

Book Reviews

Billie's costumier, with Brilliant Chang, the Chinese restaurateur involved with Freda Kempton; and with Edgar Manning, a black drug dealer. Deviance, whether racial or sexual, figured largely.

The bulk of this book is a high-level journalistic presentation of the details of cases which both Terry Parssinen and I have presented in academic publications elsewhere. Kohn acknowledges his debt to both of us, although he could have used different quotes from some sources—many of them were very familiar. This is not a full-scale analysis of the birth of the British drugs underground. To write that would require more historical material and a greater degree of theoretical sophistication. But the book is an enjoyable introduction. The brief final excursion into the post-World War Two cannabis underworld wets the appetite. And Kohn's discovery that the mysterious Don Kimfull of the Billie Carleton case, a Notting Hill Egyptian, was probably one and the same as Dean of Dean's Bar in Tangier (the original of Rick in *Casablanca*) is a fascinating piece of detective work.

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HARRIS B. SCHUMACKER, JR, MD, *The evolution of cardiac surgery*, Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 1992, pp. xv, 476, illus., £42 (0-253-35221-5). Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Open University Press, Celtic Court, 22-26 Ballmoor, Buckingham, MK18 1XW.

The blurb on the jacket of this book claims that it is "an important resource for the medical professional and the medical historian". Certainly some medical professionals, especially those with experience in cardiac surgery or cardiology, will find it useful—and comprehensible. It is, however, a rare medical historian who will feel comfortable with statements, in a description of a heart-lung machine, such as "The pump was driven by a magnetically latched, spring-decoupled, highly efficient, balanced pulsed-solenoid energy converter with two symmetric pivoting armatures". Similar technicalities abound in the descriptions of operative procedures and there can be no doubt that this is a book for the specialist.

Separate chapters deal with the surgical treatment of most of the operable cardiac lesions although there is surprisingly little about transposition of the great arteries and nothing about Ake Senning's and William Mustard's pioneering operations for that condition. The various approaches to open-heart surgery—cross circulation, hypothermia, cardiopulmonary bypass and so on—are also dealt with at length. It is difficult to fault the book in its coverage of these topics and it is a valuable factual account, as its title claims, of how cardiac surgery has evolved over the past half-century or so. The account of the years preceding the modern era, however, is less satisfactory although this period is certainly not totally ignored. What is lacking is any discussion of the reasons for the apparently slow progress in the first few decades of the present century beyond expressions of surprise that suggestions such as those of Lauder Brunton on mitral valve surgery and John Munro on ligation of the ductus arteriosus were not followed up sooner. There is, also, little discussion of the effect of developments in anaesthetic practice and blood transfusion on surgery in general and thoracic surgery in particular.

Throughout the book the emphasis is on the achievements of individuals and the author has been at pains to establish priorities although, in one respect at least, incorrectly. This is in his attribution of the first ligation of an infected ductus arteriosus to Arthur Touroff of Mount Sinai Hospital rather than to Oswald Tubbs of St Bartholomew's. The index is comprehensive as far as persons are concerned but is less reliable on topics—neither pulmonary stenosis nor ventricular septal defect appears. The references, however, are admirably full and for this reason, at least, the book deserves to be called "an important resource".

Peter Fleming, London