

### Book Reviews

the donor, the recipient, and the doctors involved, the definitions of death, the uncertainty of recently evolved experimental techniques, and the problem of availability of organs and dialysis machines. Of a more fundamental nature are the scientific, social and religious repercussions and interactions which the authors suggest may lead to basic changes in attitudes to health and disease, life and death. Their book, which is very well written and fully documented, with a useful bibliography, is an important contribution and introduction to an area of medicine which is increasing in dimensions, dilemmas, complexities and social repercussions. It will be read widely by all those concerned with transplantation and dialysis, but the historian of medicine, who should preserve his contact with the modern medicine, must also know of its existence.

L. L. LANGLEY, *Contraception*, Stroudsburg, Penn., Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross, 1973, 8vo, pp. xiii, 500, illus., £14.70.

The series Benchmark Papers in Human Physiology, is providing useful compilations of important contributions to selected topics. Facsimile reprints of parts of journal articles and books are grouped in sections, each of which is introduced with brief editorial comments. In this book there are forty-three extracts, ranging in time from the Bible to recent papers on the "pill" and family planning. The various contraceptive methods are represented, but, as in other books in this series, there is a preponderance of American authors, and the one German article appears in its original state, whereas translation into English is usually expected. The one extract in Latin suffers from a number of errors in translation. On the whole, it is petty to cavil with the author's selection of extracts in this type of work, but it seems a pity that no reference is made here to a person who did as much as any one else in the field of contraception, Marie Stopes (1880–1958).

However, the editor offers students an excellent collection of primary sources, by means of which he can savour the works of pioneers as they actually appeared in print, rather than having to rely upon the historian who, for better or for worse, summarizes, cites and interprets data and opinions. It will provide greater accuracy in those using this material for further historical work, and it should induce them always to consult the original articles and books whenever they are available and not to accept on trust someone else's reference to it.

KEITH MICHAEL BAKER, *Condorcet. From natural philosophy to social mathematics*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xiv, 538, £13.10.

Professor Baker's intention is primarily to look at what he believes to be the central and unifying theme of Condorcet's thought and existence: his conception of social science. Its nature and origins in relationship to the Enlightenment, and its chronological development set against a background of eighteenth-century French social and political science are discussed, thus contributing to the new interpretation of this period. Condorcet provides an ideal model, for he was a central figure in applying scientific thinking to all aspects of social affairs. He was a scientific statesman, mathematician and permanent secretary of the Academy of Sciences, as well as political

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theorist, Revolutionary deputy, man of letters and social reformer. On the scientific side, Mr. Baker gives excellent and concise accounts of the history of scientific language in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and of the theory of probability in mathematics. Condorcet thought that by means of the latter the Newtonian model of natural philosophy could be applied to all of human experience.

Condorcet's contribution was extensive in the social sciences for he attempted an empirical analysis of social phenomena and developed the first complete theory of social organization based on a theory of human nature. His social mathematics was to inform an ideal society, and he insisted that economics is a subject which lends itself ideally to scientific and mathematical approaches. Moreover, the government of society needed science, and above all Condorcet's utopia was ruled by scientists who carefully controlled all its social aspects and scientific endeavour.

Professor Baker's excellent book is written in a pleasing style, and has copious notes and a useful bibliography. It provides one of the best accounts of Condorcet available and for those who study eighteenth-century science or medicine, especially in France, it will become essential reading.

HORACIO FABREGA, jr., *Disease and social behaviour; an interdisciplinary perspective*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xvii, 341, £9.00.

Using his dual training and experience in medicine and sociology, the author explores the meeting ground of medicine and social science as it concerns the relations between disease and human behaviour. He is especially concerned with fundamental aspects of how the social and biological sciences are related in medical theory, practice, education and research.

First of all he reviews and criticizes the traditional approaches in social medicine: social and cultural aspects of illness; the social biology of disease; ethno-medicine, social epidemiology and medical ecology. The second part of his book considers the analytical foundations of sociomedical studies: disease definition and meaning; illness behaviour and a suggested model of it. The third and final section discusses the practical problems of social medicine, the potential contributions of sociomedical study: disease concepts and the organization of medical care; the beliefs about disease and medical care among a native Mexican group; the form and course of sociomedical inquiries.

Although there is not much here on the history of medicine, this is an important book which should be consulted by all those studying the history of disease, as well as by medical workers, anthropologists and social scientists. On the whole there is rather more sociological jargon than one would wish for, but to put forward ideas on the social dynamics of disease it seems to be necessary. Dr. Fabrega is also concerned to emphasize interdisciplinary research and cross-cultural approaches, with their new research techniques and subjects such as "ethnoscience".

The relationships between medicine and social science are becoming of increasing significance and Dr. Fabrega's attempt at a theoretical analysis of them is a valuable addition to this field of study.