

Book Reviews

JONATHAN BARNES, MALCOLM SCHOFIELD, and RICHARD SORABJI (editors), *Articles on Aristotle. I. Science*, London, Duckworth, 1975, 8vo, pp. xii, 224, £3.50 (paperback).

Aristotle's science has been, and still is, a contentious issue, and a great deal of close study of his writings still remains to be carried out. However, as an indication of work already done, of opinions projected, and of interpretations made, this collection is most valuable. The editors' view of the importance of Aristotle's scientific endeavour is indicated by the fact that this volume is presented as the first of four, covering all of his philosophical thought.

There are twelve articles or extracts from books, all of them having appeared elsewhere in the last fifty years, although some have been revised. All are written by outstanding authorities and seven have been translated from French or German by the editors. With the student in mind, Greek is either translated or transliterated. They deal with the development of Aristotle's thought, syllogistic, his theory of demonstration, his physics, teleology, mechanics, or rather, the absence of it, analogical explanation and his zoology. Each in its time was an important and scholarly contribution to Aristotelian studies and on the whole this assessment is still valid.

Unfortunately the majority of the essays deal with the philosophy of science or with the physical sciences, and the biological aspects of his research are not fairly represented. Perhaps some critical appraisal of the pieces by the editors could have indicated additions to scholarship made since their publication, or shifts in opinion. However, the volume can be warmly recommended as a survey of opinions on Aristotle's science intended for students. Moreover there is an excellent critical bibliography and an index to passages cited from Aristotle's works, as well as a general index.

NELLIE B. EALES, *The Cole Library of early medicine and zoology. Catalogue of books, monographs and principal papers. Part 2. 1800 to the present day and supplement to Part 1*. Reading, The University Library, 1975, 4to, xviii, 428, illus., [no price stated].

The first volume of the catalogue of Professor F. J. Cole's (1872–1959) library now in the possession of the University of Reading appeared in 1969. It listed books and pamphlets published between 1472 and 1800, but whereas these had been written by anatomists, clinicians, botanists and others, in the present volume most are zoological works, written by zoologists. The arrangement is alphabetical by author, with an extensive subject index. Basically this is a record of Professor Cole's remarkable library, but it is also intended for the inquirer, and Dr. Eales has therefore exercised some selection of the material, and so she includes “. . . books containing original and critical work, monographs, separates on subjects of special interest, and groups of papers on related subjects . . .” She has excluded some of the less important papers, although contained in the collection, and here her expert knowledge of zoology and of its history allows her to do so effectively.

Dr. Eales thus provides us with another important sourcebook which will join Part I on the shelves of historians of zoology, biology, and of medicine. Its format contrasts strikingly with the elegant production of six years ago, and is a sad indication of a necessary and inevitable decline in standards.