

### Book Reviews

compiled by medically-trained men and published only for medical men". This may have been true two decades ago, but it is certainly insupportable now. In fact it casts doubts on the author's qualifications for writing medical history.

Nevertheless, he orientates his work to the patient and looks at a number of ways whereby medicine in the period under discussion impinged upon him: childbirth, infancy, childhood and youth, adulthood, and old age. He presents a great deal of well-documented information which frequently reveals his lack of medical knowledge. A lot of it is already known and available elsewhere, but even so, this book will be a useful source-book of general and particular information, but limited in circulation by its high price. It is a pity that Mr. Smith's prejudices against medical men, especially those that write medical history, are so obvious, and he will not be applauded by the growing band of professional historians of medicine for some of his incautious and inaccurate remarks contained in his "Introduction", not to mention his social and political bias.

MARK GIROUARD, *Life in the English country house. A social and architectural history*, New Haven, Conn., and London, Yale University Press, 1978, 4to, pp. [vi], 344, illus., £10.00.

As a scholarly, well-written, and lavishly illustrated work, this book is an outstanding contribution to an important, but so far relatively unexplored, aspect of English social life. The author's primary object is to explore the purpose of the country house, and his answer is that it gave its owner power both at a local and a national level. He traces its history, making use of public and family records, and also draws upon fiction. Until the nineteenth century it maintained its position, the land which belonged to it being as important as its fabric and contents. But with the rise of industrialization and the transfer of power from the country to the towns its significance waned, and today its survival becomes increasingly uncertain. All aspects of the country house are dealt with; the social activities of the inhabitants and of the servants are of special interest. The measures to support health and treat illness in this select community would make a fascinating addendum to Professor Girouard's excellent and highly recommendable study. As an account of living conditions among the gentry and their retainers it will be of great interest to historians of medicine, especially those concerned with the social aspects.

GILLIAN WAGNER, *Barnardo*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1979, 8vo, pp. xv, 344, illus., £8.95.

Despite the fact that the name of Thomas John Barnardo (1845-1905) is universally known, curiously a full biography, in particular giving details of his early years in London, has so far not been available. The author, with the use of material previously untouched, has remedied that defect. Moreover, she presents a re-assignment of a flamboyant and autocratic man who made many enemies and came into conflict with the law, but who achieved undeniable success in the relief of child destitution. In the absence of adequate legislation, he championed the homeless child and created the largest children's charity then in existence. It is still the largest voluntary child-care organization in Britain.

Lady Wagner presents the first frank account of Barnardo's character and career,