

Book Reviews

ERNEST A. MOODY, *Studies in medieval philosophy, science, and logic. Collected papers 1933–1969*, Berkeley and London, University of California Press, 1975, 8vo. pp. xix, 453, £11.00.

Dr. Moody is now Emeritus Professor of Philosophy in the University of California at Los Angeles, and over the years he has made important contributions to the study of medieval thought. His books on *The logic of William Ockham*, *The medieval science of weights* (jointly with Marshall Clagett) and *Truth and consequence in medieval logic* are well known, but he has also published many significant shorter studies, and thirteen of them, written over a period of thirty-seven years, are collected together here with a fourteenth, unpublished. An explanatory *Preface* by the author includes some useful autobiographical material, for it correlates the writing of the papers with his career, and reveals the evolution of his interests in medieval thought.

The topics are concerned mainly with outstanding medieval contributors to science and philosophy, such as William of Auvergne (the one unpublished paper), John Buridan, William of Ockham, and Galileo being the ones considered in detail. There are also five papers on late medieval physics and its relation to the mechanics of Galileo, and others on medieval logic and the philosophy of language; they deal almost exclusively with the physical sciences. Nevertheless the historian of biology and medicine can learn a great deal by perusing the works of an outstanding scholar, like Professor Moody. Quite apart from the way in which he marshals and synthesizes his arguments and produces new interpretations and insights, it is educative to observe his impeccable handling of the techniques of writing and documenting. A volume that thus may appear to have little of value to offer the medical historian can, in fact, be consulted with benefit and can thus be strongly recommended.

JOHN EMERY MURDOCH and EDITH DUDLEY SYLLA (editors), *The cultural context of medieval learning*, Dordrecht and Boston, D. Reidel, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 566, \$49.00 (\$28.00 paperback).

In September 1973 the First International Colloquium on Philosophy, Science and Theology in the Middle Ages was held at Boston University, and this is its proceedings, which include the twelve papers presented and the discussion generated. It focused attention on three areas: the interdisciplinary relations of medieval philosophy science and theology, and in some cases their relations with other disciplines; the institutional and social factors influencing the origin, growth and survival of these three; the interchange between Islam and the Latin West, and between these and the ancient Greek learning which they absorbed.

Each of the papers is a substantial and scholarly essay, and they are divided into three groups: Islam; the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in the Latin West; the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries in the Latin West. Some are technical and highly specialized, like Rashed's on Arabic algebra, Beaujouan's 'Réflexions sur les rapports entre théorie et pratique au moyen âge' and Stock's on Bernard of Clairvaux, but others are of broader scope, and therefore of wider interest. Of the latter there is Professor Murdoch's 'From social into intellectual factors: an aspect of the unitary character of late medieval learning', McKeon's 'The organization of sciences and the relations of cultures in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries' and Schmitt's

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'Philosophy and science in sixteenth century universities: some preliminary comments'. Each of these three papers, and others according to the reader's mathematical and philosophical capabilities, should be read and considered carefully by all those who are studying medieval and Renaissance history, but especially by students of science and medicine during these periods. The main contribution of this book is to highlight the social background of the history and philosophy of science; in other words, the external factors that mould their origin and development.

The book is elegantly produced with an excellent index, often missing from this type of work. It deserves the highest praise and the editors, in particular, are to be congratulated on their labours and the admirable end-product of them.

OTTO MAZAL, EVA IRBLICH and ISTVÁN NÉMETH, *Wissenschaft im Mittelalter: Ausstellung von Handschriften und Inkunabeln der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek*, Vienna, 1975, pp. 296, illus., [no price stated].

Catalogues to exhibitions usually arouse no more than ephemeral interest. But there are exceptions, and this catalogue of medieval manuscripts drawn up by three members of the National Library in Vienna is one of them. Long after the exhibition closed (in October 1975), its value will remain undiminished, for, apart from its scrupulously detailed description of each manuscript, putting it into its historical context and explaining its importance in the development of a particular science, it provides a general introduction to the history of science in the Middle Ages. This introduction is due to Dr. Otto Mazal, head of the National Library, and constitutes something of a *tour de force*, containing within the compass of little more than fifty pages an outline history of the encyclopaedia, grammar, rhetoric, dialectic, law, theology, natural science, astronomy, music, geography and medicine. Readers of this journal will naturally turn to the section on medicine which, admirable and concise though it is, is blemished by one doubtful statement, namely, that the Benedictine monks had schools at Oxford, Cambridge and three other places, a thing impossible at the period referred to. In the catalogue itself some notable manuscripts appear, chief among them being the Juliana Anicia codex of Dioscorides, reproduced in facsimile by the Akademischer Druck of Graz in 1970. Then there is a copy of Celsus (Florence, 1471), a thirteenth-century collection of ancient medical texts from South Italy, also reproduced in facsimile, and a beautifully illustrated copy of Albucasis' *Surgery*. These and many others representing the various schools of medicine at Salerno, Montpellier and Paris are meticulously described by Eva Irbllich, ending suitably enough with an autograph of Paracelsus. The volume does great credit to all concerned in its publication.

KARL E. ROTHSCHUH (editor), *Was ist Krankheit? Erscheinung, Erklärung, Sinnegebung*, Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1975, 8vo, pp. vii, 492, [no price stated].

Professor Rothschuh, the distinguished German historian of medicine, has collected together twenty-three essays dealing with the problem of disease as a natural phenomenon. They range in time from the Hippocratic writing, *The nature of man*, to 1973, but the majority are from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.