

Book Notices

FRANK COCKETT, *The Maltese penguin: stories from the background fog of war 1942–1943*, London, SG Books, 1990, pp. 105, illus. (1–85463–049–0).

Frank Cockett, MS, FRCS shares his war experiences while stationed as an RAF medical officer in the Maltese Islands for a year in the aftermath of the siege of the Islands in October 1942 and during the preparation for the Sicily invasion. Written in a highly individual style, these memoirs recreate the atmosphere of stress, starvation, camaraderie, and heroism of those times as seen through the eyes of a young, recently qualified doctor. The book is a tribute to the heroism of the observers based on the Islands and the Fleet Air Arm pilots who with their attacks on the Mediterranean shipping lines became such a thorn in the Axis side. It deals little with the medical aspects of the conflict except for some personal anecdotes of the author.

ELSIE M. WIDDOWSON (comp.), *The Nutrition Society 1941–1991. Presidents and Honorary Members: their stories and recollections*, Wallingford, Oxon, CAB International on behalf of The Nutrition Society, 1991, pp. vi, 130, illus., £15.00 (paperback, 0–85198–716–8).

Based mainly on transcripts of taped recordings of interviews conducted by Dr A. M. Copping and others from 1970, Dr Widdowson, a past President of the Society and its Honorary Archivist, has provided a fascinating set of reminiscences from major figures in the science of human and animal nutrition including Sir Joseph Barcroft, Dr Leslie Harris, Dame Harriette Chick and Sir Rudolph Peters.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

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

PETER BROWN, MD, *The hypnotic brain: hypnotherapy and social communication*, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1991, pp. xiii, 322, £25.00, \$40.00 (0–300–05001–1).

GUILLERMO OLAGUE DE ROS, JORGE MOLERO MESA, MIKEL ASTRAIN GALLART, ALFREDO MENENDEZ NAVARRO, ESTHER ROSADO CAMACHO, JOSE VALENZUELA CANDELARIO, *Catálogo de la biblioteca histórica del hospital San Juan de Dios de Granada*, Diputación provincial de Granada, 1991, pp. 230, paperback (84–7807–028–1).

PIET VAN SPIJK, *Definition und Beschreibung der Gesundheit: ein medizinhistorischer Ueberblick*, Schriftenreihe der SGGP No. 22, Muri, Gesellschaft für Gesundheitspolitik (SPPG), 1991, pp. 126, illus. (3–85707–0226).