

Book Reviews

been dealt with liberally but the student to a much lesser extent. Only by looking at them closely can the effects of social changes such as the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Industrial Revolution be assessed adequately.

This book will not only provide a basis for the study of medical education but should also stimulate new areas of research and the re-evaluation of old ones.

J. M. ZIMAN, *Public knowledge. An essay concerning the social dimension of science*, Cambridge University Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xii, 154, £1.40 (paperback).

This book appeared first in 1968 and is now reprinted (see reviews, *Bull. Atomic Sci.*, 1969, 25: 36; *Science*, 1969, 164: 669; *Choice*, 1969, 6: 80). It is a well-balanced treatment, aimed at the educated layman, of the philosophical, psychological, and sociological consequences of the thesis that scientific research contributes to the store of accepted knowledge. The scientist's need to explain and communicate ideas determines the intellectual form of scientific knowledge and the internal social relations of the scientific community are of central importance.

All those working in the fields of history of science and of medicine should read this book, especially in view of the increased awareness of social factors now found in these disciplines. Without doubt it will be beneficial.

W. R. MERRINGTON, *University College Hospital and its Medical School; a history*, London, Heinemann, 1976, 8vo, pp. xvii, 301, illus., £7.50.

U.C.H. and U.C.H.M.S. have had an illustrious career, for as well as being a renowned centre for healing they have been, and still are, outstanding institutions in the field of medical science. In fact, at one time they could boast of having more Fellows of the Royal Society on their staff than any other hospital and medical school in the land. But despite such eminence no comprehensive history of this remarkable achievement has been available until now.

Mr. Merrington, who at one time was a surgeon on the staff of the hospital, supplies this need. His history is an accurate and lively account of the almost 150 years of service to patients and to medical advancement. If it lacks depth by the omission of events elsewhere in the medical world, it also lacks the biased opinions and judgments common amongst those who record the histories of their own institutions.

The story unfolds chronologically and it is revealing to note how many men of distinction have been associated with this great hospital and school: Sir Charles Bell, John Elliotson, Liston, Connolly, Quain, Carswell, Syme, William Jenner, Henry Thompson, Wilson Fox, Ringer, Gowers, Godlee, Thomas Barlow, Horsley, Marcus Gunn, Wilfred Trotter, Thomas Lewis, Francis Walshe, Lord Rosenheim, etc. Joseph Lister was a product of the school, as were many others, but whose fame was established elsewhere. The medical advances too are impressive and include the first general anaesthetic for a major operation, and pioneer work in neurosurgery, cardiology, metabolic studies and clinical science in general, to mention only a few. Even the hospital of 1906 itself was of revolutionary design being the first example of the "cross" plan.

The author is to be congratulated on his excellent book which will be enjoyed by a wide audience.