

Book Notices

RICHARD PERREN, *The meat trade in Britain 1840–1914*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 258, £7.50.

Little has been written on the history of the meat trade in Britain, and Dr. Perren's book is an important contribution to this topic. He traces the changing nature of the trade from 1840 to 1914, and is mainly concerned with supply factors and their influence on the availability of this staple foodstuff. The radical changes occurring in this period are indicated by the fact that in 1840 almost all meat eaten in Britain was home produced, whereas in 1914 about forty-five per cent was imported. The two main factors responsible were technical change and government control. What would seem to be a dull subject is in fact of great interest and value, for there are many additional influences which played a role in shaping the trade. Historians of medicine, especially those concerned with the development of public health, as well as the economic historian, will welcome Dr. Perren's scholarly and well-written book.

ISABEL ADAM, *Witch Hunt. The great Scottish witchcraft trials of 1697*, London, Macmillan, 1978, 8vo, pp. 256, £5.50.

The author tells the true story of a Lowland community assailed by the terror of witchcraft. The usual pattern of events unfolds, but unfortunately in a novelistic form, with imaginary and fabricated conversations, scenes, and the like. She has studied the literature widely, and presents a graphic tale, but with no textual references to the documents she must have consulted. Moreover, she seems to have concentrated almost wholly on literature relevant to the Scottish scene without taking enough notice of the very large number of quite modern discourses on witchcraft that are altering our interpretations of it. In particular, the work of Boyer and Nissenbaum on the Salem witches must now be taken into account by anyone writing on this topic. There is also a whiff of Whig history here and there.

DAVID KNIGHT, *Zoological illustration. An essay towards a history of printed zoological pictures*, Hamden, Conn., Archon Books; Folkestone, Dawson, 1977, 4to, pp. xii, 204, illus., £10.00

The main defect of this book is that it tends to be a listing of artists of zoological illustrations and their products. Thus it will appeal more to those concerned with prints and drawings of animals *per se* and with the books that contain them. Dr. Knight deals first with the purpose of zoological illustrations, then with the techniques used for their production. The final three chapters survey their history, and it is here that more information would have been welcome. Each chapter has a lengthy bibliography, and there are 103 well-reproduced illustrations.

RUDOLF E. A. DREY, *Apothecary jars. Pharmaceutical pottery and porcelain in Europe and the East, 1150–1850*, London and Boston, Faber & Faber, 1978, 8vo, pp. 249, illus., £17.50.

A book dealing with the full range of drug jars is much overdue, but this one goes a long way to satisfy the need. Necessarily it can only be a guide, but as such it will be most welcome. It is a scholarly work, elegantly illustrated, and the glossary of inscriptions on the jars is of immense value. However, as well as being an essential

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book of reference, it also provides a history of apothecary pots and an account of relevant ceramic technology. The author, who is a scientist to a pharmaceutical company and a collector of jars himself, must be congratulated on producing the first systematic and comprehensive survey of this important topic.

PETER FARB, *Humankind. A history of the development of man*, London, Jonathan Cape, 1978, 4to, pp. xiv, 528, illus., £8.95.

Mr. Farb is an American writer who here attempts a universal history of mankind, or "a status report on our species". He groups his material thus: 'The ascent of mankind'; 'Human adaptations'; 'The infinite variety of humankind'; 'The mind and the environment'; 'Humankind in the social network'; 'The future of the species'. His book is well written with extensive 'Notes and sources' and 'Bibliography'. There is little history *per se*, but this work will be an excellent introduction to the human biological sciences for those historians who wish to extend their knowledge of them. It can be warmly recommended.

A. C. BROWN (editor), *A history of scientific endeavour in South Africa. A collection of essays published on the occasion of the centenary of the Royal Society of South Africa*, Cape Town, University of Cape Town for the Royal Society of South Africa, 1977, 4to, pp. xii, 516, illus., [no price stated].

To commemorate the centenary of the Royal Society of South Africa twenty-one essays have been collected together, dealing with all aspects of science. Those of main concern to the medical historian deal with highlights of medical research, research in human biology and palaeo-anthropology, but others on veterinary, botanical, agricultural, and biological chemical research are of peripheral interest. Each contribution is written by an expert, and is well illustrated, although referencing varies in quality and quantity.

H. MICHEL, *Images des sciences. Les anciens instruments scientifiques vus par les artistes de leur temps*, Rhode-Saint-Genese, Belgium, Albert de Visscher, 1977, 4to, pp. 153, illus., 1,100 FB.

Science as depicted by artists is the theme of this lavishly illustrated and beautifully produced book. Chapters deal with imaginary scientific instruments, those devoted to calculating and measuring, to topography and geography, to pneumatics, optics, and astronomy. The illustrations are from manuscripts, books, paintings, and other art forms, as well as depicting artefacts. Many are well known, but some are unique. On the whole the documentation is adequate, and there is a list of very brief biographical accounts of the artists included. This is an attractive contribution to the iconography of science.

JUNE OSBORN (editor), *Influenza in America 1918-1976*, New York, Prodist; Folkestone, Dawson, 1977, 8vo, pp. [iv], 135, illus., £5.75.

Much has been written recently on the history of influenza, and this book adds four essays concerned with the disease in the United States. They deal with the pandemic of 1918, precursors of the scientific decision-making process leading to the

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1976 national immunization campaign, swine influenza, and the costs and benefits of the 1976 immunization programme. The "Appendices" contain reproductions of key government documents. Unfortunately only Dr. Arthur Viseltear's paper has adequate documentation.

ELIZABETH BLACKWELL, *Pioneer work in opening the medical profession to women. Autobiographical sketches*, facsimile of 1895 ed., with new introduction by Mary Roth Walsh, New York, Schocken Books, 1977, 8vo, pp. xv, 264, \$4.75 (paperback).

In 1895 Elizabeth Blackwell (1821–1910), usually styled America's first female physician, published her book of reminiscences. It is here reprinted in facsimile with a useful introduction, and traces her early years, her medical training and study in America and Europe, and her practical work in America. She spent some time in Britain (1849 and 1858), and her autobiography is therefore a valuable document for historians of nineteenth-century British medicine, as well as being of special interest to those concerned with the history of American medicine, medical education, and of feminism.

MARTIN LITVIN, *The young Mary 1817–1861*, Galesburg, Ill., Log City Books, 1976, 8vo, pp. x, 201, illus., \$9.50.

Each country seems to have had its Florence Nightingale, and the United States' is here claimed to have been Miss Mary Anne Bickerdyke (born 1817), the Civil War nurse. This volume deals with her earlier life, and a second will describe her wartime career. It is based on extensive research into a large mass of private and other papers, and the author provides an interesting background account of nineteenth-century Middle West American life, as well as a detailed biography. The medical and nursing details will be of great value to the historian of American medicine.

PATRICIA BRANCA, *Women in Europe since 1750*, London, Croom Helm, 1978, 8vo, pp. 233, £8.95 (£3.95 paperback).

A vast amount of literature on women has appeared in the last few years and it is of great value to have here an accurate and readable survey of it. The author is mainly concerned with the woman's role in the family, but the female is depicted at work and involved with political or educational activities. The way in which she has integrated the role of work into a complex life-style is especially interesting, and both here and in the home it has played a prominent part in the process of modernization in Western Europe in general.

Dr. Branca is a historian and presents a scholarly work. Her view that female emancipation gained more support from women in the home than from the suffragettes will no doubt incite useful controversy.

SARA DELAMONT and LORNA DUFFIN (editors), *The nineteenth-century woman. Her cultural and physical world*, London, Croom Helm, 1978, 8vo, pp. 213, £7.50.

Seven closely integrated essays are collected together to present aspects of the

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inter-connexion of feminism with medical, social, and educational ideas in the nineteenth century. They deal with feminists in education, George Eliot's concern with feminist issues, social theory and feminism, the woman as an invalid, and the introduction by women of gymnastics into British schools. Each is a fascinating topic, well researched and documented. As the editors say, the main theme is the relationships between women's bodies and minds in nineteenth-century thought, particularly in the biological and social sciences. It will be of considerable interest to historians of nineteenth-century medicine, for it will provide a new aspect to their studies where the role of the female in society is under discussion.

DOROTHY ATKINSON, ALEXANDER DALLIN and GAIL WARSHOFSKY LAPIDUS (editors), *Women in Russia*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1978, pp. xiii, 410, £11.50.

Eighteen essays resulting from a conference on 'Women in Russia. Changing realities and changing perceptions' have been arranged in three groups: 'The historical heritage' (that is, pre-1917); 'Sex roles and social change'; and 'Women, society, and politics'. Each is a scholarly, fully documented essay written by an expert, so that the book represents an authoritative analysis of all aspects of Russian women from the earliest period to the present day. As such it can be warmly recommended, and it will remain for some time a source-book of information on an important, but so far inadequately explored, topic.

ANNE SCOTT BELLER, *Fat and thin. A natural history of obesity*, New York, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1977, 8vo., pp. [xviii], 310, \$10.00.

The author directs her attention to the problem of human obesity and examines all aspects of it. Seen in historical perspective, it provides an interesting object-lesson in the history and geography of the species as a whole. However, as the sub-title states, this is "a natural history", that is, obesity since prehistoric times but looked at from a biological and not a historical point of view. The numerous etiological factors are all dealt with, and the physiology and pathology adequately covered. It presents a new and original approach to a common topic and will be of interest to a wide spectrum of readers.

JOHN BROCKMAN (editor), *About Bateson. Essays on Gregory Bateson*, London, Wildwood House, 1978, 8vo, pp. [vi], 260, [no price stated].

Gregory Bateson (b. 1904) is the son of William Bateson (1861–1926), the eminent English biologist and geneticist, and was named after Gregor Mendel. He is said to be "one of the most important and least understood thinkers" of this century. He originated the double bind theory of schizophrenia, was the first to apply cybernetic theory to the social sciences, and has carried out important research on the dolphin. Here seven individuals present essays on the various aspects of his thinking, and Bateson himself supplies a brief survey of his latest thinking on his life's work.

Readers can now determine for themselves Bateson's place in present-day thought, but a just appraisal must await the future.

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J. R. HAY, *The development of the British welfare state 1880–1975*, London, Edward Arnold, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 116, £7.00 (£2.25 paperback).

The evolution of social policy in Britain is traced by means of extracts from documents, chosen to illustrate basic attitudes to welfare, the need for reform, and to shed light on the process of legislation and administration. It also shows that reform was not the inevitable result of extended franchise, the rise of trade unions and the labour party. There were other aetiological agents. Dr. Hay's book is a modest but excellent work which will be of immense value to medical, social, and economic historians, and especially to students.

WALTER RIESE, *Selected papers on the history of aphasia*, Amsterdam and Lisse, Swets & Zeitlinger, 1977, 8vo, pp. 144, front., Dfl.48.00.

The late Professor Riese (1890–1970) was an outstanding practitioner, historian, and philosopher of neurology. Collected here are his papers on the history of aphasia, each of which has appeared already. They deal with auto-observation of aphasia, Baudelaire's aphasia, the principles of aphasiology in historical perspective, Hughlings Jackson's views on aphasia, and Von Monakow's on diaschisis. There is an introduction by Dr. William Gooddy, and a list of references cited in the selected papers. Dr. Riese's contributions to this aspect of the history of neurology are important, and it is, therefore, valuable to have his relevant publications collected together and made available for both neurologist and historian.

ERWIN CHARGAFF, *Heraclitean fire. Sketches from a life before nature*, New York, Rockefeller University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. [vi], 252, \$13.00.

The autobiographies of scientists are of particular value, for they invariably provide details and human aspects of research which never reach the periodical paper or the textbook. Dr. Chargaff, who has made substantial contributions to the chemistry of DNA, is a controversial figure and a highly-respected, much-honoured scientist. In addition, he writes elegantly and displays a wide range of scholarship, which reaches areas far removed from molecular biology.

This book, which includes a bibliography of Chargaff's publications (1928–1977), will be read widely on account of its excellent depiction of the recent history of a branch of the biological sciences. Would that other areas of science had such articulate chroniclers.

RONALD HAYMAN, *De Sade: a critical biography*, London, Constable, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxviii, 252, £6.95.

Despite the interest in the Marquis de Sade (1740–1814), few people know much about his life and writings. He was an aristocrat, a prisoner for twenty-five years at the first stretch, a Republican, but always renowned and punished for his sadistic sexual practices. The author, who is a professional writer, claims this to be a critical biography, and so it may be. However, like so many books written for commercial rather than scholarly purposes, this detailed analysis will be of less value to the serious student of de Sade and his times, for there are no references to the extensive research materials that must have been used in its creation.

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GEORGE McLOUGHLIN, *A short history of the first Liverpool Infirmary 1749–1824*, London and Chichester, Phillimore, 1978, 8vo, pp. [x], 117, illus., £5.25.

The late Dr. McLoughlin has made a significant contribution to provincial British medical history. His account is based on original documents and rare pamphlets such as the *Rules and Orders of the Public Infirmary at Liverpool* (1749), which is here reprinted in facsimile. There are excellent illustrations, but defective documentation of text, and there is no index. However, Dr. McLoughlin's history is by no means parochial and purely institutional in approach, and it will eventually form a useful part of a larger survey of hospital facilities on Merseyside.

[ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY], *Institute to university. A seventy-fifth anniversary colloquium, June 8, 1976*, New York, Rockefeller University, 1977, 8vo, pp. [vi], [no price stated].

To celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of New York's Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, now the Rockefeller University, a reunion was held on 8 June 1976. The six papers presented are now brought together and give in particular valuable biographical details of some of the men who have given the university its remarkable reputation: Simon Flexner, Fess Avery, Herbert Gasser, and Detler Bronk.

GERALD N. GROB, *Edward Jarvis and the medical world of nineteenth-century America*, Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. ix, 300, \$14.00.

Edward Jarvis (1803–1884) was a leading American physician, psychiatrist, and statistician, and his life is depicted here against a background of revolutionary changes in medicine. His medical, social, religious, and intellectual activities are skilfully dealt with in a scholarly book containing sixty pages of notes and selected bibliography. Professor Grob, a historian, has had the aim of recreating “. . . the life of an individual whose training and outlook reflected a variety of social, intellectual, religious, scientific, and economic currents.” (p. iv). In this he has been entirely successful, and his book will be read with profit by many whose interests lie in the history of nineteenth-century America and in the nineteenth century in general, in addition to the medical historian. Jarvis is, at the moment, little known, but a deserved rehabilitation will be achieved by this excellent book.

FRED ROSNER, *Medicine in the Bible and Talmud*, New York, Ktav Publishing House, 1977, 8vo, pp. xiii, 247, \$12.50.

A great deal has already been written on this theme, either in books or journal articles. It is, however, useful to have much of this knowledge collected together. The author deals with ‘Specific diseases’ (including haemophilia, rabies, scurvy, gout, and sunstroke); ‘Specific organs’ (heart, spleen, and gall-bladder); ‘Ethics and prayers for the Jewish physician’; ‘Famous physicians in the Talmud’; and ‘General subjects of interest’. The material is all well documented, and Dr. Rosner's book will be a useful source for reference purposes.

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HOCK GUAN TJOA, *George Henry Lewes: a Victorian mind*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. vii, 172, front., £7.00.

Lewes was the consort of George Eliot, and, although an outstanding writer, critic, philosopher, and scientist, he has remained very much in the shadow of the famous novelist. This is a detailed, scholarly account of his life and work. His theory of criticism, his social and political opinions, his work on Darwinian evolutionary theory, and his metaphysical views are succinctly summarized by the author, who is a historian. Although he deals less successfully with Lewes' scientific activities than with some of his other interests, this, nevertheless, is a commendable account of a man who deserves to be a better-known figure of Victorian England.

ANN M. MITCHELL, *The hospital south of the Yarra. A history of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, from foundation to the nineteen-forties*, Melbourne, Alfred Hospital, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 299, illus., [no price stated].

Dr. Mitchell's scholarly book surveys the history of a famous Australian hospital south of the Yarra River in Melbourne, which was opened in 1871. She places its evolution in historical context, and provides a most readable account of endeavour and devotion. It is by no means parochial in approach, and, therefore, represents a useful contribution to the overall history of hospitals, illustrating the important work that general historians are carrying out in this part of medical history.

GREGORY HAINES, *'The grains and threepenn'orths of pharmacy'. Pharmacy in New South Wales 1788-1976*, Kilmore, Australia, Lowden Publishing Co. (U.K. distributors: Kennys Bookshop, High Street, Galway, Ireland), 1976, 8vo, pp. xx, 335, illus., [no price stated].

Although of limited interest, this book adds an important chapter to the history of pharmacy. It is based on a large amount of research into original documents, and it is therefore a pity that the useful bibliography has not been keyed to the text. Thus the whereabouts of the quotations are not divulged. Dr. Haines has chronicled a small facet of pharmaceutical history, which will eventually form part of a larger, wider survey of the evolution of the profession.

THOMAS ROGER FORBES, *Crowner's quest*, (*Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc.*, 1978, 68: part 1), Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1978, 4to, pp. 52, front., \$6.00 (paperback).

Professor Forbes gives a survey of the City of London and Southwark coroners' inquests for the years 1788 to 1829. Not only does this contain a vast amount of interesting and useful data, but the gradual development of the system is also traced. The material is divided into deaths from occupational accidents, from accidents of other kinds, from illness, and from suicide and homicide. It is a scholarly work, which will be of great value to the medical historian, social historian, and lawyer.

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JULIA BRIGGS, *Night visitors. The rise and fall of the English ghost story*, London, Faber & Faber, 1977, 8vo, pp. 238, £7.25.

The author claims that her book is the first full-length study of ghost stories in the last twenty-five years. She has selected certain salient features or remarkable authors and discusses the topic at the height of its popularity. She tackles the problem of why so many ghost stories appeared between 1850 and 1930 and why Dickens, Stevenson, Kipling, and Henry James enjoyed writing them. These are complex and diffuse topics, but Mrs. Briggs can identify recurrent aetiological themes such as diabolism, anti-science, mesmerism, drugs, duality of the soul, and the mysteriousness of the human mind.

Although her reference system is inadequate, she has contributed usefully to an area of literature that demands further study.

ALBERT BOROWITZ, *Innocence and arsenic. Studies in crime and literature*, London, Harper & Row, 1977, 8vo, pp. xiv, 170, £4.95.

The author is a lawyer and his interest lies in cases in which writers or musicians are brought into direct confrontation with crime. Here he writes about some of them: the Moors murders case, Thackeray, Mozart, Jack the Ripper, Cicero, Henri de LaTouche, Racine, Shaw, Pushkin, and others. He writes in popular style with no documentation, but his essays will interest those concerned with medico-legal, historical matters.

G. HOWARD POTEET and JOSEPH SANTORA, *Death and dying: a bibliography 1950–1974*, supplement, vol. 1: *suicide*, New York, Whitston Publishing Co., 1978, 8vo, pp. xxi, 166, \$12.50.

Death and dying: a bibliography 1950–1974 was reviewed in *Medical History*, 1977, 22: 233. This is the first supplement, and deals with suicide. It extends further the value of the original volume, and is arranged in the same manner.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

Mortality statistics, cause, England and Wales, 1976, London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1978, 4to, pp. viii, 105, £2.75 (paperback).

HAKIM MOHAMMED SAID (editor), *Hamdard Medicus*, vol. 21, January–June, 1978, Karachi, Hamdard National Foundation of Pakistan, 4to, pp. 141, illus., \$15.00 per annum.

EDWARD O. WILSON, *On human nature*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xiii, 260, £7.85.

B. A. WOOD, *Human evolution*, London, Chapman & Hall, 1978, 8vo, pp. 80, illus., £1.75 (paperback).