

Book Reviews

well-known study of English ecclesiastical thought on social questions, was clearly in an ideal position to investigate the campaigns and ruminations on fertility in this period, and he has done the job with exemplary thoroughness and care.

It is possibly to be regretted that the author did not highlight the peculiarities of the English debate on these questions by reference to more European and American writing. To do so would be to define demography as a system less of social biology and statistics than of social thought and rhetoric, bearing the distinctive hallmarks of very different national cultures. That task remains to be done.

J.M. Winter
Pembroke College, Cambridge

JANET PERCIVAL (editor), *A guide to archives and manuscripts in the University of London*, vol. 1, London, University of London Library Resources Co-ordinating Committee, 1984, A4, pp. xi, 219, £7.50 + postage (paperback).

This welcome guide brings together the results of work done by six archivists on the collections held at the School of Economics, the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University Library, and at Imperial, King's, and University Colleges. Each institution receives a separate entry, which gives a list of manuscript holdings in alphabetical order and useful information to the prospective reader. The utility of the volume is enhanced by a select bibliography and a full name index.

Some entries must surely send any proper historian, i.e. one who relishes the *pulvis literaria* of documents, into an enthusiastic fit of anticipation: 500 *boxes* of the main Beveridge collection and about 3 *bays* of Malinowski papers. For readers of this journal, the archives of University College, with its distinguished medical and scientific traditions, are those of most obvious interest. Though the collections of Chadwick, Galton, Pearson, and Haldane are perhaps best known, they do not exhaust the riches of the UCL holdings: witness those of Barrington, Bayliss, Burdon-Sanderson, Cameron, Carswell, de Beer, Horsley, Jenner, Lewis, Penrose, and Sharpey, plus various students' notes on lectures and demonstrations. If the other five institutions do not rival UCL in their medical archives, they should not be airily dismissed. One wonders, for instance, what jewels lie in the 70 boxes of the British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association, 1913–47, or in the 21 boxes of the Unicorn Bookshop, covering anarchist and sexually subversive publications of the 1960s (both LSE)?

Janet Percival and her colleagues are to be congratulated for the skill and energy which they have lavished on this first volume, which deserves wide circulation and may be obtained from the Publication Office, University of London, 52 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PJ, allowing 75p for postage. It is an enticing earnest of the second volume, which will cover the remaining schools and institutes of the University.

Jack Morrell
University of Bradford

JAMES H. CASSEDY, *American medicine and statistical thinking, 1800–1860*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1984, 8vo, pp. x, 306, £18.00.

Following a course he initially charted out in *Demography in early America: beginnings of the statistical mind, 1600–1800* (1969), James H. Cassedy in his new study carries his account of “statistically minded physicians” (p. viii) up to the start of America's Civil War. Statistical activity among physicians steadily increased during this period, and attained its nineteenth-century peak, Cassedy proposes, in 1860. Enthusiastic but rarely mathematically sophisticated, physicians engaged in a crude Baconian programme of collection, propelled by the belief that enough facts duly enumerated would have something important to say for themselves. Nevertheless, the reform animus of this endeavour is evident, for statistical arguments became central in efforts to improve orthodox medical care of the mentally and