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approach, which is a feature of all his writings, is salutary in itself. 'Archaeology and history' is especially pertinent, because the palaeopathology of medical history is the archaeology of ancient, medieval and of other types of history concerned with chronological periods. The palaeopathologist, like the modern archaeologist, is retreating into an increasingly complex technology, with fewer links with the historian. Many of Professor Finley's comments directed to archaeologists are also pertinent to palaeopathologists. In each group they must take more regard of the historian, who is concerned mainly with literary evidence, and with his way of working. At the same time the historian should understand the man who deals only with artefacts.

Another feature of Professor Finley's writings which often recurs is his frequent attacks on unhistorical methodology, especially the common one of interpreting the past in the light of subsequent, especially present-day, knowledge and events. 'Myths, memory and history' should, therefore, be compulsory reading for students, and elsewhere in this book the healthy scepticism of a renowned and exacting scholar drawing upon his wide experience of appropriate examples is exactly what the neophyte should be exposed to.

This is the type of book that tends to be overlooked by those involved in the history of medicine, because there is no medical material *per se* in it. There are, however, general principles and matters that concern all varieties of history, including medical history, and these are of great importance to a discipline seeking to better itself by insisting on impeccable scholarship and enlightened methods of historiography. One way of achieving this goal is to follow the teachings of men such as Professor Finley, and also the equally outstanding scholar of ancient history, Professor Arnaldo Momigliano late of University College London, to whom this book is dedicated and to whom one of the essays is devoted.

H. A. FEISENBERGER (editor), *Sales catalogues of eminent persons*, Volume 11, *Scientists*, London, Mansell with Sotheby Parke Bernet Publications, 1975, 8vo, pp. 296, £11.50 (\$29.00).

It has been difficult to select for this series auction sale catalogues of eminent doctors and scientists which contain a substantial number of books reflecting the individual's professional interests. This is because of the relatively few sales of this kind of collection held since book auctions began in 1676. First of all, the deliberate collecting of scientific books in large numbers is a recent phenomenon; second, physicians usually donated their libraries to institutions. The four catalogues selected for facsimile reprint here concern the libraries of Elias Ashmole, Robert Hooke, John Ray, and Edmund Halley, which were disposed of on 22 February 1694, 29 April 1703, 11 March 1707/8 and 20 May 1742, respectively. Each item is described very briefly in the space of one line and in the case of Hooke's sale the prices fetched are added in manuscript. The editor provides an excellent introduction in which he draws upon his unique experience with medical and scientific books.

It is of great interest to note the books that each of the four men had in their libraries and to discover the breadth of their interests. These catalogues are, therefore, valuable indicators of the man as well as of contemporarily available literature. The most important is probably that of Hooke because of his versatility, the richness of his

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holdings, and the fact that his published diary tells us about many of the purchases and items. Ray's library on the other hand is much more of a working collection, and Halley's is mixed with another property. This book will appeal to both historian and bibliographer and deserves a wide circulation.

PETER WARD FAY, *The opium war 1840–1842. Barbarians in the Celestial Empire in the early part of the nineteenth century and the war by which they forced her gates ajar*, Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xxi, 406, illus., \$14.95.

A great deal of concern is expressed today on the topic of drug addiction, but not enough is known of its origin. We usually think of opium abuse beginning in China and forget that it was introduced there from India by the British for financial gain. In fact, it is said that Europe forced on China Christ and opium.

This book is the first to deal with the latter in detail, tracing the opium trade from its beginning in India where it was produced at the Ghazipur opium factory near Benares, still operating as such today. Professor Fay traces the origins and course of the war between Britain and China and the outcome of it, the most important result being the "opening of China to the West". The account of the war, arising from the increasing opium business, is an absorbing narrative, told here in detail for the first time since 1844 and supported by useful maps. The author also deals extensively with the activities of Western missionaries and is the first to place the Protestants in perspective and to pay adequate attention to the Catholics, who in the past have been overlooked. A much fairer and more accurate picture, therefore, emerges.

A great deal of manuscript material has been employed, and the author has produced a scholarly annotated work written in a lively style, calling upon a variety of sources to record an event of the greatest consequence to China and to the West. It might perhaps have been mentioned that the Opium War prevented David Livingstone from going as a missionary to China. He had instead to make do with Africa!

ESTHER FISCHER-HOMBERGER, *Die traumatische Neurose. Vom somatischen zum sozialen Leiden*, Berne, Stuttgart and Vienna, Hans Huber, 1975, pp. 264, illus., S.Fr. 22/DM.21.

A traumatic neurosis is usually sparked off by an accident. Dr. Fischer-Homberger shows how, down to the nineteenth century, with its new disease, the "railway spine", the accent had been on the physical side of the results of accidents, while with the beginnings of modern psychology it shifted to their impact on the patient's mental state. Finally, in the twentieth century, with the arrival of the motor-car and the aeroplane, and during two world wars, the question of insurance became all important, and with it how often and how far a traumatic neurosis is simulated in order to get out of the armed forces or to obtain compensation. This comprehensive account contains such gems as the mention of Edouard-Adolphe Duchesne's treatise of 1857 on the grave health risks incurred by being subjected to the noise made by railways and their whistles.