

## Book Reviews

for many years the chief compiler of 'Garrison and Morton', and the present volume naturally leans heavily on that bible of the antiquarian bookseller. GM numbers are given at the end of relevant entries. Each year with an entry, from 3000 BC (Edwin Smith Papyrus) to 1996 (three deaths), is divided, where appropriate, into three main categories, events, births and deaths. Since 1901, information about the Nobel Prize (always for medicine or physiology, but also for chemistry or physics if there were medical implications) heads the list of events, and the authors are understandably chary of judging what was significant in the recent world of discovery: AIDS in 1981 and BSE in 1985 are the only two non-Nobel events noted since 1978.

The volume is thus fullest for the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, where entries often have explanatory paragraphs, either qualifying the information or expounding briefly the career of the individual being cited. Morton and Moore have been admirably cosmopolitan in their trawling, and the full list of journal titles in which something significant was published occupies sixteen pages.

A simple system of numbering, reasonable amount of cross-referencing and good subject and name indexes increase the usefulness of the volume. People looking for something to celebrate can start here, of course: 1999 will be the centennial, *inter alia*, of the founding of the London School of Tropical Medicine, the introduction of aspirin, the births of Max Theiler, Charles Best, Alfred Blalock and Macfarlane Burnet, and the deaths of Lawson Tait, James Paget and Theodore Puschmann. More generally, historians will appreciate the ready access to "context" which this attractive volume provides.

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**John Henry, *The scientific revolution and the origins of modern science*, Studies in European History, Basingstoke, Macmillan, and New York, St Martin's Press, 1997, pp. x, 137, £7.99 (paperback 0-333-56047-7).**

**Steven Shapin, *The scientific revolution*, University of Chicago Press, 1996, pp. xiv, 218, illus., \$19.95 (0-226-75020-5).**

It is always slightly invidious when two books are published within a short time of one another, each with similar aspirations and attributes. In this case, we are presented with two works of roughly comparable length offering an introduction to the Scientific Revolution. Of the two, Shapin's—a one-off production from the University of Chicago Press—is the more elegantly produced, with an attractive page layout and over twenty pages of illustrations (though it is not yet available in this country in paperback). Henry's, on the other hand, forms part of Macmillan's well-established series, 'Studies in European History'; its author has therefore inherited the rather dense and utilitarian format of that series. Both have lengthy and valuable bibliographies, in Shapin's case taking the form of a 'Bibliographic essay' in continuous prose, in Henry's an alphabetical, numbered list of items, each with a brief commentary. In addition, Henry's has a helpful glossary.

How do the two compare? Henry follows the existing historiography more closely, with chapters on such topics as 'The mechanical philosophy', 'Magic and the origins of modern science' and 'Religion and science'. Shapin, on the other hand, sets his own agenda to a greater extent, dividing his text into three chapters entitled 'What was known?', 'How was it known?', and 'What was the knowledge for?'. Some may find this helpful, but for those seeking an introduction to a densely researched field, the former approach is probably to be preferred. In addition, Shapin's book is a little self-indulgent and occasionally slightly convoluted, not least in a series of footnotes which seem to be intended to clarify matters but which sometimes complicate them. He also includes a number of quotations from contemporary sources, which are largely eschewed in Henry's succinct text. Yet Shapin is more restricted in his coverage than Henry, who manages to cover a phenomenal amount of ground in a balanced manner, not least in

the chapter entitled 'The scientific method', in which a remarkable range of thinkers and themes are introduced (his book also has the fuller index of the two).

The greatest contrast between the two books is the way in which they engage with the existing literature. As already noted, each has a lengthy bibliography which is worth consulting in its own right. However, Henry makes repeated reference to specific items in his by citing them by number in his text. The result is that, though compact, his book is very effective in referring to a wide range of material, thus enabling the reader to know exactly what secondary literature is being referred to and enabling him or her to follow it up. With Shapin's book, the link between the text and the bibliographic essay is less clear, and matters are not helped in this regard by the fact that the essay has a different organization from the book, so that it is not possible to look to one for a direct commentary on the other. Though modern authors are occasionally referred to by name in the text, elsewhere allusions to the secondary literature are generalized and sometimes rather arch—Shapin speaks vaguely of 'Marxist historians', for instance, or of 'some recent historical work', in the latter case evidently alluding to his own *A social history of truth* (Chicago, 1994). Hence, a degree of surmise is required to work out exactly what literature is being referred to at any point, apart from the clues provided by Shapin's practice of marking with asterisks the items in his bibliographic essay on which he acknowledges that he has chiefly relied. On balance, though a stimulating essay, Shapin's is a less satisfactory work than Henry's, in which the well-tryed pedagogic model deployed proves highly successful, quite apart from the merits of its exposition in its own right. The verdict therefore is that Henry's book is to be recommended as the best brief introduction to the Scientific Revolution currently available.

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**Galen, *On the elements according to Hippocrates*, Corpus medicorum Graecorum, V. 1,2, ed. and transl. and commentary by Phillip De Lacy, Berlin Akademie Verlag, 1996, pp. 236, DM 220 (3-05-002877-7).**

**John of Alexandria, *Commentary on Hippocrates' Epidemics VI fragments; Commentary of an anonymous author on Hippocrates' Epidemics VI fragments*, ed., transl., and notes by John M Duffy. **John of Alexandria, *Commentary on Hippocrates' On the nature of the child***, ed. and transl. by T A Bell, D P Carpenter, D W Schmidt, M N Sham, G I Vardon, L G Westerink, Berlin, Akademie Verlag, 1997, pp. 201, DM 220 (3-05-003190-5).**

The volumes of the Corpus Medicorum Graecorum are now appearing at a faster rate than heretofore without losing any of their quality. Texts and translations are produced and edited to a very high standard, and the accompanying commentaries combine brevity with substantial information. Of the works here discussed, Professor De Lacy's edition of Galen's *On the elements according to Hippocrates* maintains its author's pre-eminence as a textual critic of Galen. For this edition of a basic text in physiology, he uses new and better manuscripts, as well as the evidence of later translations, most notably that of the ninth-century Arabic version. Improvements to both text and meaning are considerable, and English readers will benefit from the accurate and fluent version that accompanies the Greek.

The second volume, the outcome of a Buffalo seminar organized by the late Leendert Westerink, breaks new ground by publishing for the first time fragments of two commentaries on Hippocrates, Epidemics VI, one anonymous, the other by John of Alexandria, the author of the third commentary here, part of his lectures on Hippocrates' *On the nature of the child*. All the texts inform us about late-Alexandrian medical teaching on the Hippocratic syllabus. They show not only how the Galenic tradition of exegesis persisted but