

Book Reviews

his illness, and, in general, it synthesizes his ideas on metaphysics and literature, medicine and cosmology, and, having recently faced death, the relationship of man to God. It is also autobiographical, and Donne uses his encounter with illness to ponder on the significance of his life as a whole.

The *Devotions* appears here (pp. 3–127) with textual apparatus and full commentary (pp. 129–187), preceded by an ‘Introduction’, in which the editor discusses the possible nature of Donne’s illness, his religion and metaphysics, and the bibliographical details of the book. Each of the twenty-three sections is divided into ‘Meditation’, ‘Expostulation’ and ‘Prayer’. Professor Raspa, who has a chair of English at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, has produced a scholarly work which contains many references to early seventeenth-century medicine. It will be of great value therefore to historians of medicine who are concerned with the renaissance, and as an outstanding source it can be thoroughly recommended.

HERBERT MAYO, *Anatomical and physiological commentaries*, with an introduction by Paul F. Cranefield, Metuchen, N. J., Scarecrow Press, 1975, (The History of Medicine Series, published under the auspices of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine, No. 45), 8vo, pp. xiv, 120, 141, illus., \$12.00.

Mayo (1796–1852) of London published two volumes of commentaries (1822–1823), in which he described his important work on establishing the purely motor function of the facial nerve and the mixed function of the fifth, thereby refuting the conclusions of Charles Bell. The consequent dispute rivals the Bell-Magendie conflict, and each reveals a good deal of Bell’s character. Mayo also detected the central pathways of the pupillary reflex and this discovery is also in the *Commentaries*. In addition, there is an extensive and important account of the morphology, function and comparative anatomy of the cerebellum by J. C. Reil (1759–1813). Unfortunately Mayo had taken considerable liberties with Reil’s German text and the end result is by no means a translation. It was severely criticized by contemporary commentators, and should only be studied with the original at hand.

Mayo’s book is uncommon and little known so that this facsimile reprint of it with illustrations, reduced in size, is especially welcome. It is handsomely produced with a short introduction, but could have been improved by the addition of notes to Mayo and Reil’s texts, in order to elucidate parts difficult for the modern reader to comprehend.

RONALD L. MEEK, *Social science and the ignoble savage*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. v, 249, £6.00.

The author is Professor of Economics at the University of Leicester, and he provides here a study of a new theory of socio-economic development which appeared during the second half of the eighteenth century. Its key factor was argued to be the mode of man’s subsistence, and it first arose in France and Scotland in the 1750s; it is termed here the four consecutive stages theory, the stages being hunting, pasturage, agriculture and commerce. It was much influenced by Adam Smith and has been of great importance to social science ever since it was formulated. Amongst the several influences moulding it was the contemporary literature on savage societies, in