

### Book Reviews

into this large and important field, and his book will help to open up the area for further probing.

NICHOLAS H. STENECK, *Science and creation in the Middle Ages. Henry of Langenstein (d. 1397) on Genesis*, Notre Dame, Indiana, University of Notre Dame Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xiv, 213, illus., \$14.95 (\$4.95 paperback).

The author's aim is to provide more information about the less well-known scholarship of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, which, with the contributions of outstanding known individuals, provided the background against which the Scientific Revolution must be measured. He concentrates on the state of late medieval science, typified by the writings of Henry of Langenstein, who lived in the fourteenth century. He first gives a survey of the 'Life, training, and works of a medieval scientist', then presents a critical review and assessment of Henry's *Lecturae super Genesim*, which deals with metaphysics, optics, astronomy, cosmography, meteorology, astrology, the biological sciences, and human sciences. The latter includes sections on 'The human body and disease', 'Psychology', and 'The human machine'.

For any appreciation of medieval and early renaissance science, this scholarly book will be essential reading for the historian of science or of medicine.

PETER RICHARDS, *The medieval leper and his northern heirs*, Ipswich, D. S. Brewer, 1977, 8vo, pp. xvi, 178, illus., £6.00.

By about 1500 leprosy had disappeared from all of western Europe except Scandinavia and Iceland, where it persisted till the twentieth century. This book deals mainly with these survivals, particularly on the Baltic islands of Åland, being based on documentary and pictorial evidence. It is fascinating to observe how closely the laws controlling lepers followed the biblical originals, and the comparison of nineteenth-century Baltic leprosy with that of medieval England is most illuminating and helpful to our historical appraisal of the disease. There is an appendix of translated documents which have been used as source-material. The book is well produced, amply illustrated, and moderately priced.

EVERETT MENDELSON, PETER WEINGART and RICHARD WHITLEY (editors), *The social production of scientific knowledge*, Dordrecht and Boston, D. Reidel, 1977, 8vo, pp. vii, 294, [no price stated].

The publishers plan a series of sociology of science yearbooks, and this is the first title in it. Each will consist of papers devoted to a particular topic, and this volume is made up of eleven essays by ten authors. They are arranged in three groups: 'The institutionalisation of the sciences: changing concepts and approaches in the history and sociology of science'; 'Social relations of cognitive structures in the sciences'; 'Social goals, political programmes and scientific norms'.

Historians of medicine will be especially interested in the first of these sections, especially in Professor E. Mendelsohn's excellent paper, 'The social construction of scientific knowledge'. On the other hand, more sociological topics will have less appeal. Nevertheless, this is a commendable work, and future titles in the series, *The dynamics of science and technology* (1978) and *Countermovements and sciences* (1979), will expand further the important subject, the sociology of science.