

Book Notices

Observationes anatomicae collegii privati Amstelodamensis, facsimile with an introduction by G. A. Lindeboom, Nieuwkoop, B. De Graaf, 1975, (*Dutch Classics in History of Science, XIX*), 8vo, pp. 1–29, 53, 31–37, illus., Hfl.65.00.

Over the years the Netherlands Society for the History of Medicine, Mathematics and Exact Sciences has published a series of classics of Dutch science and medicine. This one, like its predecessors, is all that a good reprint should be, for it has a scholarly introduction by an authority on the book, an elegant facsimile reprint, and notes to elucidate the text.

It reprints two small anatomical works produced by the short-lived (1664–1673) Amsterdam private college, which was equivalent to the Royal Society, the Académie Royale des Sciences, and other such bodies. It was founded probably by the renowned Dutch anatomist Gerard Leonard Blasius (c. 1625–1692), and amongst its members was the well-known Swammerdam (1637–1680). The present work is the result of the college's dissections and has two parts: *pars prior* (1667) and *pars altera* (1673). Each is made up of short notes on the anatomy of a variety of animals, and together they form the first extended work on comparative anatomy after Severini (1645). Professor Lindeboom provides an excellent introduction to the college and to the books themselves. He has produced another excellent reprint to be added to our growing store of facsimile sources.

GORDON IRVING, *Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. The first two hundred Years 1776–1975*, Dumfries, Dinwiddie, 1975, 8vo, pp. ix, 137, illus., £2.50.

Another bicentenary celebration is commemorated by a chronicle of service. This latter has stretched over a wide area in south and southwest Scotland and the record of it is presented here in a chatty and short-paragraphed style by a professional writer, who describes not only the two earlier infirmaries that preceded the modern hospital of 1975, but also the social life and history of Dumfries and its citizens. The Infirmary is noted for a number of pioneer ventures and it is claimed that general anaesthesia induced by ether was used here before the 1846 operation by Liston in London; Dr. E. A. Underwood carefully investigated this claim and his paper should have been cited: 'Dumfries and the early history of surgical anaesthesia', *Ann. Sci.*, 1967, 23: 35–75.

On the whole, this book falls into the class of parochial hospital history, although it provides fascinating reading.

J. W. GRAHAM, *Eight nine out! Fifty years as a boxer's doctor*, Manchester, Protel, [1976], 8vo, pp. 133, illus., [no price stated].

As well as being an autobiography spanning sixty years, this book provides an account of the methods employed by the British Boxing Board of Control to safeguard professional boxers. It describes the world of pugilism little known to most and is mainly a chatty tale based on personal experiences; of necessity, boxing is defended against the criticism usually levelled at it. It would have been most valuable had the author presented data indicating the change in the medical aspects of boxing over half a century. The decline of the punch-drunk state itself would be interesting, although admittedly not now found in well-controlled boxing fraternities.

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EIKE-HENNER W. KLUGE, *The practice of death*, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp.ix, 250, £5.00.

At a time of moral crisis when ethical judgements and decisions are becoming of increasing significance in medicine, this book is a useful contribution to an understanding of them, hopefully to act as a remedy to the widespread confusion on issues of vital importance to both patient and physician. Kluge, a philosopher, examines in turn abortion, suicide, euthanasia, infanticide, senicide, and morality and the practice of death. He takes no doctrinal stand on these issues, but subjects each to a rational analysis. His material is carefully organized, his arguments and counter-arguments, which include historical allusions and material, are skilfully presented, and his text is adequately documented. As one of the few unbiased, reliable books on an emotional topic, important to the historian as to the practising doctor, this work deserves a wide audience.

DAVID A. KRONICK, *A history of scientific and technical periodicals. The origins and development of the scientific and technical press 1665-1790*, 2nd ed., Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xvi, 336, \$13.50.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1962 and received a mixed reception: see for example, this journal, 1963, 7: 292.

It now returns in augmented form, but the format is much as it was. After dealing with the historical background to the periodical and other forms of communicating, the author discusses the original publication (the substantive journal and society proceedings), the derivative journal (the abstract and review journal, the collection of anthology of scientific articles), collection of dissertations and other academic writings, almanacs and annuals, scientific literature and the general periodical, and the bibliographical control of the periodical literature. The terminal bibliography has been enlarged and the indexes revised.

This up-dated version of a useful reference work on an essential yet complex topic will be welcomed by historians of science and medicine.

DAVID C. LINDBERG, *A catalogue of medieval and renaissance optical manuscripts*, Toronto, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1975, 8vo, pp. 142, \$7.50.

Dr. Lindberg catalogues here a large number of optical manuscripts in Latin and Western vernacular languages from the twelfth to sixteenth centuries, with a few from the seventeenth, and, in addition, provides a list of printed editions and of secondary sources describing the manuscripts. Although not exhaustive, his catalogue is a most valuable tool for scholars and is divided into 'Optics excluding ophthalmology' and 'Ophthalmology'. He includes only works that deal exclusively with optics, and has omitted, amongst small groups, all works of Aristotle, not wishing to duplicate Lacombe's *Aristoteles latinus* or C. H. Lohr's on-going work. Attempts have been made to examine each manuscript in person, which greatly increases the reliability, and, therefore, the usefulness, of the book.

The arrangement is by author and each entry has incipits, lists of known manuscripts and locations. Indexes provide incipits, manuscripts by location, and names of ancient, medieval and renaissance authors, editors and translators.

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H. ARTHUR KLEIN, *The world of measurements*, London, Allen & Unwin, 1975, 8vo, pp. 736, illus., £5.95.

As metrication, with measured stride, seeks to engulf us, the science of metrology becomes more relevant and of greater interest. This book by Mr. Klein, an American professional writer, is a useful, complete survey of metrology and he is able to enliven, by his style and presentation, what can be a dull and technically difficult topic. Every possible variety of measurement is dealt with, and although one usually thinks of the everyday varieties as constituting the subject, no less than nineteen are discussed here; scores of units of measurement are also described. There is a good deal of historical material included throughout the work, which is often essential for the understanding and appreciation of present-day usage. Altogether the author provides us with an enormous amount of data, and much of it should be of interest to historians of science and medicine. However, its value could have been greatly enhanced by the addition of documentation. Unfortunately there is none.

J. KAHN, *Job's illness. Loss, grief and integration. A psychological interpretation*, Oxford, Pergamon, 1975, 8vo, pp. 1xiv, 166, illus., £7.00.

It is the author's contention that the much-afflicted Job of the Bible, who was enriched by his sufferings, symbolizes the spiritual evolution of man into a new identity by means of physical and mental anguish. In other words his interpretation of the ideas expressed in the Book of Job can best be understood in the light of modern psychology. This unhistorical approach will be unacceptable to scholars. Moreover Dr. Kahn, who dissects the book minutely, seems to rely heavily on the New English Bible translation rather than the Hebrew version from which it was obtained. When almost every word is significant and hidden meanings abound, only an examination of the original text can allow the deep analysis resorted to here.

PARACELSUS, *The archidoxes of magic, etc.*, London, Askin, 1975, pp. 4 11., 10 11., 158, 3 11., illus., £4.85.

It seems that the reason for this facsimile reprint of Paracelsus's *Of the supreme mysteries of nature, etc.*, (Englished by R. Turner, London, 1656) is its astrological and occult contents and not its historical worth. The 'Introduction' by Stephen Skinner, tells us a good deal about Paracelsus, but nothing of the background of sixteenth-century thought against which he and this book must be assessed. In fact, to discuss Paracelsus in the preface of a work published by an English Paracelsian without reference to Sudhoff, Pagel or Debus is no mean feat.

RONALD PEARSALL, *The alchemists*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, [1976], 8vo, pp. 185, illus., £4.95.

A glance at the rudimentary bibliography of this book confirms the impression that it is not intended for the serious student of chemistry or of medicine. Virtually none of the most recent work on the subject is referred to, most being ancient and much having been superseded, and the mode of citation and text presentation suggest that the author does not belong to these groups of workers. In fact he is a popular writer who, no doubt, is relying on the current interest in the occult to sell his latest book.

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BRIAN POWERS, *Sir Charles Wheatstone F.R.S. 1802-1875*, London, H.M.S.O., 1975, 8vo, pp. [vii], 239, illus., £5.50.

Every schoolboy used to know of the Wheatstone bridge for electrical measurements, but very few could say who Wheatstone was. This book gives the answer and is the first full-length biography of a musical instrument-maker who eventually held the chair of experimental philosophy, that is physics, at King's College London for nearly fifty years. He was inventor, scientist, innovator, and pioneer in electrical science and telegraphy; he is especially remembered for his invention of the concertina, the stereoscope and polar clock and his construction of a linear motor and the eponymous bridge.

Dr. Powers' excellent biography tells of the man, but it also contributes to the history of nineteenth-century science in which he was a brilliant participant.

DUANE SCHULTZ, *A history of modern psychology*, 2nd ed. New York and London, Academic Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xvii, 395, £5.30.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1969 and was well received; see for example, *J. Hist. Behav. Sci.*, 1970, 6: 285; and *Isis*, 1971, 62: 251-252. It was judged a good book for undergraduates, being short, easy to understand, accurate, and dealing only with the period since the introduction into psychology of experimentation. It is now improved by the correction of errors, the remodelling of certain sections, the inclusion of additional matter, and the removal of some material. Its reputation as a reliable text is therefore maintained and strengthened so that it can again be recommended for student use, as long as reference is also made to literature outlining the pre-experimental period in the history of psychology not covered by it.

BRYAN R. WILSON, *The noble savages. The primitive origins of charisma and its contemporary survival*, Berkeley, Los Angeles and London, University of California Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. [x], 131, £3.95.

Charisma is a sociological concept and in its use here it implies endowment with supranatural power as in the leader of a community who, because of his great talents, possesses a sacred type of nobility. Thus the "noble savage."

It is a necessary phenomenon amongst primitive peoples and declines with their secularization. Dr. Wilson illustrates his theme from a study of charismatic leaders in American and African cultures and points out that the primitive is still attractive, even in our advanced technocological society. Charisma represents an appeal for a supernatural nobility of power to save us, and it retains an emotional attraction, as an alternative to oppressed society. As the author of this excellent and thoughtful essay points out, to contemplate the concept of charisma is to facilitate the interpretation of the past and our understanding of the future.

PETER J. NEVILLE HAVINS, *The spas of England*, London, R. Hale, 1976, 8vo, pp. 192, illus., £3.95.

The literature on British spas is very extensive, so that it is not clear why in these times of economic stringencies yet another should be thought necessary. Nor is it

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apparent what the author's qualifications are for coping with a complex medical and social problem.

On the whole this is a superficial survey with no documentation. The brief bibliography makes no reference to the medical aspects of spas *per se*, although it is suggested that the spas made “. . . leading contributions to [the nation's] developing medical science”, a claim it would be difficult to substantiate and no attempt seems to have been made to do so here.

ROLAND MORTIER and HERVÉ HASQUIN (editors), *Études sur le XVIIIe siècle*, Tome 2, Brussels, University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. 226, illus., 425 FB.

The first volume of this series (1974) included articles on literature, ideas, economy, institutions and *beaux-arts*, but this, the second, has a section on science. There are four articles and of these, two deal with medicine: the theory of health and disease up to the end of the eighteenth century; tarentism in the eighteenth century. Dr. Roger Darquenne deals with the first, and traces the concept of disease clearly and with supporting charts. Jacques Marx's paper is more original and takes into account the complex religious, musical, social, cultural background to an already complicated phenomenon. Some of the more general articles elsewhere in this collection may be of interest to the medical historian of the eighteenth century.

LLOYD DEMAUSE, *A bibliography of psychohistory*, New York and London, Garland Publishing, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 81, \$13.00.

Psychohistory aims to create “. . . a radical empiricism which moves from actual evidence of childhood and adolescence experience to actual evidence of adult motivational patterns, each discovered only through painstaking historical research into the primary documentation . . .” (pp. viii-ix). Whatever this means, it is claimed that the subject is now a new discipline and has already generated a considerable literature. This book, therefore, contains lists of book and article titles, from which one can select such absorbing topics as ‘The scandal of Euclid. A Freudian analysis’, ‘Towards a psycho-historical inquiry: the “real” Richard Nixon’, ‘Freud and the psychoanalysis of history’, ‘Bismarck's childhood. A psychohistorical study’, etc., etc. There is also a list of annotated selections from the interdisciplinary literature of the history of childhood, which contains reference works well known to most scholars.

THOMAS P. KELLEY, Jr., *The fabulous Kelley. Canada's king of the medicine men*, Don Mills, Ontario, General Publishing Co., 1974, 8vo, pp. [4 11.], 149, \$1.50 (paperback).

Mr. Kelley tells the intriguing story of his father (1865–1931), one of the greatest quacks and showmen of North America. It seems likely that he was the last of the medicine-showmen and this book, although not a scholarly document, is an important contribution to the history of quackery and makes fascinating reading.

Adolphe Quetelet 1796–1874, Brussels, Académie Royale de Belgique, 1974, 8vo, pp. 158, [no price stated].

The papers presented at two meetings in 1974 commemorating the death of the

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famous Belgian statistician make up this book. Most of them are devoted to discussions and evaluations of his pioneer work in a new discipline, and his theories and publications are examined carefully and compared with modern ideas. The discussions evoked by papers are included in some cases. In addition there is a considerable amount of information on the history of statistics *per se*, which makes the book doubly useful.

JOHN BARRETT, *Cancer and cure. A doctor's story*, London, Bachman & Turner, 1976, 8vo, pp. 135, £3.50.

The subject of this book is Dr. Eva Hill of New Zealand, who suffered from a type of cancer, a rodent ulcer, and was completely cured, as is so in the vast majority of cases treated by modern methods. Since this unremarkable event she has advocated an unorthodox treatment of cancer introduced by an American. This is all very reminiscent of the German Dr. J. Issels' so-called cancer-cure and is not worthy of any serious attention. For the historian of therapy, however, it is another interesting episode, again demonstrating the apparent gullibility of the medical profession, as well as the laity.

JOHN PAUL BRADY (editor), *Classics of American psychiatry*, St. Louis, Miss., W. H. Green, 1975, 8vo, pp. ix, 281, illus., \$15.00.

The editor has chosen eleven outstanding contributors to American psychiatry ranging from Benjamin Rush to Adolf Meyer and reproduces here fourteen selections from their writings. There is a brief introduction to each author, but these are mostly too short and do not discuss in any detail the way in which each man's work fitted into the overall development of psychiatry. Reference to the secondary literature is likewise inadequate.

R. F. H. SUMMERS, *A history of the South African Museum 1825-1975*, Cape Town and Amsterdam, A. A. Balkema, 1975, 8vo, pp. ix, 245, illus., £10.98.

The aim of the compiler is to show how this Cape Town Museum has developed from modest beginnings in July 1825 to the present day. He adopts a strictly chronological sequence to survey its dual role. First, important research work has been undertaken in the fields of biology, anthropology, archaeology, palaeontology and other earth and life sciences, aided by a fine reference library and resulting in scholarly publications. At the same time the Museum, as well as coping with well-organized and growing collections, offers attractive displays for public education. Extensive use has been made of the Museum archives, and particular emphasis is placed on the activities of administrators and scientists who have helped to create a distinguished institution.

EDMUND H. BURROWS, *A history of medicine in South Africa up to the end of the nineteenth century*, Cape Town and Amsterdam, A. A. Balkema, 1958, 8vo, pp. 389, illus., £10.98.

Although published nearly twenty years ago, attention should be drawn to this excellent survey, extending from the beginning of South African history. It is the only scholarly work on the subject and has already been well received. The author has drawn upon a vast amount of material and has been able to integrate medical events with those of the pioneering and colonization of all four provinces of the Union.

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Interspersed in the text are brief biographies of outstanding men, which, although most useful, should have been gathered in alphabetic sequence in an appendix. Another criticism would be that the history tends to be somewhat parochial because insufficient reference is made to contemporaneous happenings elsewhere in medicine and science. Nevertheless Dr. Burrows' book can be strongly recommended.

PATRICIA ALLDERIDGE, *The Bethlem Historical Museum. Catalogue*, London, Board of Governors of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, 1976, 8vo, pp. 60, illus., 50p. (paperback).

The exhibits are described in groups, proceeding chronologically and also depicting important individuals: the Monro family, Sir Charles Hood (1824–1870), Louis Wain (1860–1939), Richard Dadd (1817–1886). There are forty-three excellent illustrations and a brief index.

PETER BALDRY, *The battle against bacteria. A fresh look*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xii, 179, illus., £4.50.

The first edition of 1965 which was well received (*J. Hist. Med.*, 1966, 21: 433; *Science*, 1966, 151: 1521), ended with the introduction of penicillin and streptomycin. It now has the sub-title, *A history of man's fight against bacterial disease with special reference to the development of antibacterial drugs*, and has been considerably expanded and better illustrated, with an account of the many other potent antibacterial agents discovered during the past twenty-five years, and of the problems of the resulting bacterial resistance induced by them ("enemy resistance", pp. 156–172). There are, however, many errors in the first part of the book, which deals with pre-nineteenth-century attempts to control bacterial infection. The last six chapters are worthy of perusal but there are no references or bibliography.

C. R. AUSTIN and R. V. SHORT, *Reproduction in mammals. Book 6 The evolution of reproduction*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. viii, 189, illus., £6.50 (£2.50 paperback).

As an authoritative account, designed for students, of the ways in which the forces of evolution have moulded the various systems operating in mammalian reproduction, this book, composed of five chapters by five authors, can be warmly recommended. Evolution being biological history, the historian of biology or of the medical sciences will find Short's essay on 'The origin of species' (pp. 110–148) of especial value.

J. A. R. BICKFORD and M. E. BICKFORD, *The private lunatic asylums of the East Riding*, Beverley, East Yorkshire Local History Society, 1976, 8vo, pp. 58, £1.15 (paperback).

These asylums (1814–1898) helped to provide psychiatric care of a relatively enlightened variety. Most were called "retreats" and each is described here in turn. This scholarly reappraisal is an important contribution to the history of British psychiatry and to local history.

W. F. BODMER and L. L. CAVALLI-SFORZA, *Genetics, evolution, and man*, San Francisco, W. H. Freeman, 1976, 4 to, pp. xvi, 782, illus., £11.10.

This is an introductory text-book almost exclusively based on human genetics and

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evolution. Its material can be readily understood without a great deal of technical knowledge, and it provides one of the best guides to the subject. It will, without doubt, become a standard treatise for students and others, and for the historian it provides an excellent source-book for reference.

PETER R. COX, *Demography*, 5th ed., Cambridge University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. ix, 393, £10.00 (£3.50 paperback).

Since its first edition in 1950 this book has proved to be a popular introduction to the subject (see review, for example, of fourth edition in *Times Literary Supplement*, 5 March 1970, p. 262). It has now been extensively revised, and the process of reducing the amount of technical and analytical material has been continued, with more space being given to social, economic and political aspects. In addition a more international approach has been adopted.

Demography continues to be an increasingly important part of medical history and this book is an excellent source of information for those seeking an expert's account of it. The section on 'Population in history' (pp. 169–196) is of especial interest.

W. M. CAPPER and D. JOHNSON (editors), *The faith of a surgeon. Belief and experience in the life of Arthur Rendle Short*, Exeter, Paternoster Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. iv, 156, £1.80 (paperback).

Professor Rendle Short (1880–1952) of Bristol was an outstanding surgeon, but he is also remembered today for his wholehearted and unremitting service to God and to others. This book uses autobiographical material previously unpublished and draws upon his biography, *Arthur Rendle Short: surgeon and Christian*, of 1952. It provides an excellent picture of medicine in a provincial English city during the first half of the twentieth century, and of a remarkable man who devoted so much of his time to the understanding and dissemination of the Christian faith, and his application of it to the needs of his fellow-men.

JOHN ENGLISH, RUTH MADIGAN and PETER NORMAN, *Slum clearance. The social and administrative context in England and Wales*, London, Croom Helm, 1976, 8vo, pp. 223, £7.50.

The authors, who are all sociologists, aim at explaining the administrative process of slum clearance and rehousing by analysing local authority bureaucracy and its impact on individuals. For the historian, however, the chapter on the history of the process, 'the origin of slum clearance 1868–1930' (pp. 16–49) will be the main interest. More research on this topic is necessary and perhaps this book will stimulate someone to tackle a rewarding project.

HANS-HEINZ EULNER and HERMANN HOEPKE (editors), *Georg Meissners Briefe an Jacob Henle 1855–1878*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1975, 8vo, pp. 104, [no price stated].

The editors present a series of letters from the physiologist, Meissner (1829–1905), to the anatomist, Henle (1809–1885), on a variety of topics, with copious footnote elucidations. They provide further detail concerning one of the most outstanding periods of advancement in the medical sciences: the second half of the nineteenth century in Germany.

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G. C. AINSWORTH, *Introduction to the history of mycology*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xi, 359, illus., £11.00.

Views on fungi have been recorded for thousands of years but the study of them, the science of mycology, has existed for only two and a half centuries. This book is the first to present a full history, based on widely scattered literature, some of which is difficult to locate. The author, who was Director of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute at Kew, has carried out his task with great care and industry and he has produced a useful and important book. He admits it is only an outline, but there is adequate documentation and a valuable chronology and bibliography from 1491 to 1974. The text is arranged in chapters by themes, such as form and structure, culture and nutrition, pathogenicity, uses, distribution, toxicology, classification, etc., and these are arranged chronologically. The final chapter deals with "Organisation for mycology". Although the reader is expected to have a rudimentary knowledge of mycology, technical language is kept to a minimum.

There is a great deal of information in this book, but insufficient consideration of its relationship to the general advancement of science and to related subjects has been given. Another defect relates to the mode of presentation; if a topic sequence is adopted, surveys of overall progress are essential and cross contacts must be made between sections.

R. G. W. ANDERSON and A. D. C. SIMPSON (editors), *The early years of the Edinburgh Medical School*, Edinburgh, Royal Scottish Museum, 1976, fo., pp. viii, 124, [no price stated].

Edinburgh and medicine. A catalogue of the exhibition held at the Royal Scottish Museum, June 1976–January 1977, Edinburgh, Royal Scottish Museum 1976, pp. vii, 72, illus., £1.75 (paperback).

In June 1976 the 250th anniversary of the Edinburgh Medical School was celebrated and these publications record some of the events.

The first contains the eight papers read at a historical symposium on 26 June 1976. The most substantial and important were by professional historians: D. L. Cowen on the Edinburgh pharmacopoeia; J. B. Morell on the Town Council and its University (1717–1766); C. J. Lawrence on medical theory and practice in eighteenth-century Edinburgh; R. Rendall on the American influence of Edinburgh.

The second is the guide to an exhibition of 571 items displayed in the Royal Scottish Museum. Each is described fully and there are a number of excellent illustrations. The catalogue is preceded by brief accounts of the Royal College, the Medical School, and Edinburgh's hospitals.

Together these monographs provide an excellent record of the commemoration of an important event in the history of British medicine.

LOIS A. MONTEIRO (editor), *Letters of Florence Nightingale in the History of Nursing Archive, Special Collections, Boston University Libraries*, Boston, Mass., Boston University, 1974, 8vo, pp. xxiv, 69, illus., [no price stated].

The 151 letters are arranged chronologically with a very brief description of each and a summary of their contents which occupies only a few lines. There are very

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short notes on fifteen of the correspondents but the rest are not identified and no attempt is made to elucidate people, events, institutes, etc., mentioned in the letters and appearing in the summaries.

JUAN M. JIMINEZ MUÑOZ and JUAN RIERA, *Bibliografía histórica en el siglo médico (1854–1936)*, Valladolid, 1975, (*Acta Historica-Medica Vallisoletana, Monografías VI*), 8vo, pp.[109], [no price stated].

The journal *El Siglo Médico* was founded in 1894, published in Madrid, and this book lists historical articles appearing in it up to 1936. They are arranged by author in alphabetical sequence and total 747, comprising a surprisingly wide variety of topics. There is also an index to biographies by name of biographee, and one for subjects. This forms a useful reference tool, especially for the history of Spanish medicine and information concerning Spanish doctors.

EDMOND A. MURPHY, *The logic of medicine*, Baltimore, Md., and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xiii, 353, illus., £11.55.

Dr. Murphy is a physician and biostatistician and his book is intended for first-year medical students so that they may be helped “. . . to explore the ideas behind the evaluation of the sources and interpretation of the data from which the corpus of medical knowledge is to be derived. . . .” (p. 3). The material is presented in a way that makes the book suitable for self-instruction and the author hopes that it will thereby cultivate an alert commonsense and an ability to think logically and to grasp the essential essence of the idea or argument without shrouding it in masses of data. Inference and criticism are vitally important aspects of study.

There is very little historical material *per se* in this book, but historians can benefit from the less technical parts of it. Their logic is also frequently found wanting. Perhaps a similar sort of book with historical rather than clinical and statistical data could be devised.

NOEL PARRY and JOSÈ PARRY, *The rise of the medical profession. A study of collective social mobility*, London, Croom Helm, 1976, 8vo, pp. [3 11.], 282, £8.50.

The first part of this book deals with the sociological literature of professionalization and the second with the evolution of the medical profession from the last decade of the eighteenth century to the present day. At first there is the progress from apothecary to general practitioner, followed by consolidation and elevation of status, up to the early twentieth century, with the problem of sex discrimination occurring at this time. Then comes the state involvement of the doctor, first through the National Health Insurance (1911) and then by the National Health Service (1948). Finally the future is discussed.

There is a great deal of interesting historical information here, with good documentation, but unfortunately the authors use the jargon of sociology liberally, and although there are occasional translations (‘Imperative co-ordination refers to relationships of superordination and subordination within a hierarchy of command’), there is no glossary of terms. Perhaps we should await a translation before critically reviewing it.