grounds. From the mean score of a group you cannot say anything at all about the score of one exceptional member of the group, as Simonton must know. In another case Simonton assesses the relationship of educational level to rated eminence in Cox's sample of 301 eminent figures from history. He finds that, among the 192 "creators" (artists, scientists, etc.) in this sample, the most eminent had education equivalent (for their time and place) to "a college education just shy of a bachelor's degree" (p. 66). Those with more education or less ranked lower on the eminence scale. His conclusion is that "the development of creative potential may be weakened by formal training", although he cautiously admits that "the more impressive intellects simply may not need a doctorate" (p. 73). But to reach such a general conclusion, on the strength of 192 individuals selected from the past 500 years precisely because they were exceptional, is clearly nonsense. This is the psychology of testimonials, and is equivalent to saying: the world's ten richest men never graduated from university, therefore graduating from university will not make you any richer either.

Fallacious reasoning such as this will inevitably reduce the credibility of Simonton's analyses overall. This is a pity, as there is much in the book that may be valuable. Simonton's approach deserves to be extended and developed, but a good deal more carefully.

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ULRICH TRÖHLER, *Der Nobelpreisträger Theodor Kocher 1841—1917,* Basle, Birkhäuser, 1984, 8vo, pp. xvi, 238, SFr.38.80

Emil Theodor Kocher was a native of Berne, Switzerland. He became Professor of Surgery in 1872 and remained there until his death, forty-five years later. He belonged to the group of modern surgeons in the second half of the nineteenth century, and established close contact with his colleagues. Thus, he was a pupil of Langenbeck and Billroth, and became the friend and, in some cases, teacher of Victor Horsley, Wm. Halsted, George Crile, Harvey Cushing, and A. von Eiselsberg. He followed the traditions of John Hunter and Astley Cooper. His energy and capacity for hard work were enormous, and he covered a huge field, producing many innovations in techniques for the surgery of hernia, osteomyelitis, military injuries, dislocations, the nervous system, dermatomas, and attempts at the surgical treatment of epilepsy. His best-known work concerned the physiology and surgery of the thyroid gland and his observations of cachexia strumipriva (1883), for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1909. At the time of his death, he had carried out personally 5,314 thyroidectomies. He eschewed the virtuoso technique, but was a surgeon of careful planning, meticulous precision, and great skill. He was one of the leaders of the group of surgeons who put surgery on a sound anatomical, pathological, and, above all, physiological basis.

All this is described extremely well in Tröhler's new and comparatively short biography, on which he is to be congratulated. He gives the local and international background of the period, the personal relations, and a description of Kocher, the man. The text is supported by extensive references. A subject index in addition to the name index would have been helpful.

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WOLF-DIETER MÜLLER-JAHNCKE, *Astrologisch-magische Theorie und Praxis in der Heilkunde der frühen Neuzeit, (Sudhoffs Archiv*, Beiheft 25), Stuttgart, Steiner, 1985, 8vo, pp. 328, illus., DM.68.00.

The introduction draws attention to the change in attitude towards the subject of astrology in the history of science during the twentieth century. The method became descriptive, and the "spin-offs" from antiquated theories for the development of the natural sciences started to be acknowledged. The author divides medical astrology into three phases: (1) natural astrology,

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