

Book Reviews

repairs; cross-lip flaps; otoplasty; facial fractures; and papers on various subjects. There is also a section of essays on the main contributors and their work. Each extract has a commentary by an expert, a biographical sketch, and occasionally an editorial note. Many American collections of this kind have an abnormally large number of pieces by English-speaking authors, but in this book there is a fairer representation of French, German, and other nationalities. There are also a few secondary source contributions. The illustrations are numerous and of good quality.

In all this is a valuable reference work on the history of plastic surgery, and it can be warmly recommended.

The ambrosia heart tantra, translated by Jhampa Kelsang with annotations by Yeshi Dönden, vol. 1, Dharamsala, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 1977, 8vo, pp. 126 [no price stated].

This translation of the First and half of the Second Treatise in the fundamental Tibetan work on medicine from about A.D.800 will be welcomed by those interested in traditional medicine. Out of the six chapters of the First Treatise, two have been translated by Dr. Elisabeth Finckh in her *Grundlagen tibetischer Heilkunde* of 1975. All the thirty-one chapters of the Second Treatise have been translated by Rechung Rinpoche in his *Tibetan medicine in original texts* (London, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 1973, pp. 29–97), except for chapter three which the translation under notice has also omitted for similar reasons. It is always good when the same ground is covered several times because it gives the reader the opportunity of comparison and assessment. The present translation benefits by the annotations of Dr. Yeshi Dönden, the personal physician of the Dalai Lama. The Rechung translation incorporated a certain amount of commentary from the *Vaidurya sNgon.po* or *Blue Beryl* of the seventeenth century because these passages formed part of the text in the blockprint used. The present translation has neatly separated the *rGyud.bzhi* or *Four Treatises* text from the annotations which are given in brackets. On the other hand, many of the annotations by Dr. Dönden are the same as the passages from the *Blue Beryl* in the Rechung translation. It would be helpful if in the next volume the annotations from older commentaries such as the *Blue Beryl* or the *Lhan.thabs* were separated from Dr. Dönden's own remarks which are the result of observations made in the twentieth century. The choice of title is striking. It translates the long original title rather than the short title *Four Treatises* usually given to the work. The translation "heart" rather than "essence" is literal and poetic. The use of the word "ambrosia" instead of the usual "nectar" is less literal because *bdud.rtsi* is definitely a juice and not solid food. But a regard for euphony may have dictated this choice, and quite rightly so.

JOSEPH NEEDHAM, *The shorter science and civilization in China: 1*, an abridgement by Colin A. Ronan, Cambridge University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xi, 326, illus., £7.95.

After twenty-four years and eight volumes *Science and civilization in China* is still in production. Its very dimensions have repelled some, especially students, and the

Book Reviews

price has also been a deterrent. This summary of volumes 1 and 2 is, therefore, most welcome, and Mr. Ronan has produced a readable condensation amounting to about one-third of the original. It is, however, dealing with somewhat dated material, opinions and facts having changed in the last two decades, but there is some attempt to bring the text up to date. This abridgement will be widely popular, for it deals with the general features of the history of Chinese science and its earliest periods. The further volumes promised will be most welcome and useful.

PETER MORLEY and ROY WALLIS (editors), *Culture and curing. Anthropological perspectives on traditional medical beliefs and practices*, London, Peter Owen, 1978, 8vo, pp. vii, 190, £7.50.

There are nine essays in this book and they reflect the new attitude to traditional medical systems. They are no longer viewed as wholly primitive, and the wide interest in various forms of non-Western therapy may be a reaction to the overwhelming scientific treatment of the West. These articles survey modern theory, data and methods of the merging science, medical anthropology, and deal with healing in countries such as Mexico, Serbia, the Philippines, Melanasia, and the African continent.

Together they provide a most valuable addition to our knowledge of medical practices, and although these may be quite foreign to us, they may possibly be of relevance. This book will be of interest to anthropologists, historians of medicine, sociologists, and medical practitioners.

SEYMOUR FISHER and ROGER P. GREENBERG (editors), *The scientific evaluation of Freud's theories and therapy*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 446, £13.50.

Yet another addition to the Freud industry. The editors have chosen forty-one pieces and have grouped them thus: 'The dream theory'; 'Oral character'; 'Anal character'; 'The Oedipal theories'; 'Origins of homosexuality'; 'Paranoid delusion formation'; 'Psychoanalytic psychotherapy'. Together they form a companion volume to the editors' *The scientific credibility of Freud's theories and therapy* (see *Medical History*, 1978, 22: 346).

However, it is curious that every one of the selections is American in origin, presumably because the editors found more support in the writings of their countrymen, and maybe are not aware of the non-American literature where perhaps articles and books critical of Freud have appeared. In any case an uncritical collection of this type is of little value, and one has the feeling that the volume of assent here presented weakens rather than strengthens the case in favour of psychoanalysis.

GEORGE E. GIFFORD jr. (editor), *Psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, and the New England medical scene 1894-1944*, New York, Science History Publications, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxiii, 438, illus., \$35.00 (\$28.00 paperback).

No part of medicine has received more attention from historians and would-be historians than Freud and psychoanalysis. The industry continues apace, despite doubts cast on basic tenets. In this book there are twenty-one essays and the discussion they generated at a unique symposium held on 12-14 April 1973 in Boston