

News, Notes and Queries

HISTORIANS' MEDICAL INFORMATION BUREAU

Historians sometimes find themselves, in the course of their work, faced with problems on which they need medical advice; in interpreting for instance, medical symptoms for a biographical study, in understanding the nature of an epidemic, and so on. The advice they need is often specialist advice; and they may have difficulty in knowing where to turn for this. Mr. John Potter, Director of Post Graduate Education at the Oxford University Medical School, has launched a scheme designed to put historians in touch with suitable medical men who have expressed an interest in helping with such problems. In 1973 he asked, through the medical press, for the names of specialists interested in helping historians evaluate medical evidence. The response has been encouraging, and there is now a fairly comprehensive panel of experts ready to offer their services.

The project has the blessing of Oxford University's Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine. But it is not concerned with the history of medicine as such. The aim is rather to help the non-medical historian who encounters medical problems in the course of his research.

Historians who wish to make use of the service should write to the Historians' Medical Information Bureau at Wadham College, Oxford OX1 3PN. They should indicate the nature of the medical problem as concisely as possible. Mr. A. F. Thompson and Mr. C. S. L. Davies will be pleased to give Mr. Potter what help they can in interpreting the needs of historians. But the Bureau is not intended to be an advice-giving body. Its aim is the modest one of establishing contacts between enquirers and appropriate specialists.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences (CHEIRON) will be held at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, from 5th to 8th June 1975. Papers will deal with aspects of the history of any of the behavioural and social sciences, with related historical or social science methodology, or with the philosophy of history as applied to the study of the history of the behavioural and social sciences. Further information may be obtained from: Dr. M. R. Marshall, Department of Psychology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S.

A SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT ON SOURCES OF MEDIEVAL ARABIAN MEDICINE

On 1 November 1972 a special research project was begun at the section of Islamic Studies of the Oriental Institute at the University of Berne, Switzerland. Of interest to scholars in many fields, its title is: "Contributions to the knowledge of sources of medieval Arabian medicine and to the study of its continuance".