

Book Reviews

Chicago began with James S. Jewell, the first President of the American Medical Association. Between the two world wars, medical neurology became somewhat beclouded by the sheer multitude of psychiatrists, psychotherapists, and psychoanalysts. Neurosurgery, too, had established itself in a position of great authority through the work of Charles Frazier and Charles Elsberg, followed closely by Dandy and by Harvey Cushing. Immediately after World War II ended, medical neurology underwent a renaissance. This was largely due to the personal efforts of Abe Baker and Pearce Bailey jr. About the same time, there was an upgrading of the Veterans' Hospital Service with special neurological divisions; the establishment of the Federal-supported National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness as an organization for intra- and extramural research; the formation of the Academy of Neurology, and its special journal *Neurology*, edited by Russell DeJong; and the institution of "Boards" which sifted the men from the boys, and hence endowed great professional prestige to those neurologists who proved their worth. The magnificent outcome of all these auspicious circumstances is seen today in the position occupied by America in the international neuroscientific scene.

DeJong's book tells all this and much more. To those outsiders who have grown up as onlookers, the book is vastly appealing. If a reviewer were permitted to quibble, it would only be to wish that it had been longer, and that the constituent biographies went deeper so as to reveal in each case the human being within his professional carapace, struggling to express himself. May the second edition appear quite soon, and may it be bulkier.

Macdonald Critchley
National Hospital for Nervous Diseases
London

CHARLES WEBSTER (editor), *Biology, medicine and society 1840–1940*, Cambridge University Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. ix, 344, £22.50.

This collection of nine papers originated in a 1978 conference on 'The Roots of Sociobiology' jointly sponsored by the Past and Present Society and the British Society for the History of Science. To the four papers presented at that conference five others were later added. The fact that four of the papers have already been published elsewhere should not seriously diminish this book's appeal to historians of British medicine and biology, or, indeed, to social historians.

In a masterful little introduction, Charles Webster endeavours to display some basic themes and preoccupations which run through this heterogeneous collection. "Modern biology and medicine", he observes, "are inescapably involved with questions of policy and politics." If this counts nowadays as a historiographic truism, specifying the precise nature of that involvement is far from easy or banal. The volume's natural focus is a set of five essays which treat the cultural cluster constituted by British human biology, genetics, eugenics, psychology, and social policy. In a precisely argued paper, Donald MacKenzie asserts the existence of institutionalized connexions between biometry and eugenic commitments and develops a view of eugenics as the ideology of the professional middle class. MacKenzie responds to the preceding essay by G. R. Searle in which the interests of the professional middle classes and their consequent attitudes towards eugenics are said to be complex and fragmented. Daniel Kevles's comparative assessment of genetics and eugenics in the United States and Britain offers a detour around ideology and class-interests in the historiography of these episodes: the disputes between biometricians and Mendelians were intense in this country and relatively bland in America because of differences in scientific job opportunities in the two settings. Bernard Norton provides a fine study of the eugenic background to Cyril Burt's work, and Gillian Sutherland sets British mental testing in its complex social and political context.

Among the other papers there is John Durant's lucid summary of the conceptual development of ethology, which stresses the interpretative circle that linked man's self-understanding to his depiction of the meaning of animal behaviour and then back to man's account of himself as an animal. The most richly suggestive (and richly documented) contribution is also, unfortunately, the most loosely (and at times confusingly) argued: Paul Weindling's 'Theories of the cell state in Imperial Germany'. He relates (*how* is far from clear) attitudes to social

Book Reviews

structure to concepts in biology to the social make-up of the German professoriate to the academic policy of the State. This is material of undoubted importance, not least in relation to Paul Forman's views on German physics, and one hopes to see it developed and refined in future. There are two papers of particular relevance to medical historians: Brian Harrison's provocative and elegantly written refutation of the contention that improvements in women's health owed anything substantial to the feminist movement, and Carol Dyhouse's account of medical men's attitudes to working-class mothers in relation to infant mortality.

Taken as a whole, this is a collection of unusually high quality and inherent interest. Among its other functions, it might well be used as a source-book of problems (if not solutions) in the historical sociology of scientific knowledge.

Steven Shapin
Science Studies Unit
Edinburgh University

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *La medicina española antigua y medieval*, (Historia general de la medicina española, I), Ediciones Universidad de Salamanca. 1981, 8vo, pp. 184, illus., 750 ptas (paperback).

This penultimate volume of Professor Granjel's history is another work of solid and competent scholarship. It uses a variety of sources, lay as well as medical, to illuminate the complex fabric of Spanish medieval medicine, and is well illustrated with pictures of manuscripts and early printed books. But here the absence of notes and references is a severe handicap to further research, especially as some of the modern authors mentioned in the text do not appear in the bibliography.

The sections on prehistoric and Roman medicine are less impressive, a mixture of windy rhetoric and factual inconsistencies; p. 39 is particularly bad. The doctor from Mellaria is identical with P. Frontinus Sciscola of Córdoba; Tiberius Claudius Apollinaris practised at Tarragona; Julio Longino was not a doctor (see CIL II 519); *ocularii clinici* and *ocularii chirurgi* are never found; the oculist's stamp of Caius Diadumenus (?) may not be of Spanish origin; and M. Fulvius Icarus is the correct name of the *medicus oculusarius* at Ipagrum. Two Roman rarities also needed mention. Iulia Saturnina, from Merida, "an excellent female doctor", was commemorated with a grave relief showing a baby in swaddling bands, CIL II 497. Most surprising of all, Spain has the earliest named "factory doctor": García Bellido published in 1971 the large tombstone of a doctor from Baetica, M. Aerarius soc(ietatis) aerar(iorum) l(ibertus) Telemachus medicus (*L'année épigraphique* 1971, p. 67, n. 181), who, to judge from his very rare *nomen* (Aerarius), must have been the slave of a mining company, and may have learned his medicine attending the miners.

But this page is an isolated instance, and the rest of Professor Granjel's book lives up well to the high standards of his earlier volumes and will provide a sound introduction to a major area of medical history.

Vivian Nutton
Wellcome Institute

IAIN M. LONIE, *The Hippocratic treatises 'On Generation', 'On the Nature of the Child', 'Diseases IV'*, Ars. Medica II, Band 7, Berlin and New York, Walter de Gruyter, 1981, 8vo, pp. xxxix, 406, DM. 220.00.

This long-awaited translation and commentary on three Hippocratic texts amply fulfils our high expectations. The translation is elegant, the commentary full, and there are frequent summaries of the general argument of chapters and sections to provide the necessary preliminary orientation. English readers are indeed fortunate to have such a wealth of learning put at their disposal, even if at a price.

Although Littre saw the three tracts as forming a continuous whole, Lonie argues only for an identity of authorship, and distinguishes *Diseases IV* from the other two, which together form a unity. The eccentricities and difficult wording of *Diseases IV* are then partly explained by the