

## Book Notices

---

MARC ANGENOT, *Les champions des femmes*, Montreal, Les Presses de l'Université de Québec, 1977, 8vo, pp. [vi], 189, [no price stated].

This survey of supporters of and support for the female sex has two parts: 'Historique', and 'Thématique'. The first is divided chronologically up to the nineteenth century, and contains a mass of well-documented references to a wide cross-section of literature. The second discusses the evidence which establishes the superiority of women. The bibliography is excellent, but regrettably there is no index.

[BERNARD BECKER], *Catalog of the Bernard Becker M.D. collection in ophthalmology at the Washington University School of Medicine Library*, St. Louis, Missouri, Washington University School of Medicine Library, 1979, 4to, pp. 102, illus., \$12.50 (paperback).

Since 1975 Dr. Becker has been contributing his library to the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. This monograph lists 268 rare titles, each with collation, provenance, reference, and annotation, followed by a list of about 300 less rare items, and indexes. A useful reference work in the history of ophthalmology (1496-1850) is thus provided. The catalogue on microfiche (5 cards) is also supplied.

[DAVID BREWSTER, GERARD MOLL, and RICHARD SHEEPSHANKS], *Debates on the decline of science*, New York, Arno Press, 1975, 8vo, \$16.00.

Four pieces are reproduced here in facsimile: David Brewster's review (1830) of Babbage's book, *Reflexions on the decline of science in England and on some of its causes*; G. Moll, *On the alleged decline of science in England* (1831); R. Sheepshanks' letter replying to Babbage's calumnies (1854); and *Thoughts on the degradation of science in England* by "FRS" (1842). This comprises another most useful collection of primary literature dealing with an important aspect of mid-nineteenth-century science. The reproduction, as in other titles in this series, is excellent, but the usual lack of introductory comment is to be regretted.

ANTHONY BRUNDAGE, *The making of the New Poor Law 1832-39*, London, Hutchinson, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 204, £8.50.

Professor Brundage provides us with the first exhaustive study of one of the most significant yet the most controversial pieces of social legislation enacted in nineteenth-century Britain. He believes its roots are to be found in the needs of landowners and not in Benthamism, and he derives his evidence from a close and scholarly examination of the Royal Commission on Poor Law (1832-34), the political sequelae, and the Poor Law Commission set up to implement the Act. As well as national issues and reactions, the author also deals with local areas of England. He thus produces a representative picture and a well-balanced book, which will be of great interest to historians of nineteenth-century medicine, social conditions, and reform.

DOMINGO CAMPILLO, *Paleopatologia del craneo en Cataluña, Valencia y Baleares*, Barcelona, Editorial Montblanc-Martin, 1977, 8vo, pp. 630, illus., 2,500 ptas.

Professor Campillo is an international authority on the palaeopathology of the

### Book Notices

skull, and in this well-produced and copiously illustrated book he records his vast experience and knowledge. Every possible disease is discussed, frequently with an illustration, and there is a large, but often inaccurate, bibliography. In some cases his diagnoses could be challenged, and it seems likely that certain lesions may be treponemal in nature, although he states that he does not wish to discuss the problem of the pre-Columbian European origin of syphilis.

Campillo's book, however, will remain a voluminous source of information for those dealing with palaeopathology, especially of the skull.

ROSALIE DAVID (editor), *Mysteries of the mummies. The story of the Manchester University investigation*, London, Cassell, 1978, 8vo, pp. 192, illus., £6.95.

In 1975 a team of experts in Manchester unwrapped a 2,000-year-old mummy. This event was given wide news coverage, and the team's leader, together with fourteen contributors gathered from many specialties, gives here a detailed account of the work carried out and the discoveries made. This is preceded by an excellent general discussion of the geography, history, and social and religious life of Ancient Egypt, and of mummification. Not only did the investigators discover new information about living standards and problems of health and disease, but they also established a methodology using many different techniques. The book is elegantly produced and presented, with a wealth of excellent photographs, a few in colour. One learns from it a good deal of general Egyptology as well as the details of the dissection and techniques applied to this mummy, and the contrast with a similar investigation carried out in Manchester in 1906 is also revealing.

JANE B. DONEGAN, *Women and men midwives. Medicine, morality, and misogyny in early America*, Westport, Conn., and London, Greenwood Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. viii, 316, illus., £12.75.

The author gives here an excellent and fully documented account of the midwife from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, dealing with her skills, duties, and status. In the eighteenth century the physician began to take an interest in obstetrics, and for the first time he became an expert accoucheur. The social and ethical aspects of this intrusion are fascinating and are all discussed here with great skill. Dr. Donegan, a professor of American history, has accumulated a great deal of most useful data, and as well as extensive notes there is a 'Selected bibliography'. Although much of the book is about American midwives, Europe is also considered, and the fringe, unorthodox sects and schools fortunately receive attention. A balanced view is, therefore, forthcoming, which deserves a wide audience.

GERALDINE M. EMERSON (editor), *Aging*, (Benchmark Papers in Human Physiology, vol. 11), Stroudsburg, Pa., Dowden, Hutchinson & Ross, 1977, 8vo, pp. xiii, 372, illus., \$28.00.

This is another useful collection of primary sources, in excellent reprint. They cover early accounts of longevity (i.e. not earlier than 1857!); Brown-Séguard's research on rejuvenation; clinical approaches to geriatrics in the present century; and twentieth-century research in gerontology. The usual criticisms can be levelled: inadequate

### Book Notices

editorial comment and a preponderance of material from America and other English-language sources. The only foreign language is French, and it seems highly unlikely that the Germans, for example, have not contributed to the physiology and pathology of aging over the last 100 years.

R. B. FREEMAN, *Charles Darwin. A companion*, Folkestone, Kent, Dawson, 1978, 8vo, pp. 309, illus., £12.50.

Richard Freeman of University College London, who is one of the leading Darwin scholars, has produced for the first time a book containing widely scattered facts about Darwin's life and works. It concerns his private and public life, and in alphabetic sequence it deals with topics such as his career, friends, family, scientific colleagues and opponents, travels, writings, etc., etc. This book will be an essential aid to all scholars of Darwin and evolutionary theory.

P. GASKELL, *Artisans and machinery: the moral and physical condition of the manufacturing population considered with reference to mechanical substitutes for human labour*, [facsimile of 1836 ed.], London, Cass, 1968, pp. xv, 309, £10.00.

This is an elegant reprint of an important work first published in 1836. Unfortunately no introduction or index has been added.

JOSCELYN GODWIN, *Robert Fludd. Hermetic philosopher and surveyor of two worlds*, London, Thames & Hudson, 1979, 4to, pp. 96, illus., £2.95 (paperback).

Fludd (1574-1637) was one of the last complete men of the Renaissance. He was occultist and Paracelsian physician, and he defended alchemy and the Rosicrucians in his extensive writings, which summarized the esoteric teachings. His two main themes were concepts of cosmic harmony, the multiple levels of existence, and the correlations between them. His notions, however, are not always easy to understand, but in all his books he attempted to pictorialize them, and the present author has had the happy plan of collecting Fludd's drawings together with a full annotation and explanation accompanying each, and a general introduction. For anyone seeking an accurate description and assessment of Fludd's theories, this scholarly book is warmly recommended.

LUIS S. GRANJEL, *Historia general de la medicina Española, Vol. 4: La medicina Española del siglo XVIII*, Salamanca, Ediciones Universidad de Salamanca, 1979, 8vo, pp. 285, illus., 750 ptas. (paperback).

This is the second volume to appear in Professor Granjel's comprehensive, five-volume *Historia general de la medicina Española*. The material is arranged just as in Volume 3, and all aspects of medicine are discussed: first general, and then specific topics. Again it is based mainly on individuals and their publications, illustrations of their title-pages being reproduced in profusion, a useful service in view of the rarity of some of them. Unfortunately, the text has no linked notes or references, although there is an excellent bibliography. Nevertheless, this in no way substitutes for textual documentation.

However, Professor Granjel deserves further congratulations for his praiseworthy

### Book Notices

series in which he is depicting not only the details of Spanish medicine, non-clinical and clinical, but also the broader issues and influences, the institutions, and the profession itself. His book can be highly recommended.

CHRISTA HABRICH, FRANK MARGUTH, and JÖRN HENNING WOLF (editors), *Medizinische Diagnostik in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Festschrift für Heinz Goerke zum sechzigsten Geburtstag*, Munich, Werner Fritsch, 1978, 8vo, pp. 656, front., DM. 165.00

A Festschrift is perhaps by its nature a miscellaneous collection of the original, the pedantic, and the plain derivative. This volume is no exception. It comprises forty-six essays on the history of diagnosis from ancient Egypt to computer-assisted assay. Four papers tackle ancient Chinese medicine, and half the total cover the period after 1700. In this section Gerhard Rudolph's essay on signs and symptoms in eighteenth-century medicine is an enlightening account of the relationship of diagnosis to the broader science of semeiotics in the period. Other papers which could have been useful as reviews of the literature in limited areas, such as the history of thoracoscopy, fail to cover all the material and only add to the increasing number of articles any future, more comprehensive, researcher must read.

BRUCE HALEY, *The healthy body and Victorian culture*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. [viii], 296, £10.50.

The Victorians were obsessed by health, and the ways of safeguarding and improving it enjoyed great popularity. Professor Haley presents a wide-ranging discussion of this, and in doing so deals with the history of personal and public health in the period under discussion. There were several influential concepts of the ideal healthy individual towards whom others were encouraged to aspire. To do so, sports and physical training were encouraged in schools, universities, and amongst the public in general.

This book is a fascinating exploration of social, medical, literary, and philosophical aspects of the central theme, and it represents an important contribution to the history of the Victorians and of nineteenth-century medicine.

G. H. A. HANSEN, *Les mémoires de Hansen*, Montreal, Les Presses de l'Université de Québec, 1976, 8vo, pp. xxvi, 130, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

The Norwegian physician and traveller, Hansen (1841-1912) discovered the leprosy bacillus in 1871. His personal memoirs are recorded here in seven chapters which deal with his infancy, his life as a student and then as a doctor, his voyages, the lepra organism, the United States, and, finally, he adds his reflections. The book is introduced by a long preface by J. B. Watt, and forms a fascinating document, for it is of great importance to have the many details of Hansen's life and thoughts. Not only does it depict the activities of an outstanding scientist, but also the background consisting of the late nineteenth century is also provided. This book can, therefore, be warmly recommended to those interested in the man and his contributions to science, to those interested in exploration, and to historians looking for Victorian background detail.

*Book Notices*

TAMARA K. HAREVAN and MARIS A. VINOVSIS (editors), *Family and population in nineteenth-century America*, Princeton University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xiv, 250, \$25.00 (\$19.35 paperback).

The editors have collected together six essays based on the new techniques and approaches associated with present-day family and historical demography. They are concerned with household structures and family organization, and the family behaviour resulting from them. They also deal with patterns of fertility as related to urban and industrial development, economic opportunity, the availability of land, and racial and ethnic origins. Together the contributors do not accept the conclusion that the declining fertility rate is due to the rapid urbanization. They also believe that the emergence of nuclear households was not due to industrialization.

Historical demography is fast becoming a highly specialized discipline, the content of which is beyond many historians of medicine. Its importance, however, cannot be doubted, and link-persons are now needed to relate the data more closely to the contemporary medical background.

PATRICIA HOLLIS, *Women in public: the Women's Movement 1850-1900*, London, Allen & Unwin, 1979, 8vo, pp. xxi, 336, £8.50.

The author has prepared a useful anthology of readings divided into functional groups, for example: images of women; women at work, including nursing and medicine; education; birth control; law; the social evil, including prostitution and contagious diseases acts; public service, including sanitary reform, nursing the poor, housing, etc.; politics; etc. Each section has an editorial introduction, but the selections are unannotated. There are suggestions for additional reading, but unfortunately there is no index.

This book offers a great deal of important and useful information. It will be of interest to all those concerned with the history of women, and will provide teachers with a useful repository of primary source material. The only criticism is levelled at the relative paucity of editorial comment, elucidation, and guidance.

L. J. JORDANOVA and ROY S. PORTER (editors), *Images of the earth. Essays in the history of the environmental sciences*, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks., British Society for the History of Science, 1979, 8vo, pp. xx, 282, £5.95 (paperback).

The British Society for the History of Science arranged a conference on "New perspectives in the history of geology", held at Cambridge in April 1977, and it now presents the proceedings in the first of a new series of Society Monographs. The papers are grouped thus: 'Geology and belief'; 'The language of environmental science'; 'Earth science and disciplinary boundaries'; and 'The social history of geology'. Each paper is a scholarly contribution, and together they represent an important advancement in the historiography of geology. Both this monograph and the new series are most welcome.

R. Y. KEERS, *Pulmonary tuberculosis. A journey down the centuries*, London, Bailliere Tindall, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 265, £11.50.

When a person writing history has difficulty making use of primary sources he must

### Book Notices

depend on other writers and translators, and thus runs the risk of unwittingly transmitting errors and misinterpretations. Dr. Keers has, however, mostly avoided this hazard and his history, apart from defects in the section dealing with earlier historical periods, is competent enough. There are, on the whole, too many quotations, a state that often suggests lack of competence with the originals. However, they are all meticulously documented, as is the rest of the material used.

The history improves as it moves into more recent times when the author himself was actively involved in the care of the consumptive. Despite its title, the book may be warmly recommended for those seeking a survey of this topic over the last hundred years.

DAVID M. KNIGHT, *The transcendental part of chemistry*, Folkestone, Kent, Dawson, 1978, 8vo, pp. viii, 289, £12.00.

The author provides us with an essay on chemistry and its connexion with world views in the nineteenth century, chiefly in Britain. The connexions between chemistry and philosophy were close, and the most important chemical problem was the nature of matter. The book's title is from a lecture by Davy in 1809 and recalls for us the vast differences between chemistry then and now. Its purpose is to explore these. Although pure chemistry is under consideration, there is sufficient reason for historians of medicine, as well as those of chemistry, to find Dr. Knight's book most rewarding. It is a scholarly exercise which will be found to be informative and stimulating. It can be warmly recommended.

ROBERT B. KREISER, *Miracles, convulsions, and ecclesiastical politics in early eighteenth-century Paris*, Princeton University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xvii, 485, \$27.50.

At the burial in 1727 of François de Paris, a revered Jansenist deacon, there were seemingly miraculous healings carried out by him posthumously. This grew into an unauthorized cult in the squalid part of the city where the interment had taken place. It figured in the most violent religious debate of the eighteenth century and lasted for about ten years. The author, in a scholarly and well-written book, discusses the conflicts surrounding the cult and its multiple contexts. He is the first to do so and achieves resounding success. The accounts of the miracles and the diseases represented, such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, arthritis, ulcers, tumours, chronic fevers, etc., are of particular interest to the medical historian, as are the psychological aspects of faith healing.

WOLFGANG KROHN, EDWIN T. LAYTON jr., and PETER WEINGART (editors), *The dynamics of science and technology*, Dordrecht and Boston, D. Reidel, 1978, 8vo, pp. xi, 293, Dfl. 70.00/\$29.00 (Dfl. 35.00/\$14.50 paperback).

As science and technology continue to develop at ever-increasing rates their inter-relationships change, and this book aims to promote discussions of them, between historians, sociologists, and philosophers. The central interest is the new configuration both of the intellectual processes of the two disciplines and of their social organization; that is, the internal and external factors influencing them. For historians of medicine

### Book Notices

the essay by Judy Sadler on “Ideologies of ‘art’ and ‘science’ in medicine: the transition from medical care to the application of technique in the British medical profession” (pp 177-215) will be of special interest.

E. LE ROY LADURIE, *The territory of the historian*, translated from the French by B. and S. Reynolds, Hassocks, Sussex. Harvester Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. viii, 345, £12.50.

Professor Ladurie is the leading member of the third generation of *Annaliste* historians who aim at constructing history from the bottom up by quantitative approaches to data. In this collection of essays he demonstrates by a case-study method the wide range of approaches and topics that exist: demography, public health and literacy, folklore and myth, climate, etc. He is particularly concerned with rural societies which he portrays with great skill. No doubt the same techniques could be employed for the British scene.

Clearly no historian, no matter how specialized he is, can afford to ignore this book. It should be read by all, and it will be especially rewarding to medical historians in order to increase their knowledge of *Annaliste* historiography.

JOHN LEAR, *Recombinant DNA. The untold story*, New York, Crown Publishers, 1978, 8vo, pp. [vi], 280, illus., \$8.95.

Genetic engineering has become a topic of increasing importance and controversy as molecular biology advances. Lear gives an account here of a cover-up in genetic research and carries James Watson's story of a decade ago up to the present day. He is a professional writer and after much researching in the study of the recombinant DNA controversy now relates happenings in “gene splicing” that until now have not been public knowledge. The technique of DNA recombination obviously has enormous potential for good and for bad, but it must be used as a controlled tool, the benefits of which may be enormous to mankind. It is the method of control and who shall exercise it that has split the scientific and lay communities. Mr. Lear here gives an excellent summary of the facts and issues and his book should be read widely. Unfortunately his style is popular and there are very few references to the large volume of material he must have used.

JAMES LEIBY, *A history of social welfare and social work in the United States*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. viii, 426, \$21.90.

The author describes his book as an introduction to this topic. It is a demonstration of how policies and agencies were conceived and of how they have changed as they gave form to general ideas on personal and social problems. His survey is from 1815 to 1972, and he endeavours to identify the various sponsors and users of social aid and to place them in the changing social structure. He also aims at tracing the evolution of particular agencies and programmes: urban charities, philanthropy and science, social insurance and pensions, relief and social security, income maintenance, direct service, etc. This is a scholarly work with excellent ‘References and guide to the literature’ and a detailed bibliography. It deserves wide circulation, and it will be of great value to scholars carrying out comparative studies of the history of social welfare in various countries.

### Book Notices

SIDNEY E. ZIMBALIST, *Historic themes and landmarks in social welfare research*, New York, Harper and Row, 1977, 8vo, pp. xv, 432, illus., \$11.95.

Although the title does not admit it, this book deals mainly with the U.S.A., and discusses the development of research themes in social welfare. It, therefore, is complementary to Leiby's book. The author identifies shortcomings as well as advancements and, therefore, presents a balanced picture. He selects topics such as: 'The search for the cause of poverty'; 'The measurement of poverty'; 'The rise and decline of the social survey'; 'Statistics and index making in social work'; 'Evaluative research in social work'; 'From multiproblem family to multideficit society'. After each chapter there are 'Landmark excerpts' which comprise a critical review of certain primary sources of the subject just considered, with excerpts quoted from some of them. The book is, therefore, a source of secondary and primary material and it will prove to be of value to the student as well as to the scholar. It can be confidently and warmly recommended.

J. A. LEO LEMAY and G. S. ROUSSEAU, *The renaissance man in the eighteenth century*, Los Angeles, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Univeristy of California, 1978, 8vo, pp. xi, 139, illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

The two papers printed here were read at the Clark Library on 9 October 1976. The first, by Professor Lemay, is on 'Benjamin Franklin, universal genius', a well-trodden path, but nevertheless with new interpretations and assessments. The second is on 'John Hill, universal genius *manqué*: remarks on his life and times with a checklist of his works'. Professor Rousseau, the renowned expert on the interaction of literature and science in the eighteenth century, is producing a book on Hill, and this is a distillate of it. A biography of Hill demands Herculean effort and brilliant versatility, for he was involved with botany, geology, microscopy, cancer research, medicine, taxonomy, therapeutics, etc., etc., and in addition literary and commercial enterprises. If this example is a taste of the finished product, Hill has at last found his biographer, and we look forward with great anticipation to an early publication date.

TAYLOR STOEHR, *Hawthorne's mad scientists. Pseudoscience and social science in nineteenth-century life and letters*, Hamden, Conn., Archon Books, 1978, 8vo, pp. 313, \$19.50.

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) had many encounters with the pseudosciences of his day: mesmerism, phrenology, Grahamism, spiritualism, etc., and he made use of them in his writings. He deprecated such an invasion of materialism and technology, and from this response grew the modern figure of the "mad scientist". Dr. Stoehr, an American professor of English, uses biography, social history, and literary criticism to discuss Hawthorne's experience and use of these new "sciences". His book is a scholarly work which will appeal to students of English literature as well as to historians of psychology and psychiatry. It has chapters on mesmerism, phrenology, homoeopathy, associationism, spiritualism, feminism, prison reform, etc. Thus, it is of importance to all historians of nineteenth-century medicine, and from it they can learn something of the fringe medicines as well as the more orthodox approaches to disease and therapy. By these means a much more balanced view of nineteenth-century medicine will be achieved.



### Book Notices

JEAN THÉODORIDÈS, *Un zoologiste de l'époque romantique, Jean-Victor Audouin (1797-1841)*, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, 1978, 4to, pp. 127, illus., [no price stated].

Dr. Théodoridès has researched deeply into the historical material which reveals the character and work of this distinguished zoologist. He has in particular made use of letters and Audouin's unedited *Journal entomologique* (1817-1837) to produce an excellent biography. The first part considers his life and the second his contributions to science, which were mainly in the field of entomology. There is also a list of Audouin's publications. As is the case of his book on Davaine, Dr. Théodoridès has produced a definitive account of a man who deserves to be better known.

JOSÉ M. LÓPEZ PIÑERO (editor), *Santiago Ramon y Cajal. "Concepto, método y programa de anatomía descriptiva y general"*, Valencia, Valencia Cultural, 1978, 8vo, pp. 43, 136 [facsimile], [no price stated].

The main part of this book is an elegant facsimile reproduction of Cajal's manuscript with the above title. There are also two essays in both Spanish and English: one on 'The starting-point of Cajal's report and his *Concepto*. . . (1883)' by López Piñero; and the other an anthology of selected pieces concerning anatomy and histology.

It may now be possible to translate the manuscript pages to provide further light on Cajal's techniques and on the context of Spanish scientific activity against which he worked.

### BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

ISAAC ASIMOV, *Asimov's biographical encyclopedia of science and technology*, new rev. ed., Newton Abbot, David & Charles, 1972, 8vo, pp. xxvi, 805, £7.95.

HILDE BRUCH, *The golden cage. The enigma of anorexia nervosa*, London, Open Books, 1978, 8vo, pp. xiii, 150, £5.50.

STEPHAN L. CHOROVER, *From genesis to genocide. The meaning of human nature and the power of behavior control*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xiii, 238, illus., £9.75.

ROBERT FAVRE, *La mort au siècle des lumières*, Lyons, Presses Universitaires de Lyon, 1978, 8vo, pp. [iv], 641, 98F. (paperback).

LEONARD ROY FRANK (editor), *The history of shock treatment*, San Francisco, [the editor: 2300 Webster Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94115]; London, Wildwood House, 1978, 4to, pp. xiv, 206, illus., \$7.00 (paperback).

RAMON GAGO and JUAN L. CARRILLO, *La introduccion de la nueva nomenclatura quimica y el rechazo de la teoria de la acidez de Lavoisier en España (Madrid. 1788)*, Universidad de Malaga, 1979, 8vo, pp. 92, [no price stated].