

Book Reviews

likely that there are even more factors to be taken into account in this complex story, and the medical ones, which are not dealt with in as much detail as they deserve, must be carefully examined and evaluated.

VANNE GOODALL (editor), *The quest for man*, London, Phaidon, 1975, 4to, pp. 140, illus., £6.95.

The editor of this book and her six contributors aim to bring together “. . . some of the skeins of modern scientific and metaphysical thought concerning human evolution. . . .” (p. 7) to create an integrated picture of mankind and so to show that man’s distant past relates to his present situation.

A psychiatrist first discusses ‘Ancient man in the twentieth century’ and points out that a knowledge of the forces that have shaped man during evolution, and his basic motivations for survival will help him to develop new ways to meet modern needs. Next, an anthropologist deals with the structural development of man, and an archaeologist reviews the cultural evolution of the human species. To understand modern man’s behaviour a study of his closest living relative, the chimpanzee is rewarding, and this is carried out in an excellent chapter, followed by an ethologist’s account of the Bushman of Botswana, who are comparable to our remote ancestors. The mind of man is discussed by a geneticist in a broad review of human evolution. To comprehend human nature better will allow man more successfully to grapple with difficulties he is creating for himself today. This is the central message of the book.

It is illustrated with more than two hundred pictures and there is extensive documentation of the text. It can be warmly recommended as an excellent background book for the medical historian. Moreover it shows clearly how a knowledge of the past can be useful for the present and the future, one of the basic rewards of historical research of any kind.

CARL MITCHAM and ROBERT MACKEY, *Bibliography of the philosophy of technology*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. xvii, 205, £5.45.

In the last two decades the philosophy of technology has become a popular and important topic, and this bibliography shows how studies have encompassed all aspects of technology’s involvement with man, society and nature. Few professional philosophers, however, have taken up the subject and it is hoped that this book will attract more to it.

The compilers are philosophers, and their material, which dates from 1925 to 1972, is arranged by topic: comprehensive philosophical works; ethical and political critiques; religious critiques; metaphysical and epistemological studies. An appendix contains information on classical documents by authors such as Babbage, Bacon, Ford, Mach, Marx, Rousseau, etc., and on the general history of technology. Both primary and secondary sources are recorded, and many entries are annotated.

As a pioneer work this book can be warmly welcomed. It will prove to be a most valuable source-book. Its relevance to the history of medicine is obvious, for many of the medical advances during the last century have been due to technological innovation.