems a pity that its circulation will be of necessity limited.

PASCAL JAMES IMPERATO, *A wind in Africa. A story of modern medicine in Mali*, St. Louis, Miss., W. H. Green, 1975, 8vo, pp. xxvi, 363, illus., \$12.50.

Dr. Imperato, from the Department of Health of New York City, was in Mali from 1966 to 1971, and visited other African countries also. His original mission was a smallpox eradication and measles control programme but he acquired wide experience of Malian medicine. It is this experience that he has recorded in a readable and detailed account of a developing country which is progressing from primitive to twentieth-century medicine. Although the historian of medicine can benefit from the native medicine described for his assessment of palaeo-medicine, the main contribution of this book will be as a valuable source for future historians.

STANLEY C. BEVAN, S. JOHN GREGG, ANGELA ROSSEINSKY, *Concise etymological dictionary of chemistry*, London, Applied Science Publishers, 1976, 8vo, pp. ix, 140, £7.00.

The authors have brought together information from several source-books concerning about 2,500 words, to provide a reference work not at the moment available to the chemist. Their book would have been of immeasurably greater value had they been able in selected cases to have cited the first use of the word, and reference should have been made to Professor Maurice Crosland's excellent work on *Historical studies in the language of chemistry* (London, 1962).

C. W. F. EVERITT, *James Clerk Maxwell. Physicist and natural philosopher*, New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975, 8vo, pp. 205, illus., \$7.95.

In the *Dictionary of National Biography* (1970-) Clerk Maxwell's life and work are described in Volume 9, pp. 178-230. The essay is reprinted here with the addition of twenty illustrations, a "Preface" and an "Index". It is of the usual high standard achieved in the *Dictionary*, but demands some mathematical knowledge of the reader.

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MAURICE B. VISSCHER, *Ethical constraints and imperatives in medical research*, Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1975, 8vo, pp. ix, 116, \$6.50.

All aspects of the ethics of biomedical research are dealt with here, including the problems relating to research on patients in general, on children, prisoners, and on animals, together with genetic engineering and new drugs. No historical material is included but it will be a valuable work for those who wish to trace the evolution of the ethical concerns of society in general and of medical research in particular.

HARRY A. SAVITZ, *Profiles of erudite Jewish physicians and scholars. Biographical essays*, Chicago, Ill., Spertus College of Judaica Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. v, 84, illus., [no price stated].

The fifteen brief biographies are mostly of either unknown or little-known individuals, Maimonides and Haffkine being the two exceptions. There is a brief list of sources.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

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

Bibliography of the history of medicine, no. 10: 1970–1974, Bethesda, Md., National Library of Medicine, 1977, pp. viii, 1069, lxxxvii, \$16.00.

CASELL, ERIC J., *The healer's art. A new approach to the doctor-patient relationship*, Philadelphia and New York, J. B. Lippincott, 1976, pp. 240, \$8.95.

MARTIN, R. G., *Knight of the snows. The story of Wilfred Grenfell*, Guildford and London, Lutterworth Press, 1974 (paperback edition), 1st edition 1966, pp. 94, 36p.

Medical education and the state. The changing pattern in ten countries, Bethesda, Md., National Institutes of Health (Fogarty International Center), [n.d.], pp. xi, 142, \$4.40.

MERRINGTON, M. and GOLDEN, J., *A list of the papers and correspondence of Sir Francis Galton (1822–1911)*, London, The Galton Laboratory, University College, 1976, pp. 89, £2.50.

PHILLIPS, E. D., *The Greek endeavour in biological science*, Belfast, Queen's University, 1975, pp. 14, 40p.

Surgery in World War II; Neurosurgery, vol. II, Washington, D.C., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1959, pp. xxvi, 705, illus., [no price stated].

THODAY, A. G., *A list of the apparatus of Sir Francis Galton (1822–1911) held in the Galton Laboratory, University College, London*, London, The Galton Laboratory, University College, 1976, pp. 10, [no price stated].