

Book Reviews

HENRY BLUMENTHAL, *American and French culture, 1800–1900. Interchange in art, science, literature, and society*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 554, \$17.50.

There was close collaboration between France and America in the nineteenth century and this scholarly book surveys the social and cultural interchange that took place, mainly by way of individuals. As the title suggests, the author's study is a wide one, including demographic and social aspects, institutional differences, socio-economic aspects, religious influences, philosophy, literature, drama, music, art, architecture, and co-operation in the natural and the medical sciences. The last two (pp. 361–467) are presented competently, and in the case of medicine it is interesting to observe the degree of French influence in the early part of the century, despite the competing role of British medicine. Professor Blumenthal is using "medical sciences" to describe clinical as well as pre-clinical subjects, including dentistry and pharmacy, and he has covered the literature on his topic with great thoroughness and records it accurately. There is an extensive bibliography as well as copious footnotes.

Throughout, the aim of the book is to discuss the two-way influences, and this objective is adequately achieved. It can be recommended strongly to students of medical history dealing with the nineteenth century, who will learn from it a lot about both American and French medicine from an authority on French nineteenth-century history. Similar studies in depth of the inter-reaction between America and other European countries, especially Britain, would be welcome.

JAMES BORDLEY III and A. McGEHEE HARVEY, *Two centuries of American medicine 1776–1976*, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1976, 4to, pp. xv, 844, illus., [no price stated].

The authors' purpose is to present, for the interested layman as well as for the medical man, an account of the remarkable development from 1776 to 1976 of American medical education and the prevention and treatment of disease. They divide the period into three: 'The first century—1776–1876' (100 pp.); 'Period of scientific advance—1876–1946' (282 pp.); 'Period of explosive growth—1946–1976' (382 pp.). There is a valuable list in an appendix of the major events in American medical history and the enumeration of spectacular advances and breaks-through is impressive, and is in part illustrated by the Nobel prizes awarded to Americans. The references, which are of the technical type and not historical footnotes, reveal a limited use of the literature of medical history.

During the first century (1776–1876) little advancement was possible, but towards the end of the nineteenth century American medicine was acquiring a scientific basis, and medical education and research were being firmly established on new foundations. Since then the advance has been extraordinary and it is with this that the book is mainly involved.

The first part is not outstanding and there are a number of errors, including the portrait of J. Y. Simpson on p. 83 labelled as that of J. Marion Sims. However, as the authors reach the twentieth century so their text improves. They are both distinguished physicians, now retired, and it is only natural that the best part of their