

### Book Reviews

price has also been a deterrent. This summary of volumes 1 and 2 is, therefore, most welcome, and Mr. Ronan has produced a readable condensation amounting to about one-third of the original. It is, however, dealing with somewhat dated material, opinions and facts having changed in the last two decades, but there is some attempt to bring the text up to date. This abridgement will be widely popular, for it deals with the general features of the history of Chinese science and its earliest periods. The further volumes promised will be most welcome and useful.

PETER MORLEY and ROY WALLIS (editors), *Culture and curing. Anthropological perspectives on traditional medical beliefs and practices*, London, Peter Owen, 1978, 8vo, pp. vii, 190, £7.50.

There are nine essays in this book and they reflect the new attitude to traditional medical systems. They are no longer viewed as wholly primitive, and the wide interest in various forms of non-Western therapy may be a reaction to the overwhelming scientific treatment of the West. These articles survey modern theory, data and methods of the merging science, medical anthropology, and deal with healing in countries such as Mexico, Serbia, the Philippines, Melanasia, and the African continent.

Together they provide a most valuable addition to our knowledge of medical practices, and although these may be quite foreign to us, they may possibly be of relevance. This book will be of interest to anthropologists, historians of medicine, sociologists, and medical practitioners.

SEYMOUR FISHER and ROGER P. GREENBERG (editors), *The scientific evaluation of Freud's theories and therapy*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 446, £13.50.

Yet another addition to the Freud industry. The editors have chosen forty-one pieces and have grouped them thus: 'The dream theory'; 'Oral character'; 'Anal character'; 'The Oedipal theories'; 'Origins of homosexuality'; 'Paranoid delusion formation'; 'Psychoanalytic psychotherapy'. Together they form a companion volume to the editors' *The scientific credibility of Freud's theories and therapy* (see *Medical History*, 1978, 22: 346).

However, it is curious that every one of the selections is American in origin, presumably because the editors found more support in the writings of their countrymen, and maybe are not aware of the non-American literature where perhaps articles and books critical of Freud have appeared. In any case an uncritical collection of this type is of little value, and one has the feeling that the volume of assent here presented weakens rather than strengthens the case in favour of psychoanalysis.

GEORGE E. GIFFORD jr. (editor), *Psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, and the New England medical scene 1894-1944*, New York, Science History Publications, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxiii, 438, illus., \$35.00 (\$28.00 paperback).

No part of medicine has received more attention from historians and would-be historians than Freud and psychoanalysis. The industry continues apace, despite doubts cast on basic tenets. In this book there are twenty-one essays and the discussion they generated at a unique symposium held on 12-14 April 1973 in Boston