

Book Reviews

Medical Illustrations in Medieval Manuscripts, by LOREN MACKINNEY, London, Wellcome Historical Medical Library, 1965, pp. xvii, 263, 104 plates, 105s.

It is a pity that Loren MacKinney did not live to see the publication of this beautifully produced book, which represents to some extent the culminating point of his thirty years' search for medical illustrations in medieval manuscripts. He had immense enthusiasm for this work and pursued his quest with a thoroughness which makes it unlikely that anyone else will discover new material. He investigated the contents of no fewer than 172 libraries in Europe and America and as a result amassed a unique collection of 4,000 photographs. The publication of all this material was obviously impossible and therefore the present book contains but a small fraction of it. This he has arranged under various headings, hospitals, diagnosis, materia medica, medication, surgery, obstetrics and so on, introducing each section with a short historical sketch, and giving a description of the various illustrations contained in the latter part of the book. But for the benefit of those who may wish to pursue some particular subject, he has given a complete check-list of all extant manuscripts containing medical miniatures with details of the subjects illustrated. This is supplemented by a bibliography of works which contain other useful reproductions and a comprehensive index.

The genesis of the book, the illustrated lectures given by MacKinney over the years to groups of medical and non-medical historians, is reflected in his choice of illustrations. The ambivalence in the author's mind about the purpose of his work, wishing it to be neither a picture book nor an outline of medical history and addressing it therefore neither to professional physicians and surgeons nor to lay readers, makes it difficult to assess the exact value to be placed on some of the pictures. Some are not technical enough for the professional and others not beautiful enough to delight the layman. But there can be no denying that the collection of illustrations as a whole is both interesting and informative. The coloured plates are particularly successful and it is much to be regretted that practical economics prohibited the reproduction of all the plates in this way. All the same, it is a book that will give much pleasure to many, and with its invaluable list of manuscripts stimulate the interest of many more.

C. H. TALBOT

La Théorie des Passions à la Lumière de la Pensée Médicale du XVII^e Siècle, by WALTER RIESE, *Confinia Psychiatrica*, supplementum ad 8, Basle, 1965, pp. vi, 74, Sw.Fr./DM. 13.

Dr. Riese has written a monograph of seventy-four pages setting forth views of the passions held by a small group of seventeenth century physicians, philosophers and one divine. It contains a study of the Cartesian theory of the emotions (or passions) followed by an examination of the views of three physicians, Louis de la Forge, Cureau de la Chambre and Georg Ernst Stahl. John Locke is then dealt with very briefly, and, after a discussion of some general aspects of baroque theories of the passions, the relevant views of Spinoza are accorded fourteen pages. The two closing sections of the monograph contain comments on a work of the seventeenth century divine, Senault, and some remarks on the equivocal position occupied by the passions