

Book Reviews

it. He now provides a comprehensive survey of it in the West, from prehistory up to the present. Its close associations with religion, art, medicine, science, folklore, astrology, and daily life make this a complex but fascinating study. In addition to the contemporary concern with magic and its associates, the early Christian era and the Renaissance were also periods of deep commitment. The factors and individuals influencing the development of magic are exceedingly diverse, and for an adequate analysis of them the writer must have wide learning and an unbiassed approach. Mr. Cavendish certainly has researched his subject carefully, but seems to have relied wholly on sources in English. Moreover, his deep involvement with magic does not allow for an entirely objective view of it. Nor can the publishers' statement that he is ". . . providing for the first time a clear, accurate account of a complex and fascinating subject . . ." be wholly accepted.

JEAN GIMPEL, *The medieval machine. The Industrial Revolution of the Middle Ages*, London, Gollancz, 1977, 8vo, pp. xi, 274, illus., £7.50.

The sub-title of this book may seem to some to be contradictory in view of the belief that the Middle Ages saw little or no advancement in technology and certainly no revolution. The author, however, claims that there was a technological boom in Western Europe between the tenth and thirteenth centuries. Inventions brought about an agricultural revolution, new mining techniques uncovered the mineral wealth of Europe, machines, including the mechanical clock, and building projects changed the life of communities. In keeping with the experiences of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries there were deleterious effects such as pollution, an increasing population, and other social problems. However, this period of dynamism declined and led eventually to the more traditionally accepted appearances and activities of the Middle Ages.

This thesis is by no means new or "a challenging theme" as the dust-jacket proclaims, and Haskins' Renaissance of the twelfth century is well known; however, more evidence supporting it is presented here. The text is well written and illustrated and there is a certain amount of documentation. It is of course essential to avoid inflicting modern interpretations on historical material and some may claim that the present author is guilty of faulty historiography.

The Anglo-Dutch contribution to the civilization of early modern society. An Anglo-Netherlands Symposium, London, 27 and 28 June 1974, London, Oxford University Press for the British Academy, 1976, 4to, pp. 72, illus., £2.75 (paperback).

Two of the four essays presented here deal with the history of science: R. Hooykaas on 'The reception of Copernicanism in England and the Netherlands', and A. R. Hall on 'Huygens and Newton'. Both deal with the physical sciences, and are masterpieces which deserve a wide audience; the reader does not need any detailed scientific or mathematical knowledge to understand them. The medical connexions between Britain and Holland in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were of great importance, but they should be seen in wide perspective, some of which will be provided by this book.