

## Book Notices

*Santiago Ramon y Cajal, 1852-1934*, 2 vols., Madrid, Ministerio de Education y Ciencia, 1978, 4to, pp. 354, 333, illus., [no price stated].

The name of Ramon y Cajal is everywhere known and he is greatly respected for his outstanding and immortal contributions to neuro-histology. He provided the anatomical basis for Sherrington's integrative nervous system, and was rewarded by sharing a Nobel Prize.

These sumptuous volumes present a mass of information on Cajal. The first volume deals with his life, his work, his role as a biologist, and the honours that were heaped upon him. There are numerous illustrations, many in colour, which reproduce letters, notes, honours, title-pages, etc. There are also several photographs of him, the one on page 115 being of great interest; he is shown in his laboratory in 1878, and although at this time he was making fundamental discoveries, his equipment, on a crude table, is of the most primitive kind.

The second volume contains three appendices which reproduce three unpublished manuscripts: a programme of anatomy, general and descriptive; one for normal and pathological histology; and a plan for reform of the medical faculty in the University of Madrid. There is a useful introduction by the renowned Spanish historian of medicine, Professor Luis S. Granjel.

The editors of this important work must be congratulated for presenting a mass of new material on the life and work of Cajal and for presenting it in such an elegant fashion. It does him great honour.

FELIX GRAYEFF, *Descartes*, London, Philip Goodall, 1977, 8vo, pp. 126, [no price stated], (paperback).

Despite the vast literature on Descartes and his philosophy, the author has elected to provide a short survey, aiming to prove the soundness of his philosophy and to point out its relevance today. He achieves both these tasks fully by first of all analysing the *Meditations*, which he claims forms a unitary whole, by demonstrating the difference between Descartes' views and "Cartesianism". He then discusses Descartes' influence on subsequent philosophy and compares him with outstanding modern philosophers. Finally, he turns to Descartes' logic and epistemology, for which he has often been castigated. As a lucid brief introduction to Descartes this book can be recommended.

RICHARD W. FOX, *So far disordered in mind. Insanity in California 1870-1930*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London, University of California Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xvi, 204, £7.00.

In this book court commitment records have been used extensively, and they have provided a unique basis for a very interesting study. Between 1906 and 1929 there were over 12,000 city residents placed in mental asylums, and Dr. Fox's analysis provides us with details of the official judgments on them and their social, institutional, and professional background. About two-thirds were non-violent deviants, including alcoholics, the mentally retarded, vagabonds, the old, and the helpless. This reflected the supposed role of the asylum, which changed only with the introduction in the 1920s of clinics and psychopathic wards, thus helping to eliminate the institutionalization of disturbed or disturbing individuals. The more recent community mental health centre

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is further extending this progress in California. The book, therefore, is a useful addition to our knowledge of the evolution of social psychiatry and can be warmly recommended as such.

ANDREW T. SCULL, *Museums of madness. The social organization of insanity in nineteenth-century England*, London, Allen Lane, 1979, 8vo, pp. 275, illus., £8.50.

In the nineteenth century there was a great increase in the number of English mental asylums, mostly private. Medical men strove to turn insanity into a medical problem and replace lay custodians with members of the profession, rather akin to the replacement of midwives by obstetricians contemporaneously. The author surveys the process and deals also with the forms of treatment used in England during the last century and the progress of the movement for reform of it. Nevertheless, little or no advance in therapy was achieved and few criticized a stagnant situation. Many comparisons can be made with the present day, and all those concerned with the handling of the mentally disturbed will find this a fascinating and instructive book.

GORDON RATTRAY TAYLOR, *The natural history of the mind*, London, Secker & Warburg, 1979, 8vo, pp. xxiii, 370, illus., £6.95.

The author's objective is to explore the boundary zone between brain and mind, a well-used battlefield. He surveys with great skill and clarity all the important advances in modern neuro-sciences, and in so doing gives an excellent account of today's knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the brain. On the basis of this, he then considers consciousness, awareness, knowledge, intelligence, pain, memory, sight, recognition, feelings, and emotions. One of the ways of probing brain and mind function, independently and together, is by examining hypnosis and such psychopathology as hallucinations, psychosomatic illness, and eidetic imagery.

Mr. Taylor is able to indicate the complexity of the brain and mind function and the problems they present. His main theme is the small degree of relationship between subjective experience and brain processes that we can detect. This masterly treatise, which has taken ten years to complete, will enthral layman and expert alike. It also indicates one of the most exciting topics that will occupy neuro-scientists in the future.

MARIA M. TATAR, *Spellbound. Studies on mesmerism and literature*, Princeton University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xvi, 293, illus., \$17.50.

There are many books on mesmerism, a topic that has intrigued a large number of authors. Most deal with it, however, from the medical and psychological point of view, and yet there is a fascinating field until now unexplored. Obviously any new aspect of medicine that has wide social repercussions is reflected in the contemporary literature and it is this aspect of the subject that Dr. Tatar, Associate Professor of German at Harvard University, has tackled. She is primarily concerned with the impact of Mesmer's animal magnetism on nineteenth-century German, French, and American authors, Kleist, Hoffman, Balzac, and Hawthorne are dealt with, and in the final chapter, 'From science fiction to psychoanalysis', she examines Henry James's, D. H. Lawrence's, and Thomas Mann's handling of the topic. This is an important study, well written and fully documented, which illustrates well how the history of medicine is dependent upon scholars from many fields to help examine fully and expertly certain themes that may be thought to be purely medical in origin and relevance.

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**BERNARD CAPP**, *Astrology and the popular press. English almanacs 1500-1800*, London, Faber, 1979, 8vo, pp. 452, £15.00.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the almanac was one of the most popular and influential publications. There were several series of them, and they contained a great deal of useful information in addition to calendars and events. It is, therefore, surprising that they have not been examined before, and Dr. Capp's book is the first study in depth of them. Among their various functions they disseminated scientific and medical knowledge and are, therefore, of considerable importance in the history of medicine. There is a chapter on 'Astrology, science, and medicine', and every scholar dealing with English medicine in the period covered by this book must be aware of its contents. The author has produced a scholarly analysis of an important topic and has thereby made a significant contribution to the history of medicine and of science. He has also included a most useful appendix on 'Biographical notes', and a 'Bibliography of English almanacs to 1700'.

**MIRCEA ELIADE**, *The forge and the crucible. The origins and structures of alchemy*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. 238, £3.50 (paperback).

The literature on alchemy is voluminous, but much is of a superficial nature, emphasizing its occult and mystical features, and its role as a precursor to chemistry. This is one of the few books that give a deep analysis of the origins of alchemy in the context of man's conquest of the material world before the rise of scientific thought. It was first published in French in 1956 and now appears in excellent translation. The author is a historian of religion who seeks to comprehend the whole cultural history of mankind and in so doing explores the role of alchemy. It was certainly not a forerunner of chemistry, for, as he points out, these are related as are freemasonry and building techniques.

The discovery by primitive man that matter could be changed from one state to another resulted in a profound change in spiritual behaviour as he became aware of an awesome new power. The author examines here the ritualistic adventures of ancient communities. The present edition has an updated appendix with added material, including Chinese alchemy and alchemy in Newton's work. The value of the book is thus further enhanced and can be strongly recommended as one of the best treatises on alchemy yet written.

**ROBERT MANDROU**, *From humanism to science 1480-1700*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. 329, £11.50.

The author is Professor of Modern History at the University of Paris X, and his book first appeared in French in 1973 and then in English five years later. Although in its present form it is termed an "edition", it is presumably a reprint of the 1978 English version. As is now well known, Professor Mandrou presented a remarkable survey of one of the more difficult periods of history, and as an example of intellectual history at its very best his book is a praiseworthy achievement. His prime object is to reveal the stages and mutations through which thinking Europe passed, and he has achieved this by analysing and reconstructing the complex relationships linking the intellectuals of the period with different social milieux. He proceeds in chronological sequence to

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examine this vital background from the end of the fifteenth century to the period of the scientific spirit, 1640 to 1700. The only criticisms are perhaps carping: the absence of documentation and only a brief list of books for further reading, which includes few of the usual contributions to the history of the Scientific Revolution and none of the very recent publications; in addition, the maps provided are valueless. Nevertheless, this is a study that will be read with immense profit by anyone concerned with the history of medicine or of science during the period surveyed.

**WILLIAM A. R. THOMSON** (editor), *Healing plants. A modern herbal*, London, Macmillan, 1978, 4to, pp. 208, illus., £9.95.

Dr. Thomson has already provided us with an excellent book on *Herbs that heal* (see *Med. Hist.*, 1978, 22: 232), and now he brings together seven chapters by four authors to create a modern herbal. This most useful volume deals with 247 herbs and flowers with healing properties. There is a lexicon of them containing a coloured illustration and description of each, and then a section concerned with their therapeutic qualities. A fascinating section on 'The heritage of folk medicine' is followed by basic techniques of herbal preparations. The editor concludes with a glimpse at the future. There is no doubt that this elegantly produced source-book will find a wide audience, because it provides everything one wishes to know about herbs. It will be consulted not only by therapists, but also by cooks who wish to know more about their herbs, including how to grow them.

**E. WICKERSHEIMER**, *Dictionnaire biographique des médecins en France au moyen âge*, supplement by Danielle Jacquart, Geneva, Librairie Droz, 1979, 8vo, pp. 365 [no price stated], (paperback).

In 1936, Wickersheimer published his renowned source-book with the statement that, "Here is brought together what I have been able to find out about physicians, surgeons, barbers and empirics, which have been cited, some erroneously, inside of the frontiers of France, from the fifth century on to the end of the fifteenth". It was greeted enthusiastically by scholars and it has remained for forty-three years a remarkable research tool for the historian of medieval medicine and the medievalist. The provision now of a supplement increases its usefulness further, and Dr. Jacquart is to be congratulated on preserving the high scholarly tone, in particular the frequent cross-referencing to the English equivalent of Wickersheimer's book, Talbot and Hammond's *The medical practitioners of medieval England* (London, 1965), and to the considerable body of literature that has appeared since 1936.

**G. A. LINDEBOOM** (editor), *Boerhaave's correspondence, Part 3*, Leiden, Brill, 1979, 8vo, pp. x, 281, Dfl. 80.00.

The third collection of letters is divided into domestic and foreign. There are ninety-seven, dating from 1713 to 1738. They are in English, Latin, and Dutch, in this order of frequency, and have been annotated by Professor Lindeboom. As with the previous volumes, the letters provide a great deal of information about the practice of medicine in eighteenth-century Europe, as well as about the writers and the recipients. There are both "in" and "out" letters, and it is interesting to observe that Boerhaave's British correspondents were relatively few in number, which, of course, may be due merely to

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the vagaries of survival and not to the number of his contacts. One of the features of this collection is the correspondence between Boerhaave and the German physician, D. W. Triller (1695-1782).

Once more Professor Lindeboom must be congratulated for a further contribution to our knowledge of Boerhaave and to medical history in general. His output of historical studies seems to have increased during his retirement, when many men would be encouraging the reverse situation.

DIETER JETTER, *Grundzüge der Krankenhausgeschichte (1800-1900)*, Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 195, DM. 35.00 (DM. 21.00 paperback).

AXEL HINRICH MURKEN, *Das Bild des deutschen Krankenhauses im 19. Jahrhundert*, Münster, Murken-Altrogge, 1978, 8vo, pp. 235, illus., DM. 15.00 (paperback).

AXEL HINRICH MURKEN, *Hier liegt mein Mann und lässt schön grüssen. Das Krankenhaus auf alten Postkarten*, Münster, F. Copenrath, 1978, 4to, pp. 141, illus., DM. 28.00.

These three small books all deal with different aspects of the history of the hospital. Dieter Jetter's scholarly volume is principally concerned with hospital design. Using a multitude of European examples he spells out in detail the range of factors, long- and short-term, influencing hospital construction. Readers will find the work most useful as a dictionary of founding dates, hospital sizes, architects and so forth.

Dr. Murken's compilation of pictures of German hospitals in the nineteenth century is an important little book. Not only because of the range of illustrations he reproduces but because he brings them a social historical perspective rather than the traditional aesthetic one. Germany in 1800 had very few hospitals; by 1899 there were 6,300 including nursing homes. He then poses the question how did this institution, which was traditionally associated with lunatics and the poor, enter the public confidence? A small part of the answer to this he suggests can be found in hospital illustrations. In the early part of the century famous artists occasionally produced hospital pictures, usually in the context of a landscape, a hangover perhaps from representing the country home from which much hospital architecture often derived. The period after 1820 saw both the growth of hospitals and the means of representing them, lithography. Hospital pictures appeared in their thousands in mid-century, usually idealized, rarely showing interiors, or patients. Illustration made hospitals a desirable feature of the urban landscape. After the 1870s photography took over and, because of a new realism in illustration, and the very real changes produced by anaesthesia and antiseptics, pictures of hospital interiors, especially depicting operations, became common. Hospitals sold themselves to the public the way seaside resorts did, through postcards. This is the theme of Dr. Murken's second book, a splendid collection of early postcards depicting all aspects of hospital life, including that of the kitchen. What this volume lacks, however, is any indication of what was written on the back. After all, when his imagination failed him, what time-worn phrase did the hospital inmate find equivalent to "Having a lovely time, wish you were here"?

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AXEL HINRICH MURKEN, *Die bauliche Entwicklung des deutschen Allgemeinen Krankenhauses im 19. Jahrhundert*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1979, 8vo, pp. 396, illus., DM. 135.00 (paperback).

Professor Murken's book is a typical product of German, impeccable scholarship. He tackles his subject in an orderly and thorough fashion, dealing first with the eighteenth-century background and origins and with the influence of French and Austrian hospital planning. In the nineteenth century there were two well-demonstrated periods: 1780-1845, when one-block buildings were favoured; and 1845 to the 1870s and 1880s, characterized by neo-Gothic hospital architecture. The latter phase saw the simple pavilion style, which in the 1870s replaced the one-block buildings. Throughout, the style of building and the current medical theory and advances are interesting correlates. The documentation in this excellent book is profuse and accurate, and there are 147 plates of illustrations. It is a highly important book and illustrates the widespread continental interest in the scholarly study of hospital history, a topic that is hardly touched upon in Britain.

JOHN DUFFY, *The healers. A history of American medicine*, 2nd ed., Chicago, Urbana, and London, University of Illinois Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. ix, 385, £4.20 (paperback).

Professor Duffy's survey extends from the colonial period to the twentieth century and presents a scholarly account of the development of medicine and the evolution of the medical profession. He demonstrates a prolific scholarship and wide contact with the profuse literature. His training is in history and his knowledge of the historical background, social and otherwise, is profound. He is able to combine this with a theoretical acquaintance with medicine to make a fully-documented, readable narrative, which also contains shrewd judgments. Most of the book deals with the pre-Civil War era, which for a non-medical historian of medicine is probably easier to handle than the later, more technical period. Nevertheless, Professor Duffy depicts the latter accurately, again interpreting medical and professional advancements and their many external influences. His book is, therefore, highly commendable and a fit successor to Packard's standard work first published in 1901.

CALVIN W. SCHWABE, *Cattle, priests, and progress in medicine*, (Wesley W. Spink Lectures on Comparative Medicine, vol. 4) Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xiii, 277, illus., \$19.75

It is the author's intention to show how animals as well as man have been important in medical progress. Thus advances in human medicine have often been closely associated with observations and experiments on animals. The survey is presented here in chronological sequence, from prehistory to the present day, and begins with an account of the history of man in terms of animal cultures: Ancient Egypt and Greece, the Arabic contribution, etc.

The moral of Professor Schwabe's book is that the role of veterinary medicine in medical research is of considerable importance and that because of this, curricula changes for the education of medical investigators are needed. This book has no keyed-in textual notes or references, but there is an eight-page list of selected references. No doubt it will enjoy a wide circulation.

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**MASSIMO LIVI-BACCI**, *A history of Italian fertility during the last two centuries*, Princeton University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. xxii, 311, illus., £11.60.

The author analyses fertility trends in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and is able to isolate the main features of a decline that has taken place since Napoleonic times. It occurred more rapidly in northern and central parts of the country, the urban-rural gap has widened, and a late slowing-down trend is apparent in the south. In addition, social and economic differences have been induced. Mass emigration, Fascist policy, and social changes have all had an effect on fertility, and this study, which will tax the non-demographer, discusses all of them with the application of a mass of data derived from the statistical system established in 1861 when Italy was unified. Professor Livi-Bacci's treatise is an excellent product of the new school of historical demography, which is producing a wealth of new knowledge. Some of this is, however, incomprehensible to the innumerate historian.

**MASAYOSHI SUGIMOTO** and **DAVID L. SWAIN**, *Science and culture in traditional Japan A.D. 600-1854*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxiv, 498, illus., £28.00.

The authors survey the development of science in Japan from its first cultural transformation c. 600-894, to the period of shift from traditional to modern science c. 1720-1854. They have taken a decade to produce it, and it can be stated immediately that their contribution to the history of science in the Orient in general and in Japan in particular is an outstanding one. The subject is immensely complex and demands wide knowledge of general history, cultural developments very different from the West, and of social behaviour and forms equally complex, as well as a detailed awareness of the history of science. The more general changes and advancements are dealt with primarily, but supporting details are drawn upon. Chinese physiology, pathology, and medicine are the basis of Japanese medicine, and they are discussed, together with medical care, in the part dealing with the earlier period. Training and specialization in medicine are also considered, and altogether medicine is given an appropriate and balanced portion of the book. The latter, therefore, offers the scholar and student an excellent introduction and background to the remarkable advancement of Japanese medicine after the 1860s. It will become a standard work of high scholarship.

**ROBERT K. MERTON** and **JERRY GASTON** (editors), *The sociology of science in Europe*, Carbondale, Ill., Southern Illinois University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. xiv, 383, \$19.85.

During the last two decades the sociology of science has been linked on the one side with the history and philosophy of science, and on the other with science policy. This book is the first attempt to gather together original surveys of recent research in the subject. There are two parts: first, Merton discusses distant antecedents and the recent past of social studies of science; second, a sequence of authors examine the situation in West Germany and Austria, Poland, Britain, France, Italy, the U.S.S.R., and Scandinavia. It is of immense value to have this collection of authoritative essays, much of the activity discussed being little known, as is the case with the excellent bibliographies. Thus, as well as being a summary of European sociology of science, it is also a most valuable source-book. It will be welcomed by a large circle of scholars.

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ERNA LESKY (editor), *Franz Joseph Gall 1758-1828. Naturforscher und Anthropologe*, Berne, Stuttgart, and Vienna, Huber, 1979, 8vo, pp. 217, front., S.Fr. 38.00/DM. 43.00 (S.Fr. 280/DM. 32.00 paperback).

The distinguished Viennese historian of medicine Professor Erna Lesky, has selected, introduced, translated, and commented upon sections chosen from Gall's writings. She has divided the pieces under a number of headings, such as brain anatomy, psychiatry, psycho-physiology, etc. The result is an excellent and useful source of primary material which is essential when assessing a man and his work. Most of Gall's publications are readily available, but nevertheless it is most valuable to have an anthology of selections from them. This will be used by student and scholar alike, and it would seem that similar books dealing with the writings of other outstanding medical scientists would be equally attractive.

JOHN MITCHELL and ARTHUR ROOK, *Botanical dermatology. Plants and plant products injurious to the skin*, Vancouver, Greengrass; Philadelphia, Pa., Lea & Febiger, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 787, U.S.\$39.50.

In this remarkably comprehensive book the authors have assembled botanical, therapeutic, and toxicological information concerning all plants that can produce irritant or allergic skin reactions. Each species is considered in turn, and all the available literature cited. There is also a history of contact dermatitis and a list of reports of reactions up to 1900.

This will be an exceedingly useful reference book for both modern dermatologist and toxicologist, as well as for those concerned with the history of skin reactions to plants. The authors, who are both distinguished dermatologists, are to be complimented on the immense industry needed to produce such a valuable and accurate critical purview of the clinical, botanical, and phytochemical literature.

R. H. NUTTALL, *Microscopes from the Frank Collection*, Jersey, Channel Islands, A. Frank, 1979, 4to, pp. 64, illus., £5.00

The author has produced an excellent and detailed catalogue of the microscopes from Glasgow's Frank Collection, which belong to the first half of the nineteenth century. There is an introduction, a chapter on the instrument trade c. 1800-1860, and one on the development of the microscope over that period. There are fifty-nine entries in the catalogue section, and these are, unfortunately, of the traditional, descriptive variety, without reference to the capability of the instrument. Nevertheless, this is a useful addition to the literature and listing of the microscope.

JAMES WALVIN, *Leisure and society 1830-1950*, London and New York, Longman, 1978, 8vo, pp. ix, 181, £2.95 (paperback).

Another addition to an excellent series on aspects of British social history, this book gives a general survey of the evolution of leisure and its activities. The sports and pastimes are dealt with, but the basic social and economic changes are not overlooked. The changing nature of leisure during the period selected is thus considered, and Dr. Walvin's book is, therefore, a unique and important contribution, parts of which will be of concern to the social historian of medicine.



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GERALD S. WASSERMAN, *Color vision. An historical introduction*, New York and Chichester, John Wiley, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 224, £12.60.

The author is Professor of Psychological Science and Director of the Sense Coding Laboratory at Purdue University. He has carried out research on vision in general and colour theory, and is therefore the ideal person to present a history of concepts of colour vision. This he does in a lucid and informal style with the object of providing a survey for the non-specialist. His material is arranged chronologically with a brief introduction, and begins with Newton's *Opticks* (1666). A certain amount of mathematics is inevitable and this will no doubt discourage the innumerate. And the book is not history as such, but a review of the literature which, however, is most welcome when done in a scholarly and scientific manner. Professor Wasserman's book can be warmly recommended.

E. H. WEBER, *The sense of touch. De tactu*, translated by H. E. Ross; *Der Tastsinn*, translated by D. J. Murray, London and New York, Academic Press for the Experimental Psychology Society, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 278, £7.40.

The *De tactu* (1834) and *Der Tastsinn* (1846) are well-known classics by the renowned German scientist, Ernst Heinrich Weber (1795-1878). They are a distillate of his studies of the nervous supply of the skin and of the special senses. Together they attempt to answer his question of how the structure of the nervous system leads to a functional representation of external space.

There is here an excellent historical and biographical introduction by the translators, an accurate translation, with added notes and indexes. The type, however, is tiring to read, but otherwise this is a valuable addition to the history of neurophysiology. It is to be hoped that the translators will be inspired to provide English versions of similar German classics.

BRUCE M. MANZER, *The abstract journal, 1790-1920: origin, developments, and diffusion*, Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Press, (U.K. agents: Folkstone, Kent, Bailey, Bros. & Swinfen), 1977, 8vo, pp. ix, 312, £9.35.

The author investigates the origins and development of the abstract journal in all subject areas and languages, and from all countries during the period 1790-1920. The result is an exceedingly useful book, especially for historians who use late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century items. After an introduction he discusses them chronologically, and then has a chapter on 'Analysis and interpretation' in which general matters are discussed. Then follow appendices with a list of the journals alphabetically, chronologically, by subject, etc. Mr. Manzer's book will be greeted enthusiastically by scholars of all fields, for there is no such detailed source-book available.

AHMED BAYOUMI, *The history of Sudan health services*, Nairobi, Kenya Literature Bureau, 1979, 8vo, pp. xxii, 351, [no price stated].

The Democratic Republic of the Sudan is the largest country in Africa, and the author of this book begins by surveying briefly its physical features and people. He then considers superstitions and traditional medicine, and the development of health services after the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium in 1898. Specific diseases such as

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cholera, smallpox, sleeping sickness, cerebrospinal meningitis, malaria, schistosomiasis, etc., are discussed in detail, so that the title of the book is somewhat misleading. Although Dr. Bayoumi devotes considerable space to the evolution of Sudan health services from the end of the last century to the 1970s, he also considers diseases endemic in Sudan. His book, therefore, is of two-fold interest: from the point of view of the organization of medicine in general, and of the specific diseases which engage the health service. It is well written, documented, and illustrated, and will prove to be a valuable contribution to the history of medicine in Africa.

A. E. CLARK-KENNEDY, *London pride. The story of a voluntary hospital*, London, Hutchinson Benham, 1979, 8vo, pp. 254, illus., £3.50 (paperback).

Dr. Clark-Kennedy's two-volume work on *The London. A study in the voluntary system* was published 1961 to 1963, and it provides an excellent account of the London Hospital from its foundation in 1740 to its acquisition by the state in 1948. It received justifiably high praise, for Dr. Clark-Kennedy told the story ". . . not in isolation, but in relation to historical events, social changes, and the many problems it had to face created by the growth of science and technology" (p. 9). In the present volume he has concentrated on the problems common to all hospitals and on parts of the history which are of interest to the general reader. He, therefore, further avoids the stigma of writing parochial history, but has omitted references, because they are in the larger work. This seems to be a threadbare argument. However, Dr. Clark-Kennedy's book makes enjoyable reading and deserves wide popularity amongst the audience for which it is intended.

A. R. DAVID (editor), *The Manchester Museum mummy project*, Manchester University Press for the Manchester Museum, 1979, 4to, pp. viii, 160, illus., £15.00.

The media and an attractive book (A. R. David (editor), *Mysteries of the mummies*, London, Cassell, 1978; reviewed in *Med. Hist.*, 1980, 24: 118) have given wide publicity to the work of Egyptologists and their associates at the Manchester Museum. This book reveals more of their praiseworthy activity, for it presents thirteen articles based on the Manchester material. They reveal how extensive the field of palaeopathology has become, and how vitally important data concerning the body being investigated can be discovered by a team of experts. Each is applying his own special techniques, with the common objective of revealing as much as possible of the mummy being studied. Like its predecessor, this book is an elegant and scholarly work which will be widely circulated in the growing field of palaeopathology, as well as amongst Egyptologists. The Manchester team deserves warm congratulations.

ANNE BUCK, *Dress in eighteenth-century England*, London, Batsford, 1979, 4to, pp. 240, illus., £10.00.

The author has a wide and scholarly acquaintance with dress, for she was Keeper of English Costume at the Manchester City Art Galleries for twenty-five years. To deviate from the usual presentation of this topic, she elects to consider the variations in dress at any one time and the factors that produce these changes: locality, age, social status, occupation, etc. Her book is based largely on primary contemporary sources, ranging over a wide variety of British literature as well as including the useful comments of

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visiting foreigners. The social influence on dress is in particular discussed, and there is a section on servants' clothing, and one on 'Fabrics and wearers'. There are ninety-one illustrations and four coloured plates, all from contemporary sources or of surviving eighteenth-century dress. This book can be warmly recommended, and the author should be encouraged to proceed now to a consideration of the nineteenth century, if she is not already doing so.

STEN FORSHUFVUD and BEN WEIDER, *Assassination at St. Helena. The poisoning of Napoleon Bonaparte*, Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. [vi], 543, illus., Canad.\$19.75.

It is not clear why this book was thought to be necessary. The literature on Napoleon's death is already voluminous and full of diagnostic speculation of the most tenuous and unhistorical kind. Moreover, the present authors' claim that he died of arsenic poisoning, which is the central theme of the book, is by no means new. The pompous and appalling literary style makes the book even less acceptable, and in addition there is inaccurate documentation. The recent study by Major-General Frank Richardson, M.D., to which these authors make no reference, is a far superior contribution to the solution of the enigma. Concerning the theory of arsenical intoxication, it still has to be proved that the material found in the corpse was not accidental contamination from curtains, wallpaper, tooth-powder, etc., rather than form criminally-induced ingestion.

HILLEL SCHWARTZ, *Knaves, fools, madmen, and that subtle effluviium. A study of the opposition to the French prophets in England, 1706-1710*. Gainesville, University Presses of Florida, 1978, 8vo, pp. [vi], 97, illus., \$5.50 (paperback).

In 1706 three prophets from Languedoc established a sect in London including several individuals who claimed they could prophesy and work miracles. They were known collectively as the French Prophets. In this doctoral dissertation, the author examines the group carefully: their backgrounds, activities, and the sexual, political, and medical factors motivating them. The psychological, psychiatric, and medico-historical involvement is of considerable interest, and a deeper analysis by a scholar with greater knowledge of these complex and difficult areas will amplify this pioneer study.

JOSEPH J. SPENGLER, *France faces depopulation. Postlude edition, 1936-1976*, Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1979, 8vo, xvi, 383, \$17.75.

The original edition of this excellent book appeared in 1938, and it received universal praise as, for example: ". . . the best review in English of material dealing with population problems in France . . ." It is now reprinted with a 'Postlude 1936-1976', pp. 301-370, which includes a lengthy 'Notes' and 'References'. This in itself is a fascinating survey of changes in France's economic, international, and demographic situation. Whereas in 1938 there was a threat of a decline in population, it is continuing now to grow, despite a fall in fertility. Would that other authors surveyed critically their earlier work at a distance of forty years to assess its value and to review changed concepts and situations, even if recantation is necessary.

### Book Notices

ROBERT V WELLS, *The population of the British colonies in America before 1776*, Princeton University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xii, 342, £13.80.

Knowledge of American colonial demography is relatively limited and this book is an important contribution to it. The author has employed primary sources, mainly census reports that have so far been neglected, and he examines twenty-one American colonies, 1623-1775, thus giving the first population pattern survey of all the pre-1776 British settlements. His book is crammed with data and will provide historians of Colonial America with a rich source of information. But as well as presenting data he also examines variations in population patterns and the possible explanations for them. Little reference is made to the medical aspects of demography, but this can now be tackled as a related topic, thanks to Dr. Wells' pioneer work.

W. ANDREW ACHENBAUM, *Old age in the new land. The American experience since 1790*, Baltimore, Md., and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xii, 237, illus., £9.75.

The author aims to study in detail the roles and status of the elderly in the United States since 1790. The most important outcome of this is an increased understanding of the variations in American attitudes to old age and the elderly. Intellectual, demographic, industrial, and attitudinal factors are involved, and the benefit derived is an increased appreciation of the contemporary lot of the aged. This book is intended for scientists, policy-makers, social workers, and health practitioners, but the historian of medicine will find it to be an exemplary contribution to the history of gerontology and an essential work.

THOMAS CARY JOHNSON jr., *Scientific interests in the Old South*, [reprint of 1936 ed.], Wilmington, Delaware, and London, Scholarly Resources, 1973, 8vo, pp. [viii], 214, [no price stated].

It is popularly thought that there was little or no intellectual activity in America's Old South. The author here shows that this is a misconception, and that between 1801 and 1861 the people from the Southern States were intensely interested in the exploration and mastery of the forces of nature. In a scholarly study he brings full evidence and support for this, including in his survey medical colleges where scientific investigations were carried out. His book is important because it reflects a widely held opinion.

RICHARD L. BLANCO, *Physician of the American Revolution: Jonathan Potts*, New York and London, Garland STPM Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xv, 276, [no price stated].

Professor Blanco is a military historian who has contributed importantly to the medical aspects of army studies. Despite the enormous literature on the American War of Independence, little has been written on the medical problems of the Continental army. Potts (1745-1781) was a Pennsylvania Quaker and country physician as well as a key figure in the Army Medical Department. This scholarly book, therefore, gives important information about developments in, and practice of, military medicine, but it also describes Potts' education and civil practice. It can thus be strongly recommended to historians of medicine and army welfare, and of colonial America. It deserves wide attention.

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ABNER J. WEISMAN, *Medicine before Columbus, as told in pre-Columbian medical art. A source-book catalogue of the Weisman Collection of pre-Columbian medical sculpture*, New York, Pre-Cortesian Publications, 1979, 4to, pp. x, 152, illus., \$14.50 (paperback).

Dr. Weisman is internationally known for his collection of pre-Columbian medical sculptures and as an expert in this specialized area of knowledge. His book is based on this collection and in it he discusses all aspects of disease in pre-Columbian America. At times his infectious enthusiasm outstrips his diagnostic judgment, and so some will contest his opinions. Nevertheless, he has produced a unique book that will be consulted by all concerned with early American medical history and with medical art.

LEONARD G. WILSON (editor), *Benjamin Silliman and his circle*, New York, Science History Publications; Folkestone, Dawson, 1979, 8vo, pp. x, 227, illus., £14.00.

Silliman (1779-1864) is an important figure in early nineteenth-century science, for he held the important chair of chemistry and natural history at Yale University from 1802 to 1853; he also lectured in mineralogy and geology. He had a high reputation in Europe, which he visited twice (1805 and 1851) and made many contacts. It is, therefore, appropriate that the several aspects of his long and active life should be discussed by experts. Professor Wilson has brought this collection together as a tribute to the much-beloved Yale historian of medicine, Elizabeth H. Thomson. She has always been deeply interested in Silliman, and her friends' anthology will no doubt give her much pleasure.

RICHARD W. WERTZ and DOROTHY C. WERTZ, *Lying-in. A history of childbirth in America*, New York, The Free Press; London, Collier Macmillan, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 260, illus., £7.50.

The authors deal with the social aspects of obstetrics in the United States. They trace the increased intrusion of medical practitioners into the field of midwifery until today when they are all-powerful. The theme is an important one, involving professional and patient-doctor relationships, but Mr. and Mrs. Wertz are unable to subdue their prejudices against the obstetrician, and their campaign for home delivery. Their book can, therefore, be disregarded as a contribution to the history of obstetrics. Mrs. Wertz has a Ph.D. in religion and society, whereas her husband's doctorate is not specified. Their qualifications for this unhistoric polemic are, therefore, flimsy to say the least, but no doubt they will be awarded paeons of praise from their fellow-sociologists, who will probably be equally ignorant of the real practice of obstetrics.

DAVID LEVIN, *Cotton Mather. The young life of the Lord's Remembrancer 1663-1703*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xviii, 360, illus., £11.55.

Professor Levin has a chair in English, and his book is, without doubt, a major contribution to the literature of American civilization. It is the first scholarly biography of Cotton Mather, F.R.S., (1663-1728) since the early 1890s, and follows closely his forty-year association with Congregational New England. He had been an infant prodigy at Harvard, and after conversion he experienced a number of religious phenomena, including encounters with the devil during the witchcraft outbreaks at

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Boston and Salem. The medical aspects of this are of special interest to the historian of medicine, as are the author's references to smallpox and other diseases. Mather became an elder statesman of scientific as well as religious affairs. Professor Levin provides an excellent background account of life in early New England and as such his book will be invaluable to those concerned with the medicine of that period.

HENRY W. HOLCOMBE, *Patent medicine tax stamps. A history of the firms using United States private die proprietary medicine tax stamps*, 2nd ed., Lawrence, Mass., Quarterman Publications, 1979, 8vo, pp. xxv, 604, illus., \$50.00.

Articles written over a period of twenty years are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the firm which used tax stamps. Indexes help to give access to the very great amount of information in this book. For historians of pharmacy and philately it will be an essential source-book. Detailed descriptions of the private die tax stamps themselves are given, and the details of American drug companies are especially interesting. They provide excellent data for the history of American pharmacy. A similar book on British patent medicines would be an important contribution to the history of pharmacy, pharmacists, and of medicine in this country.

JEAN BODIN, *Colloquium of the seven about secrets of the sublime*, translation with introduction, annotations, and critical readings by Marion Leathers Daniels Kuntz, Princeton University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. lxxi, 509, illus., £18.80.

Bodin's *Colloquium*, which circulated in manuscript for over two hundred and fifty years, before it was published in 1857, ranges widely over all aspects of religion, from free thought to occultism, and from Jewish history to scientific determinism. This fluent version makes easily available for the first time this work of a leading thinker of the Renaissance, and offers another insight into the tortuous struggle of humanist theologians and others to reconcile the dogmas of the Catholic religion with the discoveries of new science and the doubts of philosophy.

CARL J. BAJEMA (editor), *Eugenics: then and now*, (Benchmark Papers in Genetics, 5), Stroudsburg, Pa., Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross, 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 382, \$32.50.

As in previous books in this series, the present volume is an anthology of papers illustrating advances in eugenics. They cover the period from 1865 to the 1970s and the collection will be especially useful for students. The usual criticism is the almost exclusive use of material written in English, and mostly by Americans, selected presumably for the ease of handling and the fact that translation is not necessary. If this is a criterion of selection, the collection can hardly be considered representative. Moreover, although the editor selects two of his own papers, Karl Pearson receives no mention, which is curious.

HANS SKOV (translator) and E. BASTHOLM, *Petrus Severinus og hans Idea medicinae philosophicae. En dansk paracelsist*, Odense Universitetsforlag, 1979, (Acta historica scientiarum naturalium et medicinalium, vol. 32), 8vo, pp. viii, 299, D. kr. 150.00 (paperback).

English readers will find the summary, pp. 64-73, of the life of Severinus tantalisingly interesting and the digest of the *Idea* valuable in understanding this early (1570) and influential exposition of Paracelsianism: students of the spread of these new

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theories would welcome the publication elsewhere in the original of the new correspondence of Severinus, here in translation on pp. 41, 45-54: Danish readers should be warned that much curious Latin lurks in the introduction and notes, and that other doctors and scholars are wrongly spelt or identified, e.g. p. 92, Serapion the Arabic pharmacologist is mistaken for a Greek Empiric.

JONATHAN BARNES, MALCOLM SCHOFIELD, RICHARD SORABJI (editors), *Articles on Aristotle: 3: Metaphysics*, London, Duckworth, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiv, 223, £12.00.

This volume, the third in a valuable series, contains nothing of direct relevance to the history of medicine but much to delight those who believe that Aristotle is a scientist and philosopher worth analysis and confrontation.

PAUL U. UNSCHULD, *Medical ethics in Imperial China. A study in historical anthropology*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London, University of California Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. viii, 141, illus., £8.50.

The first comprehensive history of this topic is presented here. The period covered is from about 500 B.C. to the end of the nineteenth century. There are translations of all known and accessible codes of ethics and the author's chief concern is with the significance of ethics as a method of achieving prestige. For those concerned with medical ethics this book will make fascinating reading, and likewise for historians of Chinese medicine and sinologists. One of its fascinating aspects is the comparative study of the comparisons and contrasts of Chinese ethics and those of the West, historically considered.

F. S. SCHWARZBACH, *Dickens and the City*, London, Athlone Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xii, 258, £10.50.

The main theme of this book is the role played by London in Dickens' character and in the evolution of his writings. The latter reveal in an accurate and comprehensive manner the way in which modern urban culture has grown, and Dickens' creative imagination was continually affected by his urban experiences. Dr. Schwarzbach's scholarly book, therefore, provides an excellent background for those dealing with the advancement of medicine and science in nineteenth-century London, both scientific and social. Sanitary conditions, alcoholism, fog, housing, industrialization, prisons, public health, and sanitary reform are some of the medical topics dealt with.

J. H. TREBLE, *Urban poverty in Britain*, London, Batsford, 1979, 8vo, pp. 216, £12.50.

The author has three themes: to delineate the principal causes of poverty; to examine the ways in which efforts were made to limit some of its social consequences; to show what poverty means in terms of food consumption and housing. It deals strictly with the urban scene and is not concerned with rural poverty. In attaining these aims, Dr. Treble surveys the broader questions as well as scientific problems and situations, thus producing a well-balanced account. The text is fully documented and well written. There seems little doubt that this will become an accepted authority for the topic it handles. For the historian of medicine it is an excellent account of the background against which medicine developed in the nineteenth century.

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AGI LINDGREN, *Die 'aquae medicinales' des mittelniederdeutschen Gothaer Arzneibuches*, Stockholm, Almquist & Wiksell International, 1979, (Stockholmer Germanistische Forschungen 24), 8vo, pp. 118, Sw. kr. 50.00 (paperback).

Distillations from herbs figure prominently in late-medieval medical writings. Dr. Lindgren has competently produced an annotated edition of one such tract, compiled c. 1400 by one Bartolomeus, provided it with glossaries and commentary, and assigned it its place in literary and medical history.

EDWARD MILLER and JOHN HATCHER, *Medieval England. Rural society and economic change 1086-1348*, London and New York, Longman, 1978, 8vo, pp. xviii, 302, £4.95 (paperback).

Lord Briggs' series *Social and economic history of England* provides a picture of the important developments in British social and economic life from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day. This volume is the first of two titles covering the period from the Norman Conquest to the Black Death, and deals centrally with the growth of England's population and economic activity. It is a masterly, comprehensive, and scholarly survey of one of the more difficult parts of English history. Without doubt it will become a standard work and one of the best accounts of the social and economic background of medieval England. It is an essential work for historians of medicine or science dealing with this area.

DEREK BAKER (editor), *Medieval women*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell for the Ecclesiastical History Society, 1978, 8vo, pp. xii, 399, illus., £15.00.

The editor has brought together nineteen essays as a Festschrift for Professor Rosalind Hill, and as the first in a new series of *Studies in Church History*. They range from the general, such as women in the age of Bede or in the Crusade states, to the particular, such as 'The empress Irene the Athenian' or 'Christina of Markyate'; a bibliography of Professor Hill's writings is included. Each is a scholarly study, opening up new or less-worn areas, and they will, no doubt, stimulate others to investigate a field incompletely studied. This excellent book will have wide appeal because of the many topics it deals with, and historians of medieval medicine and of women especially will find it of great value.

RODERICK HEFFRON, *Pneumonia with special reference to pneumococcus lobar pneumonia*, (1st ed., 1939), 8vo, pp. xix, 1086; and BENJAMIN WHITE, *The biology of pneumococcus. The bacteriological, biochemical, and immunological characters and activities of diplococcus pneumoniae*, (1st ed., 1937), 8vo, pp. xix, 799, illus., Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1979, £29.50 (boxed set).

*The biology of pneumococcus* by Benjamin White and Roderick Heffron's *Pneumonia* are classical works which contain a wealth of information, much of it useful today, including historical as well as technical information. These elegant reprints will, therefore, be welcomed by clinicians, microbiologists, and historians of medicine, for the original editions have been long out of print. It is regrettable, however, that the new introductions are so inadequate. Thus, we learn nothing from them about the authors, nor of how their treatises fit into the development of bacteriology. Obviously, it is easy to reprint a book, but more difficult to add a scholarly and thoughtful introduction.



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JOHN BURNETT, *Plenty and want. A social history of diet in England from 1815 to the present day*, revised edition, London, Scolar Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. 387, £8.00 (£3.95 paperback).

When it first appeared in 1966, Professor Burnett's book received widespread praise for the excellent study it gave of the standards of living and, in particular, of the Englishman's diet in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A new edition is, therefore, most welcome. The final chapter dealing with the period from 1945 has been rewritten, recent publications have been taken into account, and a useful appendix giving the nutritional evaluation of historic diets added. The book, therefore, maintains its position as an outstandingly important survey of the social history of the English diet, 1815 to date.

LINA GUTHERZ STRAUS, *Disease in milk. The remedy, pasteurization. The life work of Nathan Straus*, [facsimile of 1917 ed.], New York, Arno Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. 383, illus., \$23.00.

It seems curious that a book thought important enough to reprint in facsimile should be reproduced without a word of explanation. Even the dates of the author have to be searched for, and are found in Library of Congress data. Straus (1848-1931) was obviously an important pioneer in the prevention of milk-borne disease and this book by his wife, if somewhat disorganized and eulogizing, is a source of much information. But its role in public health improvements as assessed from a distance of sixty years, and an appraisal of Straus himself, are curiously lacking. Few individuals in this country will wish to pay almost £12 for a book the significance of which remains unrevealed.

L. FLECK, *Genesis and development of a scientific fact*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xxviii, 203, illus., £10.50.

In 1935 Fleck (1896-1961), a medically qualified microbiologist, published a small monograph in German. It was a case study of the Wassermann reaction and its use for diagnosing syphilis. He dealt with the cultural conditioning of scientific theory and concept, using this test as an example, and concluded that scientific truth is determined and measured by the consensus of contemporary scientists. Concepts vary non-progressively from period to period and group to group as knowledge changes basically as well as expanding. Recently historians and philosophers of science, as for example Thomas Kuhn who provides the foreword to this book, and sociologists have found new meaning and value in an old source, now excellently translated.

E. W. JENKINS, *From Armstrong to Nuffield. Studies in twentieth-century science education in England and Wales*, London, John Murray, 1979, 8vo, pp. x, 318, illus., £7.95 (school edition, £3.75).

The factors contributing to the shape of the science curricula in schools of England and Wales were several. They were also complex, and the author here traces them from 1900 and explores the fundamental problems relating to the educational roles of science. The book, therefore, spans the period from Henry Edward Armstrong to the Nuffield Foundation, each with their programmes of science curriculum reform. It is a scholarly work which will be of great interest to all who teach science, especially as

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several of the problems encountered at the beginning of the present century are with us again today.

STUART MILLER and M. WHITE (compilers and editors), *Cholera in Sunderland*, Sunderland, Wearside Archives, [1978], 30 11., duplicated typescript and facsimiles.

The first town in Britain to suffer the onslaughts of cholera was Sunderland in County Durham. The editors have gathered together reproductions of contemporary documents and explanatory sheets, which together help to recreate the background and events of the 1831 epidemic. Other towns could no doubt produce similar collections from their archives, and these would be equally valuable to both the student and the researcher of nineteenth-century medicine, especially its social aspects.

*The Osler Library*, Montreal, McGill University, 1979, 4to, pp. 64, illus., \$10.00 + \$1.00 postage, (paperback).

Established in 1929, this is one of the most famous libraries in the world devoted to the history of medicine. As is well known, it has grown up around the remarkable collection of Sir William Osler and is now housed in elegant surroundings and looked after by an enlightened board of management. This brochure is a sumptuous pictorial tour, displaying the library and some of its treasures, Osleriana in addition to books and manuscripts. It forms a splendid commemoration for a remarkable man and an outstanding library.

ERIC QUAYLE, *Old cook books. An illustrated history*, London, Studio Vista, 1978, 4to, pp. 256, illus., £8.95.

This is claimed to be the first illustrated history of the cook book and it certainly is an elegant production that will provide pleasure and knowledge to a wide circle of interested readers. The contents are chronologically arranged from antiquity to the present century. A great deal of material, including recipes, has been found in early British and American cookery books. It is, therefore, not intended as a bibliographical study as the title suggests. In fact the vague bibliographical and scholarly information is of little value to the student. There are no precise references, no documenting of the many quotations, no notes, and the bibliography, which refers mainly to books consulted by collectors of cook books, contains only twenty-one items and is woefully inadequate.

However, the book is intended for the lay person and not the scholar, and as such it will find a wide and appreciative audience.

ELLI ROLF, *Entwicklungsgeschichte des Kostüms*, Vienna, Böhlau, 1979, 8vo, pp. 110, illus., DM. 32.00 (paperback).

This is primarily an illustrated history of dress with a small amount of text. It gives a most useful survey of clothing in many countries, the changes over the centuries being graphically depicted. All garments are examined and details of them given. There is an adequate bibliography. For the historian of personal hygiene and of clothing this book will prove most valuable.