

Book Notices

Jerry Bryan Lincecum and Edward Hake Phillips (eds), *Adventures of a frontier naturalist: the life and times of Dr. Gideon Lincecum*, College Station, Texas A&M University Press, 1994, pp. xxxvii, 321, illus., \$35.00 (hardback 0-89096-592-7), \$14.95 (paperback 0-89096-603-6).

Four overlapping autobiographical texts have been stitched together and supplied with a lengthy introduction to rescue from oblivion this salty, self-taught Southern frontiersman, cousin to Jim Bowie of the famous knife. With no previous training and only what he had learned from books to go on, Lincecum took to practising medicine in early middle age after many years of aimless wandering; but two years of the standard system of bleeding and strong drugs undermined his belief in its efficacy and turned him into a Thomsonian. Convinced that "Northern" treatments were ill-suited to "Southern" complaints, he sought out a Choctaw versed in Indian herbal lore and, armed with a battery of remedies gained from that source, proceeded to build up a prosperous practice in Columbus, Mississippi. Retirement to Texas in 1848 allowed him a final quarter of a century in which to devote himself to natural history, collecting specimens by the thousand for leading museums in Europe as well as America and corresponding internationally—including with Darwin on the subject of ants. Much of the book is essentially hunting reminiscences, but historians of botanic medicine should find it a useful, and very readable, first-hand account.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review,

are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

Josep L Barona (ed.), *Trobades: Malaltia i cultura*, Valencia, Seminari d'Estudis sobre la Ciència, 1995, pp. 273, no price given (84-920303-1-3).

Sarah Key, *Body in Action*, London, Penguin Books, BBC Books, 1995, pp. 184, £5.99 (0-14-024678-9).

Roy MacLeod and Philip F Rehbock (eds), *Darwin's laboratory: evolutionary theory and the natural history of the Pacific*, Honolulu, University of Hawai'i Press, 1995, pp. x, 540, illus., \$45.00 (0-8248-1613).

Juan Antonio Micó Navarro, *Catálogo del Fondo Sánchez-Quintanar*, Cuadernos Valencianos de Historia de la Medicina y de la Ciencia 43, Serie C, Valencia, Instituto de Estudios Documentales e Históricos sobre la Ciencia, Universitat de València - CSIC, 1994, pp. 385, no price given (84-370-1466-2).

Suzanne Porter, *Conquering arthritis: a positive program for a healthier life*, London, Penguin, 1995, pp. 124, Aust. \$19.95 (0-14-023890-5).

María José Ruiz Somavilla, "El cuerpo limpio". *Análisis de las prácticas higiénicas en la España del mundo moderno*, Universidad de Málaga, 1994, pp. 146, no price given (84-7496-248-X).

Michael Smith and Alex Sakula, *Hospital names*, London, Royal Society of Medicine Press, 1994, pp. 108, illus., £10.00 (1-85315-241-2).