

### Book Reviews

GERALD LEMAINÉ, ROY MACLEOD, MICHAEL MULKAY and PETER WEINGART (editors), *Perspectives on the emergence of scientific disciplines*, The Hague and Paris, Mouton, (West Berlin, W. de Gruyter), 1976, 8vo, pp. xi, 281, DM.50.00.

The disciplines represented in the twelve essays which comprise this book include agricultural chemistry, thermodynamics, physical chemistry, biophysics, x-ray protein crystallography, radio-astronomy, radar meteor research, and radio-astronomy, in this order. There is also an editorial introduction which brings together and clarifies some of the important issues in the study of scientific disciplines. The overall aim is that historians and sociologists should appreciate each others' research for their mutual benefit. The essays indicate the work in this area at present being carried out in Britain, and both the projects and intentions are most welcome. The integration of social and intellectual factors in the areas discussed can only be beneficial. This book therefore is an important contribution to past, and a stimulus to future, work in the social studies of science. It is a publication of the Paris-Sussex (PAREX) interdisciplinary group, which promotes scholarly collaboration in this area and deserves wide support and encouragement.

TRAIAN STOIANOVICH, *French historical method. The 'Annales' paradigm*, Ithaca and London, Cornell University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. 260, £10.00.

The type of history purveyed by the French periodical *Annales* has of late received considerable publicity in this country, although it began in 1929 and has been especially active since 1946. It is, according to this author, a third kind of history, those of Herodotus and Ranke being the first two. This book is a survey of the school's history and an analysis of its conceptions in the history of ideas. It is a flexible historiographical method aiming at total history, which means the utilization of every conceivable source, no matter how obscure or fragmentary. However, this approach has led to widespread debate on its usefulness, which Professor Stoianovich details here, as well as the dilemmas of its practitioners. Making available masses of historical material from a multiplicity of sources is in itself useful, but interpretation and judgement may be impaired by the very bulk.

This is a history of the *Annales* movement, and of the ideas of scholars belonging to it and inspired by it. We can, at the moment, argue as to the nature and extent of the change that the school has brought about in the discipline of history, but there seems no doubt that whatever the outcome may be it will be permanent. It, therefore, behoves all historians of medicine to be familiar with it, and Stoianovich's book will provide a useful, if somewhat biased and at times unconvincing, account and explanation of it.

GUNTER MANN and ROLF WINAU (editors), *Medizin, Naturwissenschaft, Technik und das Zweite Kaiserreich*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1977, 8vo, pp. 338, illus., DM.78.00.

At the 57th Congress of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Science, and Technology (Bad Nauheim, 6 to 11 September 1973), the eighteen essays collected together here were presented. There is a wide selection of topics, most of a general

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nature but some dealing with more particular topics in the history of German medicine and science during the period 1871 to 1914. Amongst them Seidler writes on the political status of the doctor, Goerke on the panel doctor, Winau on the doctor and disease in poetry, Querner on Roux, Murken on Bad Nauheim, Jusatz on tropical medicine, Eichberg on body culture, and Rosner on the reception of Western medicine in Japan. As in other volumes in this excellent series, the articles are well documented and illustrated. They reveal closely the thriving state of scholarly medical history at present active in West Germany.

FRANCIS X. GROLLIG and HAROLD B. HALEY (editors), *Medical anthropology*, The Hague and Paris, Mouton, (West Berlin, W. de Gruyter), 1976, 8vo, pp. xvii, 485, illus., DM. 76.00.

There are thirty-one papers in this volume, including four introductory papers to the four sections into which the essays are divided: native cultural aspects of healing; specific subject papers; interaction of traditional and Western medical practices; and theoretic aspects of medical anthropology. A group of international experts present a great variety of topics, dealing with native cultural aspects of healing and the deep-seated nature of health beliefs which are basic to applied medical anthropology. The cultural background to these subjects is of vital importance, and Western healers have much to learn from their more primitive colleagues.

Much of this book is relevant to the history of medicine in view of the analogy between primitive and pre-historical medicine, and because of its value in the general history of therapeutics. It should receive wide attention in the fields of anthropology, clinical medicine, fringe medicine, ethnology, and medical history.

ADAM KUPER (editor), *The social anthropology of Radcliffe-Brown*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 296, £3.50 (paperback).

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown (1881–1955) was one of the first professional anthropologists, and he aimed to establish scientific comparative sociology, that is, a structural and sociological anthropology. In this collection of his writings there are eleven essays divided into three sections: 'Structure and function', on social structure, functionalism, the comparative method in social anthropology, etc.; 'Rites and values', on Andaman Island ceremonies, and on religion and society; 'The study of kinship systems' in Australian tribes, joking relationships, and systems of kinship and marriage. The editing, however, is quite inadequate and limited to a seven-page 'Preface' and a fourteen-page introduction to Part I. There is a bibliography and a limited index.

ROSANNA LEDBETTER, *A history of the Malthusian League 1877–1927*, Columbus, Ohio State University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xxii, 261, \$12.50.

The League was the first organization to advocate birth control as the only way of solving the problems of the poor, and the first of many sexual reform groups. It was founded by Charles Bradlaugh, the leading British Freethinker of his day, and its aims were clearcut: to allow free discussion of contraception, and to preach the importance of family limitation. The author, a historian, depicts the League's rise and fall in a scholarly, well-written book. The complex background is analysed care-