

Book Reviews

education?: if so, should it be the same? Each generation has reacted differently to these queries, and it is the detailed answers to them that make up this book. The problem of whether girls have the same or different intellectual and imaginative capabilities as boys is a more difficult one and has yet to be solved. The education of famous women is also examined here, and the foundation of schools for girls is followed closely. These events are related against a background of general history and the climate of opinion of the time.

A considerable amount of research has gone into this book, but there are no references or notes, and only a brief list of 'Books consulted'. Nevertheless it will be useful to those tracing the history of women in medicine or of the female patient.

DAVID M. VESS, *Medical revolution in France 1789–1796*, Gainesville, Fla., University Press of Florida, 1975, 8vo, pp. [2 11.], 216, \$12.00.

When French medicine was revolutionized in the aftermath of the Revolution, it led the world into the dawn of modern scientific medicine. A lot is known of the outcome, for example of the Paris school of clinico-pathological correlation, but information on the earliest years of the changes has not been extensive. Professor Vess here provides us with a considerable amount of this information so that we can understand and evaluate a period that was crucial not only for France but also for the rest of the world. His deep knowledge of the general scene allows him to depict the medical situations and events in accurate perspective. As might be expected, there is a good deal on battlefield medicine, and this is handled adequately and skilfully.

However, Professor Vess is less at home in the pre- and post-revolutionary periods. His account of the former is often faulty and his assumptions in the latter concerning the influence of war on medicine are not wholly acceptable. Nevertheless his book is a scholarly contribution to one of the most exciting and influential periods in all of medical history, which others may be inspired to investigate further.

GWYNNE VEVERS (compiler), *London's Zoo. An anthology to celebrate 150 years of the Zoological Society of London*, London, Bodley Head, 1976, 8vo, pp. 159, illus., £4.95.

Dr. Vevers, whose father was Superintendent of the Society from 1923 to 1948, has sifted through contemporary press-cuttings, hitherto unpublished records of the Society, its Annual Reports, literature and letters to produce this anthology. The resultant quotations, reports, anecdotes and accounts make fascinating reading, and they highlight all aspects of the Society and its Zoo during the last century and a half; the Whipsnade collections as well as those in Regent's Park are included.

Whilst enjoying this book, we also learn a great deal about animals and their life in a zoological garden. In addition, public opinion about them and its vicissitudes during the 150 years are revealed. The only criticisms are that the book could have been longer, and more precise references to the origins of the selections could have been given. It remains a mystery why anthologists, having spent time and labour locating and transcribing the chosen piece, do not expend a few more seconds to record, for example, the page or pages of the book where it occurs. Annotations of the entries would also have increased the value of this work.