

### Book Reviews

Society since its inauguration in 1660. There were several in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, and the present club probably began in 1731. However, during its lifetime other subsidiary clubs have been formed: Sir Joseph Banks', The Royal Society Club, 1775 to 1784; the 47 Club, from 1874 to 1901 when it amalgamated with the older club. Naturally there have been several accounts of these clubs produced, all published in the last century or in the first two decades of this. Since their appearance, however, a good deal of additional and vital information has come to light, including the diaries of Hooke, John Byrom and Thomas Birch, and the Minute Book of Banks' Club. A new history was, therefore, amply justified and the author has produced a well-researched study with which to supplement and complement the accounts already available. He has drawn liberally on primary sources and cites extensively from them, but unfortunately he gives no precise references to their origins. In fact there are no notes or references at all, and the text tends to be a recitation of events without much discussion or attempts at relating with comparable events elsewhere in the world. Welcome though this detailed history may be, yet another will be needed in which full documentation and wider scholarship are employed.

KEITH TAYLOR (translator and editor), *Henri Saint-Simon (1760–1825). Selected writings on science, industry and social organisation*, London, Croom Helm, 1975, 8vo, pp. 312, £3.95 (paperback).

The influence of Saint-Simon as the founder of social science and socialism was widespread in Europe, despite the fact that his writings made little immediate impact. Although it is 150 years since his death, few of them have appeared in English, and the author's aim in this book is to present a collection of comprehensive and representative selections from them, with the object of making his ideas better known and of dispelling the frequently manifested confusion over his thoughts.

The pieces are arranged chronologically to facilitate a survey of the evolution of his doctrine. They are divided into three parts, after an introduction to the man: 'Science and the progress of human mind (1802–13)'; 'Proposals for post-war reconstruction (1814–15)'; 'From the government of men to the administration of things (1817–20)'; 'The true Christianity (1821–5)'. Of particular interest are ideas which deal with the application of scientific method to the study of man and society, the advent of the new science and technology, and the state's role in the promotion of social welfare.

Medical historians will find much of value in this excellent book, in view of the fact that Saint-Simon was of the greatest importance for the development of social thought in Europe during the nineteenth century and since.

JOHN DONNE, *Devotions upon emergent occasions*, edited, with commentary, by Anthony Raspa, Montreal and London, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1976, 4to, pp. lvi, 192, \$18.00.

In 1623 Donne was convalescing from an illness, which was either typhus or relapsing fever, and he used the enforced inactivity to construct these devotions which are arranged chronologically. Each attempts a spiritual diagnosis for each stage of

### Book Reviews

his illness, and, in general, it synthesizes his ideas on metaphysics and literature, medicine and cosmology, and, having recently faced death, the relationship of man to God. It is also autobiographical, and Donne uses his encounter with illness to ponder on the significance of his life as a whole.

The *Devotions* appears here (pp. 3–127) with textual apparatus and full commentary (pp. 129–187), preceded by an ‘Introduction’, in which the editor discusses the possible nature of Donne’s illness, his religion and metaphysics, and the bibliographical details of the book. Each of the twenty-three sections is divided into ‘Meditation’, ‘Expostulation’ and ‘Prayer’. Professor Raspa, who has a chair of English at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, has produced a scholarly work which contains many references to early seventeenth-century medicine. It will be of great value therefore to historians of medicine who are concerned with the renaissance, and as an outstanding source it can be thoroughly recommended.

HERBERT MAYO, *Anatomical and physiological commentaries*, with an introduction by Paul F. Cranefield, Metuchen, N. J., Scarecrow Press, 1975, (The History of Medicine Series, published under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, No. 45), 8vo, pp. xiv, 120, 141, illus., \$12.00.

Mayo (1796–1852) of London published two volumes of commentaries (1822–1823), in which he described his important work on establishing the purely motor function of the facial nerve and the mixed function of the fifth, thereby refuting the conclusions of Charles Bell. The consequent dispute rivals the Bell-Magendie conflict, and each reveals a good deal of Bell’s character. Mayo also detected the central pathways of the pupillary reflex and this discovery is also in the *Commentaries*. In addition, there is an extensive and important account of the morphology, function and comparative anatomy of the cerebellum by J. C. Reil (1759–1813). Unfortunately Mayo had taken considerable liberties with Reil’s German text and the end result is by no means a translation. It was severely criticized by contemporary commentators, and should only be studied with the original at hand.

Mayo’s book is uncommon and little known so that this facsimile reprint of it with illustrations, reduced in size, is especially welcome. It is handsomely produced with a short introduction, but could have been improved by the addition of notes to Mayo and Reil’s texts, in order to elucidate parts difficult for the modern reader to comprehend.

RONALD L. MEEK, *Social science and the ignoble savage*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. v, 249, £6.00.

The author is Professor of Economics at the University of Leicester, and he provides here a study of a new theory of socio-economic development which appeared during the second half of the eighteenth century. Its key factor was argued to be the mode of man’s subsistence, and it first arose in France and Scotland in the 1750s; it is termed here the four consecutive stages theory, the stages being hunting, pasturage, agriculture and commerce. It was much influenced by Adam Smith and has been of great importance to social science ever since it was formulated. Amongst the several influences moulding it was the contemporary literature on savage societies, in