

Book Reviews

after the German collapse in its second edition of 1919. Here he argued from the point of view of bourgeois European culture in favour of saving civilization by a union of European states, including all those other nations whose culture derives directly or indirectly from Europe's.

Nicolai's Eurocentrism even went so far that he declared genocide to be understandable in the case of a Mongolian threat because in his opinion Asians were the natural enemies of the white man in the contest between the races to rule the world. This point might indicate that rationality in itself could lead to rather strange results. Probably this is part of the explanation of why Nicolai is virtually forgotten in Germany, another part being his bourgeois attitude which sometimes tended to be not far from arrogance towards possible co-fighters for peace and a better and more rational world. One is inclined to subscribe to Zuelzer's judgement that Nicolai was his own worst enemy. But his peculiarities certainly should not be taken as an excuse for continuing to neglect him as an uncompromising pacifist and European humanist who tried so hard to dig out traditions of tolerance, humanitarianism, idealism, and liberalism from German history. The story of Nicolai's failure and shortcomings immediately after 1918 provides a depressing picture of the political atmosphere in which a first attempt was undertaken to establish democracy in Germany.

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WOLFGANG SCHNEIDER, *Paracelsus – Autor der Archidoxis Magica?* (Veröffentlichungen aus dem pharmaziegeschichtlichen Seminar der Technischen Universität Braunschweig, vol. 23), Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 30 + facsimile, DM. 15.00 (paperback).

The idea that Paracelsus was also a practising magus has been largely based on the *Archidoxis Magica*. This treatise had been regarded as spurious already in Huser's classical edition of the works, where it was relegated to the Appendix to the last volume. It is a richly illustrated corpus of magical signs and seals, mostly attached to amulets. The arrangement of the text varies in manuscript and printed versions. Inspired by the acquisition of a new manuscript, the author, the greatest living authority on Paracelsus' pharmacology and chemistry, now submits in the present book a detailed collation of all the versions available. The new arrangement of the text leaves the normally discredited genuineness of the treatise less unlikely than before on the strength of the higher age of the new manuscript. His conclusion is: the work as such is spurious, but the first four books of the treatise may very well be genuine. Tentatively, their date could be the same as that of the genuine *Archidoxis*, the fundamental chemical textbook of Paracelsus, namely 1526. As with all of Schneider's publications, the present book, which also contains a full facsimile of the new manuscript, is of great importance and interest.

Walter Pagel

CORNELIA D. SONNTAG, *Zur Geschichte der Apothekenprivilegien*, Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. xviii, 267, DM. 28.00.

This modestly produced book is volume eighteen in a series entitled "Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Pharmazie", and by no means the least important. Our knowledge, in Britain, of the organization of pharmaceutical practice in Germany and other Continental countries, is so slight that the book could with advantage be translated into English. The concept of rulers or governing bodies granting to pharmacists, privileges and monopolies by means of a "privilegium", to which in return the pharmacist had to comply with certain conditions, is so foreign to us, that its comprehension comes with quite a shock. Miss Sonntag traces the history of these "privilegia" in one small part of Germany, the Duchy of Cleves, whose sole interest to most English people is that it supplied Henry VIII with his fourth wife. Owing to Cleves' geographical position, its fortunes have been even more varied than many other principalities, and as these frequently involved changes in pharmaceutical legislation, this has necessitated the writing of a carefully detailed history of the Duchy, which, however, could have been improved by the use of better maps.