

Book Reviews

G. A. LINDEBOOM (editor), *A classified bibliography of the history of Dutch medicine 1900–1974*, The Hague, Martinus Nijhoff, 1975, 8vo, pp. xxv, 663, illus., Dfl.100.00.

Professor Lindeboom once more places us in his debt, this time by providing an excellent source-book. He has found it necessary to include in it references to Flemish medicine, and he points out that as well as those to Dutch medicine, the titles of books and articles on non-Dutch individuals and on the medical history of other countries as seen and described by Dutch writers are also included. Occasionally late nineteenth-century material has been included; for example, in the absence of a modern biography of Ruysch the one published in 1886 is cited. Naturally, most of the literature is in Dutch, but an English version of the title is invariably given; thus, in the section 'Surgery' there are ninety-nine entries, eighty-seven of which are in Dutch, seven in English, three in French and two in German. It is, in fact, a great compliment to the English-reading world that Professor Lindeboom elects to publish in our language.

The items are collected in twenty-two chapters: biographies and biographica, history and historiography of medicine, pre-historic, primitive, and folk medicine and magic, Antiquity, Medieval medicine, basic sciences, pathology, therapeutics, surgery, etc. Each entry is numbered and the total is in excess of 5,500. Cross-referencing rather than multiple entries has been employed. There are three indexes: names of historical persons; names of the (first) authors of the books or articles; and a list of places. There is also a list of sources consulted and the abbreviations used. A subject index is not included because it is felt that the detailed table of contents (pp. xiii-xxi) makes it superfluous.

This is an important addition to the bibliographical tools for the history of medicine, and it is to be hoped that compilers in other countries will be inspired to construct similar works dealing with the secondary literature of their medical history.

E. J. BURFORD, *Bawds and lodgings. A history of the London bankside brothels c.100–1675*, London, Peter Owen, 1976, 8vo, 206, illus., £5.25.

The Southwark brothels existed for sixteen centuries and the author traces them from their Roman origins to their dissolution. But in addition, he discusses England's handling of prostitution in general: the position of women; the status of the prostitute and their customers; the attitude of the church; and the problem of venereal disease. Concerning the latter there is some confusion in regard to syphilis, for it is said to have occurred before the 1490s. Yet the Columbian theory is mentioned and it is clear that the author has accepted uncritically a number of older authorities. The recent concept of treponematosi is not discussed.

Nevertheless, this book contains a great deal of well-documented information, and ample use is made of contemporary source material. Mr. Burford is correct when he claims that his topic has been neglected so far, and he is to be congratulated for contributing to an important aspect of English social history. It is a useful by-product of the current relaxed attitude to sex, for it could not have been published even ten years ago with full use of words which until recently were rarely seen in print. It can be recommended to historians of medicine who are concerned with society and with social issues.