

Book Reviews

'Childhood and infancy', etc. It is suggested that the overall benefit to the reader will be a better understanding of medicine today, how it reached the present state, and what is likely to happen in the future.

Concerning the second of these, historical material is frequently used in both text and illustrations. It is perhaps unfortunate that although this part of the book is obviously of importance to the overall aims, a professional historian of medicine was not included amongst the contributors or employed as consultant for the various sections.

Nevertheless, the editors and their collaborators have produced a useful and attractive volume which should be popular with both layman and health sciences worker.

MAGDALENA SOLOSKA, JACEK HOLOWKA and ANTONINA OSTROWSKA (editors), *Health, medicine, society*, Dordrecht and Boston, D. Reidel, 1976, 8vo, pp. xi, 516, \$39.50.

In August of 1973 an international conference on the sociology of medicine was held in Warsaw, and this book contains a selection of the papers presented, arranged in five groups: 'Health and society'; 'The transformation of medical intervention'; 'Sociological insights into the health sciences'; 'The health system'; 'Teaching'. One of the objectives of the meeting was "to review with general sociologists and physicians the different theoretical sources from which the sociology of medicine has evolved". This is, therefore, the main attraction for the historian, but the volume can also be recommended as a reliable source of information concerning present-day sociological problems, a vital necessity for those engaged in the field of the social history of medicine.

GEORGE KRIEGMAN, ROBERT D. GARDNER and D. WILFRED ABSE (editors), *American psychiatry past, present, and future*, Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1975, 8vo, pp. xiv, 205, [no price stated].

The first American public and state-supported mental hospital was established in Williamsburg in 1773 and to commemorate this event a meeting was held in 1973. Topics were carefully planned, and speakers, representing psychiatry, sociology, law, and history, solicited. The programme was divided into three parts: four papers giving perspective and including, 'The bicentennial of Eastern State Hospital', 'American psychiatry in the eighteenth century', 'American psychiatry: past, present, and future'; psychiatric therapy, dealing mainly with present-day problems; the role of psychiatry in society, where again current situations and future possibilities are discussed, one by Charles Rosenberg, 'The crisis in psychiatric legitimacy', being especially noteworthy. In the case of each group, the discussion evoked is included. These papers will be of interest to the practising psychiatrist and the historian of medicine alike.

ELLIOTT M. BLASS (editor), *The psychobiology of Curt Richter*, Baltimore, Md., York Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xxxi, 399, illus., \$18.00.

For fifty-six years Dr. Curt Paul Richter (born 1894) has been carrying out research