

Book Reviews

be “comprehensively followed from the official reports”. Fortunately, official publications and actual events at local level frequently show interesting discrepancies and nineteenth-century provincial newspapers are full of detailed and useful accounts of the epidemic that certainly deserve setting alongside these official records. Pattison clearly has veterinary heroes and villains, not all of whom perhaps deserve his praise or opprobrium; thus he writes equally enthusiastically of John McFadyean as a leader of the profession and of Alfred Adrian Jones, a sculptor-veterinarian.

If one accepts that the history of a profession in Britain is to be found in its journals and publications, then Pattison’s book will satisfy the reader. However, a comprehensive story of veterinary practice and practitioners remains to be told, especially the recruitment of veterinary surgeons, their social origins and contribution to community health. Much archive material survives on the early history of the profession; the records of the nineteenth-century provincial associations, practitioners’ own account books, prescriptions and correspondence, as well as the veterinary surgeon’s appearance in other contemporary records, being paid for his professional attendance, owning property and advertising his services in the press (permitted until 1894), and so on. A volume based on these materials has still to be written; in the meantime Pattison’s book can be seen as one contribution towards a larger account.

Joan Lane
University of Warwick

H. MOCHMANN and W. KOHLER, *Meilensteine der Bakteriologie*, Jena DDR, Gustav Fischer, 1984, pp. 386, illus., M.60.00 (paperback).

The 100th anniversary of Robert Koch’s discovery of the tubercle bacillus in 1882 brought a number of celebrations and biographical volumes on Koch from East Germany, covering familiar ground and in most cases bordering on eulogy. The present volume has the same protagonist but spreads its net much wider among early bacteriologists. It is based on a series of articles celebrating ‘One hundred years of bacteriology’ published in the journal *Medicamentum* since 1976. The authors emphasize that theirs is no comprehensive history but merely a collection of “stories from the history of bacteriology”. As such, they provide an entertaining guide to many early achievements by the rival German and French schools of bacteriology and immunology, extending also to the works of Ehrlich and of Metchnikoff and including much general and some exclusive biographic information. “Stories” they may be, but based on a well-documented study of the original literature they are eminently factual and never descend to the level of anecdote.

As a curtain-raiser, there is a historical perspective on the appalling consequences, especially for European Jews, of the superstitions aroused by the phenomenon of “bleeding” caused by periodic contamination of food and in particular of the Eucharist host with the “blood bacterium” *Serratia marcescens* from the early Middle Ages until a scientific explanation was finally given in the nineteenth century. There is an extensive bibliography of early bacteriology, although publications in languages other than German are few and far between. For a paperback volume, there is a generous number of well-chosen illustrations.

Lise Wilkinson
Royal Postgraduate Medical School

BRYAN GANDEVIA, ALISON HOLSTER and SHEILA SIMPSON *An annotated bibliography of the history of medicine and health in Australia*, Sydney, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 1984, 4to, pp. xiv, 187, 38.50 Australian dollars (paperback).

Anyone interested in health and the development of medicine in Australia will find this comprehensive bibliography a valuable research tool. Although essentially medical in its orientation, it extends to works dealing with the social, economic, and political implications of

Book Reviews

medicine. The bibliography updates its 1956 edition, includes works published as late as 1983, and concentrates on historical rather than historic items, the latter being covered by Sir Edward Ford and the bibliography of Australian medicine currently in progress.

Gandevia urges the reader to read the introduction: this outlines the rationale, parameters, format, and future of the work. It is pleasing to know that subsequent updating, albeit on a limited scale, is planned. The twenty sections range from the medical aspects of exploration and transportation to biography and medical journalism. Annotations serve to elucidate a title or draw attention to a particular emphasis or contribution. However, the outstanding feature of the bibliography is its detailed author and subject indexes. These should first be consulted for a listing of available secondary sources for a specific topic or author. Unfortunately, the faint, small print detracts somewhat from the overall presentation. Nevertheless, the bibliography is an indispensable reference work for studies in Australian medical history.

Helen R. Woolcock
University of Western Ontario, Canada

S.M. HILLIER and J.A. JEWELL (editors), *Health care and traditional medicine in China 1800–1982*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983, 8vo, pp. xix, 453, illus., £25.00.

A book on medicine and health care in China with the emphasis on the twentieth century has been a desideratum for a long time. The volume under review offers also a historical introduction and a description of the use of traditional medicine in a vast country where most facilities of modern western medicine are available only in a few cities. A great amount of material has been presented here without having been digested. Five chapters deal with health care from 1800 to 1982. Since the inception of the People's Republic in 1949, there has been the "Great Leap Forward" during 1958–9, the "Three Bitter Years" 1962–65, the "Cultural Revolution" 1965–76, and the present post-Mao phase. Then comes a chapter on preventive medicine covering the same ground for 1949–82. Next come four chapters on traditional medicine, which are completely different in character from the rest of the book because they explain principles and describe methods, while the other chapters deal with social organization. Then come four chapters on the special topics of paramedical personnel, psychiatry, nutrition, and family planning, again plodding through the same phases with their medical policies. That the chapters are by various authors is no excuse. An editor ought to have streamlined the text and cut out the mass of meaningless detail.

All statements are documented by quotations, mostly from Chinese newspapers and periodicals. The statistics, however, lose their significance when figures given during one phase are frequently contradicted and replaced by other figures for the same period, during the subsequent phase.

In spite of these drawbacks, some information on a specific subject can be extracted by a patient and persistent reader. For instance, the present reviewer is fascinated by the account of the rediscovery of traditional prescriptions from Han tombs which were scientifically investigated and resulted in the isolation of an anti-malarial crystal of *Artemisia annua* in 1972.

Marianne Winder
Wellcome Institute

JOHANNES OEHME, *Pädiatrie im 18. Jahrhundert*, Dokumenta Pädiatrica Bd. 12, Lübeck, Hansisches Verlagkontor, 1984, 8vo, pp. 171, illus., [no price stated].

This slim volume with many pictures of eighteenth-century physicians and reproductions of the title-pages of medical works on the diseases of children intends to portray Enlightenment paediatrics. As a quick introduction, the book has its uses. It is clearly divided into sections covering prenatal care, feeding of infants, diseases of the newborn, the classification of diseases of schoolchildren, infectious diseases, skin diseases, and infants' exposure to venereal