

Book Reviews

hydropathics', 'The rationale of spas', and 'Spas today and tomorrow'. Although many quotations are included, there is no documentation, other than occasionally in the text.

Despite the voluminous literature on spas, there is not yet available a scholarly and comprehensive work that places the spa in its historical perspective, taking into account the inextricably woven medical, social, economic, political, and religious aspects that form its background. The present volume, like the vast majority of its predecessors, is mainly descriptive and entertaining.

However, Dr. Thomson does have a message, which is a plea to re-introduce spa therapy, to take the place, in part, of expensive and often ineffectual drug treatment. On the whole, his arguments are persuasive and sensible.

JERZY TOPOLSKI, *Methodology of history*, Dordrecht and Boston, Reidel, 1973, pp. x, 690, Dfl. 105.00/\$39.50.

Professor Topolski's book, which first appeared in Polish in 1973, is the most voluminous recent contribution to historiography. He defines methodology of history as "the consideration of the ways in which actual historical research is made (pragmatical methodology) and the scientific results thus obtained (apragmatical methodology)", but does not include in it the theory of historical processes. Part One of his work deals with the subject matter of the methodology of the sciences and of history, and with the scope of historical research. Part Two considers patterns of historical research, and Part Three the objective methodology of history, including the influence of Marxism. Part Four concerns the distinction between knowledge based on historical sources and non-source-based knowledge, defined as statements and guide-lines used to study the past. Part Five gives an analysis of scientific procedures used in history, including the various methods of establishing facts, quantitative methods, explanation in historical research, construction and synthesis. Part Six discusses the structure of history as a discipline.

The text of this book is not always easy to follow, and much of the copious documentation is to Polish sources; there is, nevertheless, ample reference to Western historiography and historians. Naturally enough, many of the examples given refer to Polish history. Few will care to read all of Professor Topolski's book, but there are many areas that readers will wish to consult.

M. J. MORGAN, *Molyneux's question. Vision, touch, and the philosophy of perception*, Cambridge University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. [vi], 213, illus., £7.50.

William Molyneux (1656–1698), a friend and correspondent of John Locke (1632–1704), posed the question as to whether a person blind from birth would identify the world about him if he regained his sight. The problem of congenital blindness as discussed by eighteenth-century philosophers is the basis of this book. The author, believing that modern psychologists have distorted the views of Locke and Berkeley, discusses in detail their work on perception, and also that of Diderot and Condillac. In a final chapter he deals with Lotze and Kant, but, other than a discussion of recent developments, does not include the nineteenth century. On the whole, documentation is sparse, but this is otherwise a scholarly contribution to the history of perception.