

Book Reviews

H. C. DARBY (editor), *A new historical geography of England*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1973, pp. xiv, 767, illus., £21.00.

The association between geography and the history of medicine may not be immediately obvious, but the late Sir Dudley Stamp in his Heath Clark Lectures of 1962, amongst others, has given ample evidence for their connexions.

This excellent treatise is therefore of relevance to all medical historians. It consists of twelve substantial essays by ten eminent geographers, which are arranged chronologically and deal with the changing face of England from the Anglo-Saxon invasions to the early nineteenth century; each is amply supplied with documentation and they are illustrated with 156 specially prepared maps and diagrams. It is against this changing picture that English medicine evolved, and the data provided here to show how this scene was produced are as extensive as they are diffuse: agriculture and market gardening, towns and cities, industry and mining, population, transport and communications, water supply, steam engines, immigration, countryside, climate, etc. The medical implications of these are readily conceivable and so are the medico-historical. What is now needed is for historians of medicine to correlate the medical with the geographical, where this has not already been done. There must be a multitude of engaging problems awaiting solution.

Professor Darby and his collaborators must be congratulated on producing such a remarkably valuable and fascinating work, and the publishers likewise for an elegant and serviceable volume. It is to be hoped that it will stimulate others to add further to our knowledge in this vitally important field of historical geography.

GIRINDRANĀTH MUKHOPĀDHYĀYA, *History of Indian medicine, containing notices, biographical and bibliographical, of the Ayurvedic physicians and their works on medicine. From the earliest ages to the present time*, 3 vols., New Delhi, Oriental Books Reprint Corp., 1974, 8vo, pp. xxi, 172, 1–203, xxi, 99, 205–218, xx, 519–868. Rs.200 (set).

The contents of these volumes were compiled in 1909 but were not published until 1922–1929. The work was planned to occupy six volumes, and, as the title suggests, was to advance from antiquity to the twentieth century. However, only the first three were published and they cover only the period up to the advent of British rule. This reprint is an exact copy of the original with no attempts being made to bring it up to date. There are substantial introductions to each volume, but the author makes little attempt to record a sequential development. Most of the work, in fact, consists of accounts of the gods, semi-gods and humans who pioneered Indian medicine. Their works are described with care, and frequent quotations in Sanskrit are given.

Unfortunately nowhere does one find an appraisal or analysis, or even a detailed general account, of Indian medicine, and comparisons with contemporary ancient medicine elsewhere in the world are fragmentary. Nevertheless the biographical and bibliographical data may be useful to some scholars. The main defect of the work, however, is that no attempt has been made to up-date it, so that we are dealing with a text nearly sixty years old. A good deal of information on early Indian medicine has been published since 1909, amending, modifying and adding to what is here presented.