

Book Reviews

The proceedings also contain a touching story on de-institutionalization of patients suffering from leprosy. It may have been hard to enter the various institutions, but today, they are regarded as home and as such, difficult to leave (Anwei Skinsnes Law). This is a story of interest not only for those specializing in leprosy; it concerns all fields where institutionalization and de-institutionalization have been practised.

Specific individuals in the field are also dealt with. Pia Bennike portrays Professor Vilhelm Møller-Christensen under the title 'his work and legacy'. She has written an outspoken biography; it is short, a good read and informative as to both the person and the development of palaeopathology as an international field of study.

Finally, the impact of words in historical research, and particularly in medical history, is one of the points driven home in the volume: the people's first language is preferred, be it when dealing with the past or today. Those speaking against using "the offensive language of the past under the guise of 'historical accuracy'" (Anwei Skinsnes Law, p. 7) undoubtedly received a mixed reception among historians. The issue is delicate and difficult. Yet not only historical accuracy is at stake, but also the historians' ability to give as true a picture as possible from the past. The common experience worldwide, it seems—also from this volume—has been and still is stigmatization and marginalization, a lot of pain, humiliation and loss of dignity. To avoid the language of the past when telling this story may not be the best way to enable people of today to understand the impact words have had in the historical process and in shaping the social and cultural meaning of leprosy.

Astri Andresen,
University of Bergen

Roland Andréani, Henri Michel, and Elie Pélaquier (eds), *Hellénisme et hippocratismes dans l'Europe méditerranéenne: autour de D. Coray*, Montpellier, Université

Paul-Valéry, 2000, pp. 304, €22.87
(paperback 2-84269-383-3).

This volume contains the proceedings of a conference organized at Montpellier on 20–21 March 1998 by the Centre d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine de l'Europe Méditerranéenne et de ses périphéries. The organizers' aim appears to have been above all historical, even though philologists and physicians were invited to put their points of view. The contributions thus collected about the Greek doctor, translator and editor, Diamantios Coray, fervent admirer of the French Revolution and ardent supporter of Greek independence, adopt a quite different point of view from that of a previous conference devoted to 'Médecins érudits de Coray à Sigerist', whose proceedings, edited by Danielle Gourevitch, were published in Paris in 1995.

It is therefore surprising that the only mention of this work is that of Jacques Jouanna in a note on p. 78. Likewise, nothing explains the editors' decision to divide the twenty or so papers into three sections: Diamantios Coray, from Smyrna to Paris; Hippocrates and Hippocratism from the middle of the eighteenth century to the beginning of the nineteenth; Hellenism and Hellenists in the time of Coray. The unity of the research thus undertaken around the person of Coray would certainly have gained in clarity if the editors had not presented us so precipitately with the raw result of their work without any preface, introduction or conclusion. The result is a sometimes ill-assorted collection in which are mixed different genres, the good with the less good, with at times a perceptible tendency towards the irrelevant: in one of the contributions (pp. 161–72) Coray's name is not even mentioned.

Nevertheless, there is much to be said and learnt about this Greek physician, born in Smyrna in 1748 to a family of merchants. He moved to Montpellier in 1782 to study medicine before going on to Paris in 1788 where he watched the French Revolution with exaltation. As R-P Debaisieux-Zemour rightly notes (p. 92), he there acquired the conviction "that progress and the development of education among the French people had given birth to the love of

liberty”, a conviction which from that moment on remained the basis of all his actions. In this sense, philology, for which he abandoned medicine, would very soon become for him the best way of contributing to the intellectual enfranchisement of the Greeks. But on this fundamental work of editing and translating ancient Greek texts, which he would continue until his death in 1833, besides the intentionally general paper of Loukia Droulia on ‘Coray, écrivain polygraphe, éditeur acharné’, we find nothing apart from the more specialized paper of Jacques Jouanna on ‘Coray et la médecine grecque’. Under these conditions, it is inevitable that the philologist, less well served than historian colleagues, is left somewhat unsatisfied. In fact, none of the final repercussions of Montpellier Hippocratism or of the various manifestations of philhellenism in French society seems to have escaped the historians.

Nor can one pass over in silence the lack of an index (an index of names at least would have been useful) and a bibliography, or the fairly numerous mistakes, notably in the Greek, which is too often wrongly spelled and either badly accented or not accented at all (pp. 79, 80, 144, 146, and *passim*).

It is worth stressing, however, that this book has the important virtue of contributing to the collection of substantial material on the education, activities and publications of one of the greatest Greek scholars of the nineteenth century, who has until now been unjustly ignored. The philologist and the editor of Greek texts, more indirectly, will also have at their disposal an invaluable historical and cultural resource that brings to light the indefatigable activity of this remarkable man of great learning. The editors of these proceedings have thus contributed to bringing him out of the shadows.

Véronique Boudon,
CNRS, Paris

Doris Zaugg, *Musik und Pharmazie:
Apotheker und Arzneimittel in der Oper,*

publications of the Société Suisse d’Histoire de la Pharmacie, vol. 20, Lieberfeld, SGGP/SSHP, 2001, pp. 468, illus., SFr 45.00 (paperback 3-9520758-7-6).

“Every day, pounding, pounding: oh what a hard and miserable life!” So begins the opening aria, sung by the eponymous “hero’s” assistant, of Haydn’s opera, *Lo speziale* (*The apothecary*) of 1768, a setting of a libretto by Carlo Goldoni. As an operatic theme, apothecaries and their work have not reached quite the popularity of love and death. None the less, there have been far more appearances of apothecaries in opera than one might imagine, and far more *mises en scène* of medication, especially if we include administering love potions, poisons, and sleeping draughts. Doris Zaugg, herself a professional apothecary, has had the excellent idea of collecting as many operatic representations of apothecaries and *materia medica* as she can find. She has trawled reference works in German and French (but not the *New Grove dictionary of opera*, which might have been helpful even though it has no subject entries for topics such as medicine). The result is a corpus of some 125 operas relevant to her theme. These range in period from Monteverdi to Bernd Alois Zimmermann, by way of obvious luminaries such as Mozart, Verdi, and Wagner, and such less celebrated figures as M M Fournier (*L’homéopathie*, 1836), Giuseppe Maluscardi (*L’ammalata ed il consulto*, 1837), and Ignatz Umlauf (*Die Apotheke*, 1778). Presumably because of the Franco-German leaning of the sources consulted, the only British composer included is Benjamin Britten. Comparably “medical” operas by, for example, Peter Maxwell Davies (*The doctor of Myddfai*) are omitted.

The book falls into two roughly equal parts. The first considers apothecaries in libretti and proceeds chronologically. The author took the odd decision to make that chronological order reflect the periods in which the libretti are set or the dates when they were written. Thus, for example, all operas based on Molière or Goldoni appear under the seventeenth and