

### Book Reviews

Before the war the only women in the United States Army were the nurses, who were given relative commissioned rank, which later was also given to dietitians and physical therapists. Later they were given full commissions. (Though it is not specifically mentioned, we presume that women physicians and surgeons were also given commissions.) In 1942 the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was formed (the WAAC) but the following year this was absorbed and succeeded by the Women's Army Corps (WAC) whose numbers were not to exceed 150,000. The physical standards of the members of the WAC were to be judged by a board of at least two medical officers. After applicants had been passed medically they were interviewed by the recruiting officer who was authorized to reject any unsuitable person including any 'trouble-makers'.

During the last two years of the war an attempt was made to improve the classification of both officers and enlisted men by the adoption of a modification of the Canadian system of PULHEMS, but the conclusion reached of its efficacy was that 'because it came rather late in the war it must be viewed as being only a limited success'.

There were many serious and difficult problems connected with discharge or retirement from the Army, or during demobilization. It is stated that the most costly problems were caused by 'the fluctuating policies on the utilization of limited service personnel, the failure to establish effective psychiatric standards and treatment for mental defects and problems until late in the war, and the constant vacillation in retirement procedures and "line-of-duty" policies, and physical standards in general'.

It will be seen that there are many lessons to be learnt from this volume, but no doubt any new conflict would bring with it many new problems needing to be solved.

ZACHARY COPE

*The Chemical Dream of the Renaissance*, by ALLEN G. DEBUS (Churchill College Overseas Fellowship Lecture No. 3), Cambridge, Heffer, 1968, pp. 40, 6s.

The scientific revolution of the seventeenth century is usually described as the triumphant march that led from Copernicus to Tycho, to Kepler and Galileo and then on to Newton. It is thus seen in terms of a development in straight lines in the history of physics and astronomy—based as it was on the quest for new experimental methods and orientations and associated with a rejection of the ancients, notably of Aristotle, the logician and systematizer. As the author shows in the brilliant essay under notice, the situation was in fact much more complex: the very quest for new observationalism and experimentalism was raised in quarters where it is least expected and mentioned in our conventional history books. It was prominently and vociferously expressed by the devotees to *magia naturalis*, the Paracelsians, notably such men as Fludd, the Rosicrucian mystic and J. B. Van Helmont, the religious reformer of medicine, who discovered *Gas*. Significantly it was the appeal to study Chemistry and thereby to arrive at a better knowledge of the Creator—the genuine Paracelsian approach—which was instrumental and played its own considerable part in the scientific revolution of the century. How this was reflected in the scientific, utopian and polemical literature and in the motivations current at the time is briefly and fascinatingly demonstrated

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and at the same time well documented. The author's basic work on *The English Paracelsians* (London, Oldbourne Press, 1965; New York, Franklin Watts, 1966) should be studied in conjunction with the present essay which forms an excellent introduction to the matter and is bound to whet the appetite of the general reader.

WALTER PAGEL

*Pharmaceutical Historiography*, ed. by A. BERMAN (Proceedings of a Colloquium sponsored by the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy on the occasion of the Institute's 25th Anniversary, Madison, Wisconsin, 22–23 January, 1966), Madison, Wisconsin, American Institute for the History of Pharmacy, 1967, pp. 145, \$2.00.

This volume deals with (a) George Urdang's concepts on the framework of history of pharmacy, published in 1927, (b) surveys of publications on history of pharmacy in selected countries, and of the views held by G. Schroeder and W. Schneider, and (c) a transcript of a general discussion by Colloquium participants on the scope and the writing of pharmaceutical history.

The unevenness of this varied material does not seriously mar the success and the permanent value of the volume. In addition to much valuable bibliographical information, notably on Arabic, French and North American sources, there is also much to make any thoughtful writer—the professional as well as the amateur—critically examine the standards and purpose of his writings.

J. K. CRELLIN

*Salomon Ludwig Steinheim zum Gedenken*, ed. by HANS-JOACHIM SCHEOPS, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1966, pp. ix, 359, illus., 52 guilders.

Salomon Ludwig Steinheim was born on 6 August 1789. This well-produced Dutch book was written in German as a tribute to his memory on the centenary of his death on 18 May 1866.

He was born Levi Abraham von Salomon, but because of a Westphalian decree requiring Jews to take Germanic names, he took the surname Steinheim after a small town thirty kilometres from Bruchhausen the place of his birth, and changed Levi to Ludwig. In 1807 he entered Kiel University as a medical student, but also studied in Berlin, being among the first hundred students to enrol in the Friedrich Wilhelm University.

His Dissertation—in 1811—*De Causis Morborum* showed that he possessed a philosophical bent. Being a religious Jew it was also natural that he should embrace theology as well. As if this were not enough he was also a researcher, etcher and poet. All these facets of his life are sympathetically represented. Scheops writes of his life, Graupe discusses his philosophy and Goeman his medical work. Examples of his published and unpublished contributions are included.

The volume ends with a series of letters dated 1841–1843 to Leopold Zunz, together with some poems and etchings.

I must confess I had not heard of Steinheim myself. For others similarly ignorant, this book will serve as an excellent comprehensive introduction to a nineteenth-century physician of many parts.

I. M. LIBRACH