

Book Reviews

'Philosophy and science in sixteenth century universities: some preliminary comments'. Each of these three papers, and others according to the reader's mathematical and philosophical capabilities, should be read and considered carefully by all those who are studying medieval and Renaissance history, but especially by students of science and medicine during these periods. The main contribution of this book is to highlight the social background of the history and philosophy of science; in other words, the external factors that mould their origin and development.

The book is elegantly produced with an excellent index, often missing from this type of work. It deserves the highest praise and the editors, in particular, are to be congratulated on their labours and the admirable end-product of them.

OTTO MAZAL, EVA IRBLICH and ISTVÁN NÉMETH, *Wissenschaft im Mittelalter: Ausstellung von Handschriften und Inkunabeln der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek*, Vienna, 1975, pp. 296, illus., [no price stated].

Catalogues to exhibitions usually arouse no more than ephemeral interest. But there are exceptions, and this catalogue of medieval manuscripts drawn up by three members of the National Library in Vienna is one of them. Long after the exhibition closed (in October 1975), its value will remain undiminished, for, apart from its scrupulously detailed description of each manuscript, putting it into its historical context and explaining its importance in the development of a particular science, it provides a general introduction to the history of science in the Middle Ages. This introduction is due to Dr. Otto Mazal, head of the National Library, and constitutes something of a *tour de force*, containing within the compass of little more than fifty pages an outline history of the encyclopaedia, grammar, rhetoric, dialectic, law, theology, natural science, astronomy, music, geography and medicine. Readers of this journal will naturally turn to the section on medicine which, admirable and concise though it is, is blemished by one doubtful statement, namely, that the Benedictine monks had schools at Oxford, Cambridge and three other places, a thing impossible at the period referred to. In the catalogue itself some notable manuscripts appear, chief among them being the Juliana Anicia codex of Dioscorides, reproduced in facsimile by the Akademischer Druck of Graz in 1970. Then there is a copy of Celsus (Florence, 1471), a thirteenth-century collection of ancient medical texts from South Italy, also reproduced in facsimile, and a beautifully illustrated copy of Albucasis' *Surgery*. These and many others representing the various schools of medicine at Salerno, Montpellier and Paris are meticulously described by Eva Irbllich, ending suitably enough with an autograph of Paracelsus. The volume does great credit to all concerned in its publication.

KARL E. ROTHSCHUH (editor), *Was ist Krankheit? Erscheinung, Erklärung, Sinnegebung*, Darmstadt, Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1975, 8vo, pp. vii, 492, [no price stated].

Professor Rothschuh, the distinguished German historian of medicine, has collected together twenty-three essays dealing with the problem of disease as a natural phenomenon. They range in time from the Hippocratic writing, *The nature of man*, to 1973, but the majority are from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.