

Book Reviews

present day, with biographies of the many outstanding members and full lists of their coveted honours, distinctions and publications.

Körner's book is not only a series of biographies, but also a political and social history of the time, as he describes the political, social and scientific events which affected the Siebolds and indicated such influence as they occasionally had on them. There were outstanding professors of obstetrics amongst them, such as Carl Caspar, Eduard and Elias von Siebold.

It may be of interest to the English reader that Charlotte von Siebold delivered the Duchess of the baby who subsequently became Queen Victoria and that Elias attended the birth of the later King George V.

Bearing in mind the considerable nepotism which almost dragged some of the Siebolds into university chairs, it may be surprising that some of them nevertheless achieved academic distinction.

The book as a whole is perhaps of more interest to the social historian than to the medical profession. The author has obviously carried out a vast amount of research, enabling him to provide full references to support every statement he makes: this includes facsimiles and family portraits.

One can hardly say of such an opus that one reads it with aesthetic enjoyment, but this need not be the aim and object of its author. It should rather be regarded as a book of reference, recording much information which might well be useful to the student of any part of the period covered.

BRUCE ETON

Μελημοτα, *Festschrift für Werner Leibbrand zum 70. Geburtstag*, ed. by JOSEPH SCHUMACHER, MARTIN SCHRENK, and JÖRN HENNING WOLF, Mannheim, C. Boehringer, 1967, pp. 263, illus., no price stated.

Professor Werner Leibbrand, formerly Director of the Institute for the History of Medicine at Munich, is well known to medical historians for his books on the history of psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine. These interests are mirrored in the contributions from practically all over the globe as well as a great number of German colleagues to this lavishly-produced anniversary volume. Philosophy looms large amongst the chosen themes, ranging from Hans Ruess's *Law and Medicine in Plato's State* to Leopold Szondi's *Concept of Fate in Depth Psychology*. The relation of the sexes in history, Professor Leibbrand's latest interest, is also reflected in the articles by Klaus Horn on *The Enmity to Sex in the Gnosis*, and Eberhard Kirsch's article on *Avicenna's Teachings on Sexual Pathology*. An article by Annemarie Wettley-Leibbrand on the subject of *Psychopathology and Demonology in Paracelsus and Johannes Weyer* will be found of interest to specialists and laymen. Helmut Waldmann's *Paradigms to the History of Psychotropic Drugs* shows how far back our latest discoveries reach into the past.

These are only a few items out of the wealth contained in twenty-four contributions. The handsome well-indexed volume ends with an extensive bibliography of Professor Leibbrand's works.

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