

Book Notices

JUDITH SCHNEID LEWIS, *In the family way. Childbearing in the British aristocracy 1760–1860*, New Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, 1986, 8vo, pp. xi, 313, [no price stated].

This well-written monograph complements and extends Randolph Trumbach's earlier researches which showed how the British aristocracy was in the van of innovations in childbirth and baby-rearing. Lewis shows how eagerly aristocratic women endorsed the new male *accoucheur* and discarded many of the old birthing practices (e.g., the over-heated, darkened room). Pregnancy was a badge of pride, and the seven or eight months' pregnant woman was not "invalided" out of society. Noble ladies widely practised breast-feeding. Of particular interest is the excellent use made of the manuscripts of Croft, Clarke, Knighton, Locock, and other aristocratic *accoucheurs*, which reveal close and trusting relations between female patients and their physicians.

JOSEPH ROBINS, *Fools and the mad. A history of the insane in Ireland*, Dublin, Institute of Public Administration, 1986, 8vo, pp. viii, 256, illus., Ir£14.95.

This is a well-researched and well-written survey by a scholar admirably skilled in the handling of official documents. Robins correctly stresses how the absence of a parochial Poor Law in Ireland before Victorian times decisively differentiated treatment of the insane there from the English pattern. In Ireland, bridewells and houses of industry assumed much greater importance as depots for the insane. Many lunatics were conveyed during the eighteenth century to centralized institutions in Dublin, and a network of some dozen large madhouses was set up under government authority earlier than the equivalent public asylums in England. Relatively speaking, the private "trade in lunacy" was weaker, and, with the exception of William Hallaran at Cork, specialist mad-doctors were slow to emerge and make a contribution to psychiatry. It is a pity that so little is said about twentieth-century developments, and we get little more than a glance at the mad in their own right. But, used alongside Mark Finnane's *Insanity and the insane in post-famine Ireland* (1981), this work offers a rounded picture of provision for the insane emerging within the framework of imperial policy.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collections of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.

MARC AUGÉ (editor), 'Interpreting illness', *History and Anthropology*, vol. 2, part 1, September 1985, New York, Harwood Academic Publishers, 1986, 4to, pp. 205, \$55.00 (paperback).

Charité-Annalen, Neue Folge, Band 5, 1985, Berlin DDR, Akademie-Verlag, M.48.00 (paperback).

THOMAS STEELE HALL, *A biomedical index to the correspondence of René Descartes*, 4to, pp. 15; copies available without charge, on request to Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894, USA.

HULDRYCH M. KOELBING and CHRISTOPH MÖRGELI (editors), *Johann Friedrich Horner 1831–86. Der Begründer der Schweizer Augenheilkunde in seiner Autobiographie*, Zurich, Hans Rohr, 1986, 8vo, pp. 113, S.Fr.24.00 (paperback).

CARLOS MARQUEZ ESPINOS, *Las juntas literarias del Real Colegio de Cirugia de Cadiz. Catalogo de las "observaciones" manuscritas*, Universidad de Cadiz, Servicio de Publicaciones, 1986, 8vo, pp. 266, illus., no price stated (paperback).