

### Book Reviews

learn about a fascinating segment of English seventeenth- and eighteenth-century learning. The section which particularly concerns the medical historian runs to 41 pages in which pieces of varying length describe the lives of eleven professors, including Matthew Gwinne, Paul de Laune (Gideon's brother), John Mapletoft and John Woodward. The occasional doctor can be found in other sections, e.g. Wren in 'Astronomy', Peter Turner in 'Geometry', Thomas Baynes in 'Music' and William Croone in 'Rhetoric'. One is forced, however, to criticize this reprint of a very desirable book on the grounds that it contains no editor's introduction—not even a preface. If one had been provided, as in most other members of this series, it could have been the means of informing the reader that Ward's own annotated, interleaved copy of the *Lives* is in the British Museum.

E. GASKELL

*Dr. med. Johann Friedrich von Herrenschwand. Ein Berner Arzt im 18. Jahrhundert*, by HANS JENZER, Berne, Francke, 1967, pp. 266, illus., S.Fr./DM.29.

The material for Herrenschwand's biography (1715–98) was gleaned from family papers, local and Polish archives, and letters, forty of which, from Herrenschwand to Haller, were found in the collection of Haller's letters. Biographers in the past have often confused Johann Friedrich with his brother Anton Gabriel. A convincing picture is given of the eighteenth-century endeavour to improve the lot of the rural population by introducing public health measures, as exemplified by J. P. Franck's work in Austria and by improving the medical education of the country doctor whose function in remote country districts had to be that of vet, surgeon, obstetrician, alienist and general practitioner in one.

At the age of fifty, Herrenschwand followed a call to the court of Stanislas August, king of Poland, for whom he wrote a detailed memorandum on the proposed foundation of a Medico-economical Academy providing courses in all the subjects needed by future country doctors and the introduction of a vast programme of Public Health for agrarian Poland. The suggestions were not put into practice but remain an impressive document foreshadowing later developments in Europe.

Herrenschwand's medical chef d'oeuvre on the principal and most frequent diseases, published in 1788 simultaneously in French and in German, was kept traditional, ignoring Cullen's systematization of diseases. His favourite plan was the foundation of a school for young doctors and surgeons in Berne, but only the part of his memorandum which dealt with a School of Midwifery was put into practice in 1781. His other claim to fame was a remedy against tapeworms, the recipe for which he seems to have appropriated from a local widow without due acknowledgement.

Adroit in his social role, Herrenschwand undertook successful political missions. Amongst them was the bringing about of an alliance between Switzerland and France in 1777. But the lasting importance of his work lies in his influence upon rural medicine.

By consulting a library containing Sénac's works, the author could have resolved the doubts expressed on page 142: the second edition of Sénac's *Traité de la Structure*, published in 1774 contains already, as part VI, *Les Maladies du Coeur*. This small criticism should not detract from the value of this conscientious biography.

MARIANNE WINDER