

Book Notices

GUNDOLF KEIL (editor), *Festschrift zum 70. Geburtstag von Willem F. Daems* (Würzburger Medizinhistorische Forschungen, 24), Pattensen, Horst Wellm Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 680, illus., DM. 112.00 (DM. 77.00 paperback).

INGRID ROHLAND, *Das 'Buch von alten Schäden', Teil II: Kommentar und Wörterverzeichnis* (Würzburger Medizinhistorische Forschungen, 23), Pattensen, Horst Wellm Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 652, illus., DM. 88.00 (paperback).

W. F. Daems, who is honoured by this Festschrift, has managed to combine a distinguished career in the pharmaceutical industry with excellent studies in the history of medieval pharmacology. His friends have given him a fitting birthday present, largely focused on late medieval and renaissance practical medical and scientific texts, although there are also articles on Greek mathematics, the school of Gundishapur in fourth- and fifth-century AD Iran, and, somewhat out of place, a study of the development of psychiatric hospitals and their relationship with the growth of industrial towns in the last century. *Medical History* readers may find of particular interest K. D. Fischer's essay on a late middle-English veterinary text, which draws also upon a learned scientific tradition of explanation, H. R. Fehlmann's survey of medieval plant glossaries, and J. Stannard's (English) essay on the uses of dill.

This Festschrift continues to display the high standard of scholarship we have come to expect from the Würzburg Institute, and Dr Rohland's dissertation is similarly competent. She provides an essential commentary to H. J. Peters' edition (Bonn, 1973), of this surgical text, written probably in the first third of the fifteenth century in S.W. Germany.

BARBARA J. SHAPIRO, *Probability and certainty in seventeenth-century England. A study of the relationships between natural science, religion, history, law, and literature*, Princeton, NJ, and Guildford, Surrey, Princeton University Press, 1983, 8vo, pp. x, 347, £30.20.

The chief aim of Barbara Shapiro's book is to trace an epistemological shift. Before the seventeenth century, knowledge had to be "certain", and certain knowledge was based on a priori metaphysics, rationalism, scholastic logic, Revelation or the Wisdom of the Ancients. During the seventeenth century, for the first time, men learnt to be content with "probable" knowledge. "Experience", which had hitherto been regarded as unreliable and "vulgar", now became the jewel in the epistemological crown, once associated with experiment, and rigorous Baconian inductive logic. This is a familiar enough historiographical position, but Shapiro gives it a certain freshness by rightly demonstrating that these changes were equally important, not just in the sciences, but in the fields of letters, law, and natural theology as well.

The book unfortunately does not probe the complexities of its own thesis. The movement towards empiricism is taken to be too homogeneous. If Professor Shapiro had examined developments in medicine, for example (which she doesn't), she would have been forced to grapple with the exceedingly murky and involved socio-politics that attended seventeenth-century assertions of medical "empiricism". Nevertheless, the book can be recommended as an up-to-date overview of changing rationales for the arts and sciences in seventeenth-century England.

BURKHARD HOFMANN, *Kranker und Krankheit um 1500. Die Darstellung des Kranken im Zusammenhang mit den spätgotischen Bildnissen der Heiligen Elisabeth* (Studien zur Medizin-, Kunst- und Literaturgeschichte, vol. 3), Aachen, Verlag Murken-Altrogge, 1983, 8vo, pp. iii, 226, illus. [no price stated] (paperback).

In this dissertation, the author, a medical man, reminds present-day physicians of leprosy, a disease forgotten in the West since the sixteenth century but still raging in the Third World. His source for documentation of a pathology of the past is that of pictorial representations from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries. Following in the steps of Virchow and Schmoll, the author proposes that the keen observations of pre-renaissance artists provide a key to diagnostic attempts. The historical figure closely associated with leprosy patients is St Elizabeth of Thuringia (1207–1231). In a catalogue of paintings, miniatures and graphic works, stained glass, sculptures, and tapestries representing the saint, typical signs of leprosy are detected in the sick

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surrounding her. These figures, usually called "cripples" by art historians, are now recognized as far more interesting witnesses to the constant preoccupation by our European ancestors with an epidemic that had its historical roots in the Old Testament and seems to be identifiable for centuries. The author's trust in the certainty of his sources leads him to set up statistical tables showing the increase in indications of leprosy in paintings and sculptures during the fifteenth century. The ninety reproductions in the text are alas too dark for the reader to trace the minute shapes of pathological distortions. Sound historical research and discussion of differential diagnosis distinguish this dissertation as a valuable contribution to medical as well as art history.

JAN BREMMER, *The early Greek concept of the soul*, Princeton, NJ, and Guildford, Surrey, Princeton University Press, 1983, 8vo, pp. xii, 154, £17.50.

This elegant dissertation suggests that in pre-Homeric times the Greeks distinguished two types of soul, a body soul, which gave life and consciousness, and a free soul, identified with the individual, and active outside the body in dreams, trances, and after death. Dr Bremmer brings support for his case from the findings of modern anthropology as well as from the classical texts. His appendices on the wandering soul in Western European folk tradition, and on the souls of plants and animals, emphasize the continuation of these ideas in perhaps unexpected contexts.

J. D. H. WIDDESS, *The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and its medical school 1784–1984*, 3rd ed., Dublin, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 1984, 8vo, pp. x, 194, illus., [no price stated].

The first edition of this history appeared in 1949. This new edition is double the size and brings the story of the College up to date. The reforms and expansion initiated in 1967 are described fully. Around 1972, the Higher Education Authority in Ireland threatened the College with closure as a teaching school. Its survival is an index of its "talent for independent action . . . without the help of the state", of the enthusiasm, energy, and originality of its Members and Fellows, and of the generosity of many interested bodies. In 1978, it was established that students of the College, now affiliated to the National University of Ireland, could sit the examinations of the qualifying and higher degrees of that University.

This very readable account, by Ireland's most distinguished medical historian, emphasizes the remarkable contribution of the College to medical education and practice, in the British Isles (not least to the Armed Services) and throughout the world. It is enhanced by details of so many "characters", from Abraham Colles to Terence Millin. There are innumerable fascinating anecdotes, such as the description of the bizarre occupation of the College premises during the troubles of 1916.

The profuse illustrations and the index are excellent. The bibliographical list is meagre. One must regret the lack of references in this authoritative work. The history of such an institution demands a detailed documentation on account of its significance in the evolution of medical training.

C. H. BROCK (editor), *William Hunter 1718–1783. A memoir by Samuel Foart Simmons and John Hunter*, University of Glasgow Press, 1983, 8vo, pp. xviii, 81, illus. [no price stated] (paperback).

Simmons' memoir of William Hunter began as an eulogy given to the Society of Collegiate physicians in August 1783, the year of the death of the illustrious connoisseur, man-midwife, and past-president of the Society. Simmons was, in fact, ill-equipped for the task, since he was born some thirty years after Hunter and was in London for only a few years before the great anatomist's death. This volume reprints Simmons' memoir but contains, in addition, notes, recently identified as being by John Hunter, on Simmons' text. These notes are originally to be found in John Hunter's handwriting on a copy of the memoir in Glasgow University Library. Some of John's notes are matters of fact recorded elsewhere, but others state his opinions, which are surprisingly generous considering the acrimony existing between the brothers before

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William's death. Helen Brock has also added a re-assessment of William to her immaculately produced model of historical detection.

RALPH V. LINDHOLM, *The bone-nailing surgeon G. B. G. Küntscher and the Finns. A historical review of wartime collaboration and its consequences 1942–1981*, University of Oulu (Finland), 1982, 8vo, pp. 125, illus. [no price stated] (paperback).

During the Second World War, Gerhard Küntscher, then a German Medical Officer, collaborated with the Finnish surgeons at Kemi in a remote area of Finland. His technique of intramedullary nailing spread throughout that country, but its gradual recognition internationally was delayed until after the war.

The author, a Finnish orthopaedist, supporting the wide acceptance of the Küntscher procedure, includes a full list of references and brief notes on persons mentioned in the text.

COLIN C. FERGUSON, *100 years of surgery 1883–1983 – Professors of Surgery, University of Manitoba*, Winnipeg, Peguis Publishers, 1983, 8vo, pp. ix, 83, illus., \$ Cdn. 6.00 (paperback).

The Manitoba Medical College was founded in 1883 by a group of young medical graduates, who then aimed at a high standard of medical training. The first Dean and Professor, James Kerr from Belfast, and his Canadian successors maintained this ideal as outlined in the subsequent vignettes on the sixteen professors of surgery. Gradually, the Medical College amalgamated with many other medical institutions, which, in 1973, became the Health Science Centre, where postgraduate training and modern research developed.

John Gemmell, MD, highlights Colin Ferguson's career as a clinical organizer and also as a well-known paediatric and cardiothoracic surgeon.

JUNE GOODFIELD, *An imagined world. A story of scientific discovery*, Harmondsworth, Middx, Penguin Books, 1982, 8vo, pp. xii, 242, £1.95 (paperback).

An imagined world is a work aptly encompassed by the portmanteau word, *faction*. It is an attempt, based on first-hand experience, to recreate the material and mundane world of the biological laboratory with its illusive promise of scientific discovery. Readers familiar with the philosophy of science will enjoy detecting Professor Goodfield's intellectual ancestry. Others will simply enjoy reading this vivid account of scientific activity. Both groups might be struck, and this may or may not be the author's point, by the inadequacy of the scientific mind as a tool for investigating itself.

JEAN SANDRIN, *Enfants trouvés, enfants ouvriers, 17^e–19^e siècle*, Paris, Aubier, 1982, 8vo, pp. 255, illus., Fr. 50.00 (paperback).

A condensed and semi-popular survey, up to date but without footnotes, tracing attitudes towards and administrative arrangements for foundlings in France, in particular Paris. Sandrin shows how French orphanages considerably antedated comparable institutions in England, that the system of finding employment (mainly in service) for young children was already well organized by the seventeenth century, and that in the nineteenth century the French (like the English) used their unwanted children to populate colonies such as Algeria. The book is nicely illustrated, and reproduces original documents.

A. L. M. COOK, *Liverpool's Northern Hospital 1834–1978*, Liverpool Area Health Authority (Teaching), 1981, 4to, pp. v, 141, illus. [no price stated] (paperback).

This is an "in-house" history, not of one, but of three hospitals of the same name. The first was a transient eleven-year affair; the second, a substantial edifice that served Liverpool for more than fifty years. The final, magnificent Edwardian building, was the fruit of Northern philanthropy, administered by the Trust established in the name of David Lewis, whose department stores must have seemed mirages of cornucopias to the poor of the Liverpool and Manchester slums. The David Lewis Northern Hospital closed in September 1978. Those who, like Colonel Cook, served the hospital with pride, will find much to be proud of in this book.

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RICHARD B. KNAPP, *The gift of surgery to mankind: a history of modern anesthesiology*, Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1983, 8vo, pp. ix, 127, illus., \$21.75.

This book is true to its title. Anesthesiology was a term coined during the 1940s and the author in his researches goes no farther back than 1942. The work is largely a straightforward account of technical questions, such as the history of monitoring, resuscitation techniques, intravenous drugs, and so forth, presented mainly as a chronological recital of significant papers and books, which are all fully cited. Only an anaesthetist could have produced such a detailed work. Only a disciplined author could have avoided straying into hagiography, eulogy, and reflections on the state of art and science in general. Thankfully, Richard Knapp is a very disciplined author.

MICHAEL E. HOBART, *Science and religion in the thought of Nicolas Malebranche*, Chapel Hill and London, University of North Carolina Press, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 195, £17.00.

Taking his inspiration from a recent essay by the philosopher Max Black, Professor Hobart seeks to reveal the "deep structures" underlying the thought of Nicolas Malebranche (1638–1715). The author argues that "intellectual models" of the kind analysed by Black will help the reader to understand Malebranche's thought and to resolve problems which have baffled earlier scholars. Accordingly, Hobart considers a number of interrelated Malebranchian themes in terms of a conflict or tension between the traditional scholastic standpoint (here designated as the "Substance" model) and the new "mathematical" approach to natural philosophy (the "Number" model). The author's "Number" model, however, owes more to post-nineteenth-century developments in number theory and the philosophy of mathematics than it does to mathematics as it would have been conceived by Malebranche himself. The result is an almost entirely ahistorical account of those themes in Malebranche's philosophy that interest the author.

PETER DILG (editor), *Perspektiven der Pharmaziegeschichte. Festschrift für Rudolf Schmitz zum 65. Geburtstag*, Graz, Akademische Druck- und Verlagsanstalt, 1983, 4to, pp. xviii, 497, illus. [no price stated].

Rudolf Schmitz, the founder and head of the Institute for the history of pharmacy at Marburg, receives an elegant and well-deserved tribute in these papers. The topics, range widely in space and time, from antiquity to the present century and from China almost to Peru. English readers will be interested in Cowen's survey of the influence of nineteenth-century German immigrants on American pharmacy; Müller-Jahncke's note on the "English Sweat" in sixteenth-century Antwerp; Sonnedecker's edition of the correspondence between Urdang and Sigerist; and Stannard's valuable exposition of what drugs were actually on the shelves of a medieval pharmacy. Of more than local importance is Schmidt's publication of a long poem on diet from St Albans Abbey. Dr Dilg can be congratulated on producing an excellent birthday present.

MICHAEL HOWELL and PETER FORD, *The true history of the elephant man*, revised and illustrated edition, London and New York, Allison & Busby, 1983, 8vo, pp. 256, illus., £10.95 (£3.95 Penguin paperback).

A revised version of the book first published in 1980 and reviewed in *Medical History*, 1981, 25: 218–219, this contains considerably more detail about Joseph Merrick's career as a touring freakshow and about his contacts with the philanthropic strata of English society. Many new photographs have come to light and are reproduced here.

RIVISTA DI FILOSOFIA, Turin, Einaudi, June 1982, 22–23, pp. 296, L. 30.000.

This special issue of *Rivista di Filosofia* will be of particular interest to historians of science and medicine. Edited by Stefano Poggi, it contains articles on many aspects of nineteenth-century positivism, and its relation to psychology, social Darwinism, physics, and linguistics. The authors include Crosbie Smith, Michael Ruse, Ingrid Belke, and Wolfram Swoboda. Five of the nine articles are in English.

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STEPHEN WALKER, *Animal thought*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983, 8vo, pp. xiv, 437, £17.50.

This book is likely to divide historians into two camps. Those who approach it expecting to find a history of ideas about animal thought, a clear account of current research, and a well-argued case from within philosophy and biology for the credibility of this concept will not be disappointed. From this elevation, this is a thoroughly researched, well-written and generally excellent book. Those however, who come to it hoping to find a *historical explanation* for the fact that we have such a concept at all will be disappointed. Walker is not unaware of this approach (pp. 53–66), which he situates within Marxist literature only to dismiss it. But he largely assumes that animal thought either does or does not exist, and the role of history is to help decide which of these is true.

ELIZABETH FEE (editor), *Women and health. The politics of sex in medicine*, Farmingdale, NY, Baywood Publishing Co., 1983, 8vo, pp. 263, \$14.50 + \$1.50 postage (paperback).

This useful collection of essays relating to women and health, some previously published, some original, relates mainly to the United States, and deals chiefly with current problems (such as "sexism" and "racism" in recruitment to the medical profession). But the introduction by Elizabeth Fee contains some important historical insights, and the collection reprints the major article by Karl Figlio, 'Chlorosis and chronic disease in nineteenth-century Britain: the social construction of somatic illness in a capitalist society'. In general, however, the historical awareness shown by contributors is somewhat shaky, as when R. C. Lewontin writes, in an otherwise valuable article, that in the Middle Ages "change in the social position of individuals was exceedingly rare".

YVONNE KNIBIEHLER and CATHERINE FOUQUET, *La femme et les médecins. Analyse historique*, Paris, Hachette, 1983, 8vo, pp. 333, Fr. 85.00 (paperback).

This is the first book-length overview of the place of women within the history of medicine which the modern feminist movement has thrown up. As such, it is undeniably useful. It has, nevertheless, many shortcomings. The authors seem to think that, after the Greeks, all history worth mentioning has taken place in France. Its scholarship leans very heavily indeed upon a quite narrow range of recent French intellectual, cultural, and medical historians, such as Paul Hoffmann, Jacques Roger, and Michel Foucault. Its conception of its subject matter is essentially to focus upon the images of women (femininity, sexuality, motherhood, the daughter, etc.) contained in rather general and formal scientific and medical treatises, for example, the works of Mauriceau, Roussel, and Bienville. Its technique is to string together summaries of the opinions expressed in such works. Little attention is paid to the impact of such books in practice, neither is the question of their representativeness addressed. How women have actually been treated by doctors receives little attention.

VICENTE NAVARRO and DANIEL M. BERMAN (editors), *Health and work under capitalism: An international perspective*, Farmingdale, N.Y., Baywood Publishing Co., 1983, 8vo, pp. 311, \$16.50 (paperback).

This volume prints fifteen new case-studies, gathered into four sections, 'Ideology in occupational medicine', 'The nature of work and health', 'Occupational health in developed capitalist countries', and 'Occupational health in underdeveloped capitalist countries'. Collectively they present much scholarly evidence that occupational disease is far more extensive than is commonly accepted, and that public safeguards are either inadequate or circumvented. At an analytical level, the book is weakened by its relative lack of a historical perspective. "History" turns up mainly as "lists" of disasters and legislation; and without a more sophisticated understanding (for example) of the place of the medical profession, the prognosis for the future is rather simplistic.