

### Book Reviews

Antiquity, the medieval period and so on up to the present day. She is, on the whole, more concerned with the place of perfumes in society, literature, politics and science, and with their religious origins in the Far East, than with details of the materials used and the techniques of compounding.

Unfortunately, the work is unbalanced, as most of it is concerned with the earlier periods, where admittedly the material is more bizarre and therefore more interesting and amusing for the reader seeking enjoyment rather than information *per se*. The nineteenth century, where many subtle undertones must exist, is dismissed in a few paragraphs. Another feature that suggests the general reader as the main audience intended is the lack of annotations and references. There is a useful, but very brief, section on 'Further reading', but there is no way of tracing the whereabouts of the large amount of useful data the author displays, nor the precise origins of the frequent quotations.

ALAN MACFARLANE, *The family life of Ralph Josselin, a seventeenth century clergyman. An essay in historical anthropology*, Cambridge University Press, 1970, 8vo, pp. xiii, 241, illus., £6.00.

As this book is an important contribution to historical demography, as well as to historical anthropology, its existence should be known to historians of medicine. It is an excellent example of how the details of domestic life can be pieced together by using historical documents, in this case the most important being the meticulously kept diary of Ralph Josselin (1617–1685).

From the medical point of view there is abundant information on birth, marriage and death, and Dr. Macfarlane is able to provide details concerning such matters as the handling of children, marriage, adolescence, fertility, birth control, the kinship system in pre-industrial England, illness, attitudes to pain, sin, God and death, dreams, imagery and the structure of thought. Social and economic aspects of seventeenth-century English life are also revealed, especially relating to the yeoman's estates. There is careful documentation throughout and a useful bibliography.

As a record of seventeenth-century family, social and economic life this book provides a remarkable and fascinating insight. It contributes importantly to the background against which the medicine of this period must be portrayed and should therefore be consulted by all working in the area. It is hoped that it may lead to the liberation from obscurity of similar social documents.

E. B. WORTHINGTON (editor), *The evolution of IBP*, Cambridge University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xx, 268, illus., £10.50.

The International Biological Programme (IBP) was established in 1964, its subject being defined as, "The biological basis of productivity and human welfare", and aiming at a better understanding of environmental factors, with the object of managing rationally the national resources of a rapidly increasing world population.

The programme, consisting of seven main sections and about eighty items, lasted ten years, and this is the first of a series of publications which will document its activities. Chapters deal with the origin and early history of the IBP, the substance of its programme, the preparations for it, its operations, publications, finances, and

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its future. Appendices include details of organization, international and national, its meetings and publications, and lists of recommended quantities, units and symbols.

Population, natural resources, and ecology are of wide concern today, and this account of international co-operation gives some hope of a greater understanding and control of these vital factors in human welfare.

JOHN ZIMAN, *The force of knowledge. The scientific dimension of society*, Cambridge University Press, 1976, 4to, pp. ix, 374, illus., £7.50.

The author is Professor of Physics at Bristol and his book is based on a course of ten weekly lectures which endeavours to teach students in the Faculty of Science the social relations of science and technology. His aim is to reach the practically-minded individual who has no great interest in philosophy or sociology. The materials he selects and the techniques he employs are ideal for his audience and he has provided an excellent book which should be studied by all students of natural science, including those entering medicine. Non-scientists too will benefit from it.

Professor Ziman adopts a historical approach and discusses the styles of individual scientists, their institutes and societies, other methods of communicating, the continual need for healthy scepticism and free intercourse, industrial innovations, the complexities and finances of present-day science, the social sciences, and science and social need. Medicine is touched on in a chapter entitled 'From craft to science' (pp. 147–165), but the section is marred by several errors and the illustrations contribute little to the theme; they are hardly referred to in the text. To give a sketch of medical progress since the Greeks is exceedingly difficult, but to omit Virchow and the German School when discussing scientific medicine is sacrilege.

IAN BRADLEY, *The call to seriousness. The Evangelical impact on the Victorians*, London, Jonathan Cape, 1976, pp. 224, illus., £4.95.

Evangelical religion had a powerful influence in shaping Victorian society, and from it stemmed the cult of respectability and conformity and the narrow philistinism and puritanism characteristic of the age. This well-written and well-researched book aims at examining the impact the Anglican Evangelicals had on English life in the first sixty years of the nineteenth century. It pervaded all aspects of it and was dominated by William Wilberforce, M.P., (1800 to about 1830), renowned for his anti-slavery activities, and then by Anthony Ashley Cooper, the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, famous for his factory acts. Although other forces existed which also helped to create the Victorian age, Evangelicalism produced, ". . . The piety, the prudery, the imperialistic sentiments, the philanthropic endeavour, and the obsession with proper conduct which we think of as the distinctive characteristics of the Victorian era . . ." (p. 18). It was, in addition, responsible for the seriousness and high-mindedness which also pervaded Victorian behaviour. This found expression, especially amongst the professional middle classes, in missionary zeal, crusades against vice, and in obsessional reformation of public and personal morals.

The influence on Victorian medicine must also have been noteworthy and all those studying it should read this book carefully. Perhaps an independent investigation of Evangelicalism and medicine, both clinical and experimental, would be rewarding.