

Book Reviews

as cured; that social factors affected duration of stay in hospital as well as prognosis, and that it was difficult to obtain the right type of attendant. It all sounds so familiar to the contemporary psychiatrist. To those who started in practice before 1948, the names of some of these private madhouses will have a nostalgic flavour—Peckham House with its tall Georgian rooms, Camberwell House grim in its South London setting, Ticehurst House surrounded by the beautiful Sussex countryside. So many have disappeared, luckily their records remain; they have had a sympathetic and industrious chronicler in Dr. Parry-Jones.

Genetics and American Society, by KENNETH M. LUDMERER, Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972, pp. xi, 222, \$10.00.

Kenneth Ludmerer's *Genetics and American Society* neatly complements two earlier monographs which cover some of the same ground: Mark Haller's *Eugenics: hereditarian attitudes in American thought* (1963), and Donald K. Pickens' *Eugenics and the Progressives* (1968). Both these earlier volumes dealt with general aspects of the American eugenics movement of the early decades of this century. Ludmerer is interested primarily in the interplay between a social movement (eugenics) and a science (human genetics). The relationship between science and society is intricate, and Ludmerer admirably demonstrates how the web of influence is not just from science to society, or *vice versa*. Rather, there is a subtle interplay between the two, as scientists bring their theories and observations to bear on social issues, and as these social issues influence the kind of research that gets done—and not infrequently the kind of data that are obtained.

The relationship between genetics and eugenics is a case in point. Ludmerer shows how the re-discovery of Mendel's work around 1900 gave rise to a science of genetics which seemed to offer promise in understanding and solving problems concerning the fitness—biological and social—of the human race. He points out that early twentieth-century American genetics was overwhelmingly Mendelian (in contrast to the statistical approach in this country of Galton, Pearson and their disciples). This led American geneticists to much careless work, as they tried to explain many complicated human traits in terms of simple Mendelian ratios. Ludmerer goes on to describe how eugenicists relied on dubious scientific data on which to base their programme of social amelioration, and how the eugenics movement caused many geneticists to avoid the study of human genetics. Instead, geneticists of the 1920s and 30s tended to concentrate on *drosophila* and other simple organisms. Finally, Ludmerer examines the rise of contemporary human genetics in the late 1940s and 50s, and particularly its relationship to medical education and research.

This is a fine study, based on wide reading of printed and manuscript sources. In addition, the author has made use of interviews with a number of geneticists, such as L. C. Dunn, Curt Stern, and Lionel Penrose.

Hipócrates en España (siglo XVI), by TERESA SANTANDER RODRÍGUEZ, Madrid, Dirección General de Archivos, y Bibliotecas, 1971, pp. viii, 419, [no price stated].

This is a work of unusually fine bibliographical scholarship. The author has confined herself to exploring the texts and immediate background of Latin or Spanish versions of any of the works of the *Corpus Hippocraticum* published in Spain during the six-