

## Book Notices

TEIZO OGAWA (editor), *History of traditional medicine, Proceedings of the 1st and 2nd International Symposia on the Comparative History of Medicine—East and West, 1976 and 1977*, Osaka, Taniguchi Foundation, 1986, 8vo, pp. 400, [no price stated].

The annual Taniguchi symposia on the history of medicine have served as a valuable means of introducing younger scholars to each other, and to the wider problems of understanding medical ideas from different cultures. This publication of the papers of the first two meetings, now a decade old, can be justified by their general concentration on Asian medical systems, a topic on which there is still relatively little available in Western languages. But it would be a pity if Cunningham's piece on the development in Western medieval medicine of a split between theory and practice, most obviously shown in the titles of Italian medical chairs, should pass unnoticed.

JACOB E. POULSEN and EGILL SNORRASON (editors), *Nicolaus Steno 1638-1686: a reconsideration by Danish scientists*, Gentofte, Denmark, Nordisk Insulinlaboratorium, 1986, 8vo, pp. 224, illus., [no price stated] (paperback).

Many scientists with an interest in the history of their subject have turned to historiography as a pastime, and a number of them have achieved great distinction as historians. Even so, it is perhaps fair to say that most scientists who try their hands at history do not do very well at all. Success seems to lie with those scientists who realize that, just as the scientist *qua* scientist tries to explain the natural world, so the historian tries to explain the past and our perception of it. Too many scientist-turned-historians, however, regard their historical studies as a rest from analysis and the rigours of trying to understand what goes on in the world; the result is just one damned thing after another. The Danish scientists who have contributed to this volume are all of the latter school of historiographical thought. Seven of the nine papers on different aspects of Steno's life and work are entirely derivative from earlier works and do nothing to extend our historical understanding. Whenever an explanation is called for, these scientists merely invoke the historical equivalent (in more ways than one) of opium's "dormative principle", the concept of "genius". As F. J. Billeskov Jansen writes in the introduction, "we may as well call it a coincidence that two men of equal stature like the Frenchman Blaise Pascal and the Dane Niels Stenson or Nicolaus Steno were more or less contemporaries". Indeed, and was may as well call it a coincidence that when apples become separated from the bough they always fall to earth.

The collection is not entirely useless. There is a bibliography of Steno's "Papers on Natural Science" and a reprint of the English translation of Steno's *Specimen of observations upon the muscles* which appeared in LeClerc and Manget's *Bibliotheca anatomica* of 1711.

## BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collections of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

*Annali dell'Istituto storico Italo-germanico in Trento*, XI, 1985, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1987, 8vo, pp. 499, L.50.000 (paperback).

CARL D. CHAMBERS *et al.* (editors), *Chemical dependencies. Patterns, costs, and consequences*, Athens, Ohio, and London, Ohio University Press, 1986, 8vo, pp. xi, 581, £23.70.

R. and J. DUBOS, *Tuberculosis, man, and society*, (first published 1952), 2nd ed., with new foreword by David Mechanic and new introductory essay by Barbara G. Rosenkrantz, New Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, 1987, 8vo, pp. xxxviii, 277, \$27.00 (\$12.00 paperback).

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GUIDO FABRITIUS, *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Apotheken und Apotheker in Siebenburgen*, Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1986, 8vo, pp. vi, 422, DM.48.00 (paperback).

A. and B. FOX, *DLPA—the natural pain killer and anti-depressant*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1987, 8vo, pp. 224, £2.99 (paperback).

CAMILLA HEPPER, *Herbal cosmetics. Simple and effective natural beauty treatments*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1987, 8vo, pp. 126, illus., £2.50 (paperback).

DAVID HOFFMAN, *The herb user's guide. The basic skills of medical herbalism*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1987, 8vo, pp. 240, £14.99 (paperback).

*Hunterian Society Transactions*, 1982-85, vols. 41-43, 8vo, pp. 163, illus., [no price stated].

*Journal of Sport History*, special issue devoted to 'Sport, exercise, and American medicine', edited by Jack Berryman; individual copies may be ordered from Prof. Ronald A. Smith, 101 White Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA, price \$7.50.

MAYES, KATHLEEN, *Brittle bones and the calcium crisis*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1987, 8vo, pp. 160, £4.99 (paperback).

ROBIN MONRO, JOANNA E. TREVELYAN, and RUTH WEST, *Mind-body therapies. A select bibliography of books in English*, London, Mansell, 1987, 8vo, pp. ix, 169, £23.50.

HARALD NIELSEN, *Medicaments used in the treatment of eye diseases in Egypt, the countries of the Near East, India and China in antiquity*, Odense, Denmark, Odense University Press, 1987, 8vo, pp. 76, illus., DKK.120.00 + postage (paperback).

OEHME, JOHANNES, *Medizin in der Zeit der Aufklärung unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Kinderkrankheiten*, Lubeck, Hansisches Verlagskontor, 1986, 8vo, pp. 126, illus., DM.24.00 (paperback).

E. D. PHILLIPS, *Aspects of Greek medicine* (first published by Thames & Hudson, 1973; reviewed in *Med. Hist.*, 1976, 20: 334-5), Philadelphia, Charles Press; London, Croom Helm, 1987, 8vo, pp. 240, illus., £22.50.

FRED ROSNER, *Modern medicine and Jewish ethics*, New York, Ktav Publishing House, 1986, 8vo, pp. xiv, 405, \$22.50 (\$14.95 paperback).

ERIC TRIMMER, *The magic of magnesium*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1987, 8vo, pp. 96, £1.99 (paperback).

GEORGE WEISZ, *The emergence of modern universities in France, 1863-1914*, Princeton University Press, 1986 (first published 1983), 8vo, pp. 397, £12.50 (paperback).

WHITROW, MAGDA (editor), *ISIS cumulative bibliography*, vols. 4 and 5: *Civilizations and periods. A bibliography of the history of science from the ISIS critical bibliographies 1-90, 1913-65*, London, Mansell, 1982, 4to, vol. 4: pp. xviii, 457; vol. 5, pp. xi, 593, £100 the set.