

Book Reviews

razzmatuzz quackery hardly developed before the rapid expansion of commerce, advertising, communications and the press after the 1740s. Benes also shows that, at least up to the War of Independence, many of the showbiz-style quacks were paying brief visits to Europe, including the pioneer electro-therapist and sex-therapist, James Graham.

In one final way, this volume documents the different course taken by New World medicine, by exploring the intimate links between healing, holiness—and business! American religious sects, it is well known, continually begat new medical doctrines, including the powerful Thomsonian movement. What is less well known, though intriguingly revealed in two absorbing papers on the Shakers (David Richards' 'Medicine and healing among the Maine Shakers, 1784–1854', and Margaret Moody Stier's 'Blood, sweat and herbs: health and medicine at the Harvard Shaker community, 1820–1855') is the development of the manufacture and sale of medicinal herbs as an early form of highly profitable agri-business.

Now that pre-industrial community healing practices are being better understood, it is time that their comparative history was more fully explored, so that common elements and local diversities can be appreciated. It is on the basis of admirable collections of research papers like *Medicine and healing* that it will soon be possible to investigate such parallels.

Roy Porter, Wellcome Institute

MICHEL MORANGE (ed.), *L'Institut Pasteur: contributions à son histoire*, Histoire des sciences, Paris, Editions La Découverte, 1991, pp. 321, FF 150.00 (2-7071-2054-5).

L'Institut Pasteur: contributions à son histoire is primarily based on the International Symposium held in Paris from 6th to 10th June 1988 on the history of the Pasteur Institute, a celebration of its centenary in October 1987. The writings were chosen and presented by B. Fantini, M. D. Grmek, M. Morange and E. Wollman. The book consists of 19 chapters, divided in 3 parts. The first part (chs. 1–6), 'De Pasteur à l'Institut Pasteur', deals with classic topics about Louis Pasteur and his Institute, a centre originally conceived for teaching and for research into infectious diseases. The second (chs. 7–13), 'Succès et limites de la recherche pasteurienne', covers the scientific highlights from microbiology and immunology (Duclaux, Roux, Ramon, Metchnikoff, Oudin, etc.) up to the establishment of the French School of molecular biology (Wollman, Jacob, Monod, and Lwoff). Perhaps the most exciting event at this meeting was the round table encouraged by the Nobel Prize winner Daniel Bovet on the history of the discovery of sulfamides by Jacques and Thérèse Trefouël, Federico Nitti and Bovet himself ('Le laboratoire de chimie thérapeutique, de l'arsenic aux sulfamides'). The last part (chs. 14–19), 'Les prolongements de l'oeuvre pasteurienne dans le tiers monde', puts the emphasis on overseas colonial branches of the Institute (Australia, China, Africa, Rio de Janeiro), these being the least known and main novelty of its work. In no particular chronological order, the authors use instructive episodes in the Institute's history to provide new insights on the Pasteurian legacy. This timely book is written in the belief that the history of this humanitarian and scientific institution is of great importance and that this endeavour should not be seen as its full history. It will appeal to all those concerned with the bio-bibliographic resources of the history of leading contemporary biomedical research institutions.

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L'image et la science, Actes du 115e Congrès national des Sociétés Savantes, Avignon, 1990, Colloques du C.T.H.S. 8, Paris, Editions du Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques, 1992, pp. 425, illus., FF 400.00 (2-7355-0263-5).

In 1990 the annual French national congress of learned societies was held in Avignon; its theme was 'Images in science and science in images', and this volume prints 28 papers that were presented there. They are diverse in content and uneven in quality, even by the usual standards of conference volumes: given the theme, it is astonishing that some papers are entirely textual, and many others sparsely illustrated. The papers are arranged by subject: five on geographical topics, five on

biological imagery, and three specifically medical; four on art and archaeology; two on cognitive science; and nine on applications, mainly related to computer imaging.

The role of images in the *history* of the sciences has been shamefully neglected until recently (historians of medical science have been shining exceptions here, perhaps as a result of their training in a set of pervasively visual practices). It would be good to be able to report that this volume contributed to the belated recognition that texts are not the only sources that historians can draw on; but in fact most of the papers are purely scientific, and there are few on historical themes.

The volume opens with brief but well-illustrated essays on the significance of the *mappae mundi* of the twelfth century and the great world atlases of the early modern period. The first of the biological papers describes the design of an exhibit at the science museum at La Villette, in which scientific images from the Revolutionary period are used to convey a historical sense of what “natural history” meant at that time. Otherwise there are few truly historical papers, though some of those on modern imaging techniques could provide suggestive material for a historical treatment of recent biomedical practice.

Of the three papers on medical topics, the first, by Michel Lemire, is most likely to interest readers of this journal. It describes the astonishingly “realistic” coloured wax models of anatomical dissections, the making of which flourished briefly from the late eighteenth century into the early nineteenth. Those made by Felice Fontana at Florence from the 1770s seem to have inspired patrons elsewhere in Europe. One important set was commissioned by the Duc d’Orléans from the surgeon André-Pierre Pinson; at the Revolution it passed to the new Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris, where it was later supplemented by models ordered by Georges Cuvier to embellish his new gallery of *comparative* anatomy. Miraculously, many of these wax models have survived the vicissitudes of war and well-meaning modernization. It would have been good to have more illustrations of them; and their changing function, from being objects of contemplation (in a “cabinet of curiosities”) to a new role as visual aids for teaching, deserved closer analysis.

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MAREK KOHN, *Dope girls: the birth of the British drug underground*, London, Lawrence & Wishart, 1992, pp. vii, 198, illus., £11.99 (paperback 0–85315–772–3).

Dope girls has a good marketable subject; the series of drug-taking *causes célèbres* involving West End actresses and their drug suppliers which occupied many press column inches before, during, and after the First World War.

Marek Kohn starts with the suicide in 1901 of two out-of-work actresses, Edith and Ida Yeoland. The fact that they had used cocaine excited press comment. But it was not until the Great War that fears of an epidemic of drug-taking reached fever pitch. A cocaine trade in the West End of London, where prostitutes acted as go-betweens for sales to Canadian troops, fuelled concerns that the efficiency of fighting men might be undermined. War has always been a stimulant of social change. DORA Regulation 40B which restricted access to cocaine and smoking opium was the drug-taking equivalent of nationalization of the drink trade and the restriction of pub opening.

The uncertainties of the immediate post-war era were expressed through reactions to drug-taking. The death of Billie Carleton, a popular actress, in 1919, brought revelations of cocaine and veronal use, of opium-smoking parties in pyjamas, of a West End *demi-monde* of film actors, dress designers, and the occasional army officer. The Carleton case helped set the tone for the passing of the 1920 Dangerous Drugs Act, which extended and made permanent the wartime restrictions. The Freda Kempton case of 1923 fulfilled a similar function at the time of the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, which stiffened penalties.

Kohn rightly draws attention to the connection between the attack on drug-taking and fears of social dislocation during and after the war. The “new woman” was said to be peculiarly at risk—“The queer, bizarre, rather brilliant bachelor girl is a frequent victim to the insidious advances of the female dope fiend”. Dealers and others involved in the trade were typically either gay, black or oriental. The press had a field day with the “weakness and effeminacy” of Reggie De Veulle,