

Book Reviews

discoveries and speculations which were thought significant at the time, but which have not survived. These together with the advances leading to the present day give us a more balanced picture of scientific endeavour at a given period of time.

Rather than surveying scientific proceedings the author has consulted the German popular scientific literature intended for the educated and humanistically oriented layman. This approach has already received considerable attention as it concerns scientific themes in English poetry, and studies on the same topic in France have also been published. In Germany too some similar work has been accomplished, but a review of the early eighteenth century has, so far, been notably lacking. Dr. Schatzberg, therefore, surveys popular literature (pp. 19–132) in all its varieties, and then discusses in turn the German-writing poets of his selected period (pp. 133–308), a list that includes Haller. He ends with a summary of the scientific themes found in the poetry of the preceding section. They include astronomy, Newton, earth sciences, plant and animal life and attitudes to science and to nature.

This is an important book which should be consulted by all those studying eighteenth-century science and medicine. The latter is less in evidence and it would be rewarding if a similar survey could be undertaken with this instead of science being the central consideration. As in science the eighteenth century saw the development of lines of communications between doctors and the laity. Medical knowledge had, of course, been propagated in the seventeenth century and earlier, but usually by unqualified quacks, occasionally with success, nevertheless. But the domestic medicine of the late eighteenth century, like the science for the layman as dealt with here, was a product of the Enlightenment and could well be subjected to a scholarly analysis comparable to that of Dr. Schatzberg's excellent work.

PAUL OSKAR KRISTELLER, *Medieval aspects of Renaissance learning*, Durham, N. C., Duke University Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xii, 175, \$7.50.

Professor Kristeller, one of the most outstanding contemporary students of the Renaissance, presents here three essays: 'The scholar and his public in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance', originally in German (1960); 'Thomism and Italian thought of the Renaissance', originally in French (1967); 'The contribution of religious orders to Renaissance thought and learning' (1970). They have all been published previously, but the first two appear here in English for the first time, translated and edited by Edward P. Mahoney. There is also an appendix of lists of the libraries of religious orders, and one of humanists and scholars of the religious orders, both constructed with meticulous accuracy and providing useful research tools.

The second essay is one of greatest importance and originality. It shows that the medieval Thomist philosophy and theology also influenced the Renaissance, and the author uses known, as well as previously unknown, texts in support of his thesis.

As is the case with all of Professor Kristeller's writings, these essays achieve the highest level of scholarship and they should be read by all students of medieval and renaissance learning, including medicine and science. Moreover, the way in which he uses his material, constructs his arguments and presents his evidence, and his techniques of historiography are worthy of close attention by the young scholar. His excellence should be their aim, but few will achieve it.