

Book Reviews

The translation is preceded by a short historical note on Maimonides, a brief description of the background to *Mishnah Torah* and a glossary of technical terms for those not acquainted with Jewish terminology. Although the terseness of the Hebrew language and the difficulties of rendering it into English are referred to, the translation is readable and lucid. There is, however, no indication of the original from which the translation has been made. It is unfortunate that the text has minimal notes – further annotation would have enhanced what is a useful and scholarly piece of work. We hope that Dr. Russell and Rabbi Weinberg are still sufficiently enthusiastic to give us translations to some of the remaining parts of Maimonides' great work, which aroused so much controversy and interest when it first appeared.

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K. GANZINGER, M. SKOPEC, and H. WYKLICKY (editors), *Festschrift für Erna Lesky zum 70. Geburtstag*, Vienna, Brüder Hollinek, 1981, 8vo, pp. [iv], 212, front., [no price stated].

The *Festschrift*, a device that seems to be more common in Continental than in Anglo-American realms, provides a means whereby the world of learning can commemorate those whom it admires and can at the same time form new estimates of their accomplishment or influence. The newly issued tribute to Professor Erna Lesky exemplifies these characteristics.

The brief introductory biography mentions Professor Lesky's early inclination toward paediatrics, which was to provide the foundation of one of her subsequent historical interests. It goes on to cite her important work on occupational medicine, on Austrian public health, and on the Vienna schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as well as her celebrated reconstruction of the institute over which she presided for almost two decades. The terminal listing (pp. 193–203) allows the reader to learn in full detail the directions of her astounding productivity.

The text proper is composed of eighteen essays, arranged tactfully in alphabetical order. As might be expected, these papers are linked in many ways to Professor Lesky's interests. An opening salvo by Ackerknecht interprets sympathetically the psychiatric antics of Wilhelm Reich, and demonstrates Reich's resemblance to Mesmer. Antall describes the contrasts in the life of Semmelweis and the contrasts between Vienna and Budapest. An essay by Roth, based on graduation oaths taken by central and eastern European physicians, shows surprising persistence of pre-communist wording in the U.S.S.R. until recent decades, and long duration of Austrian influence in Balkan countries. Belloni, in describing the discovery of iron in living creatures, leads the reader from Malpighi and the Bolognese virtuosi Galeazzi and Menghini to the modern work by Buchner. Schadewaldt's paper on representation of infectious disease in works of art contains some interesting observations about syphilis and plague. A contribution by Schweppe and Probst examines Störck's researches in experimental pharmacology. Stevenson compares the therapeutic nihilism of Dietl with that of Osler. Temkin, in presenting some moral implications of the concept of disease, asserts that "a natural history of disease" in the strict sense of complete independence from culture, is a fiction. Rothschild's paper on the problem of relevance considers changed values, especially in the eighteenth and subsequent centuries. There are contributions by Buess on occupational medicine, by Ganzinger on Frank, by Koelbing on rectors' addresses, by Simmer on endocrinology, and by Wondrak on early surgical and obstetrical teaching in Moravia.

The interest and appropriateness of the collection has done justice to Professor Lesky.

Saul Jarcho
New York

R. B. OUTHWAITE (editor), *Marriage and society. Studies in the social history of marriage*, London, Europa, 1981, 8vo, pp. viii, 284, £19.50.

The eleven essays brought together in this scholarly if somewhat disconnected volume bring to light, or bring into focus, much about the modulation of marriage, and its relations to