

### Book Reviews

Despite these criticisms, Dr. Smit's book can be hailed as one of the most important bibliographical tools made available in the history of medicine and of the biological sciences. It should be in every university library and library dealing with the history of science and of medicine.

TERENCE DOHERTY, *The anatomical works of George Stubbs*, London, Secker & Warburg, 1974, F°, pp. ix, 345, illus., £25.

For his paintings of horses George Stubbs (1724–1806) is justly renowned. It is also common knowledge that, like the artists of the Renaissance, to perfect his art he practised anatomical dissection. The extent of the latter, however, is revealed for the first time by this superb book. Stubbs' entire anatomical works have never been published before, but this has now been made possible by re-discoveries of his drawings in 1957 and 1963.

The author's introduction contains a short biography of the artist and there is a brief history of anatomy, with a consideration of his contacts with contemporaries, such as Dr. John Burton, Josiah Wedgwood and the Hunter brothers. The production of his famous book *The anatomy of the horse* (1766), and of *A comparative anatomical exposition* (1804–1806) is also discussed in detail.

Altogether there are 272 excellent illustrations in black and white, and mostly whole-page. They include 57 engravings illustrating Burton's *An essay towards a complete new system of midwifery* (London, 1751), those from *The anatomy of the horse* (24 plates) and from *A comparative anatomical exposition* (12 plates), and a final group of additional illustrations which is made up of classical anatomical drawings by other artists, and some of Stubbs. There is also a bibliography, facsimile reproductions of the introduction to Albinus' *Table of the skeleton and muscles of the human body* and of legends from *The anatomy of the horse*.

Although Stubbs made no discoveries in anatomy he should nevertheless be included amongst eighteenth-century dissectors. He can, in fact, be said to be unique in English art in this regard. His contribution to anatomy was entirely in the realms of dissecting techniques and illustrations. The exquisite reproductions of the latter in this book indicate the degree of his skill. Although not many individuals will own a copy of this book, its existence should be known to medical historians. Thanks to it, George Stubbs will merit more attention in future histories of anatomy than he has received in the past.

A. LYTTON SELLS, *Oliver Goldsmith. His life and works*, London, Allen & Unwin, 1974, 8vo., pp. 423, illus., £6.75.

Professor Lytton Sells aims his book at a general audience, and it contains little that is not already known of Goldsmith (? 1730–1774). The first portion (pp. 22–197) deals with his life and the second (pp. 201–379) with "The works". Each is likely to be dealt with harshly by literary critics.

Concerning Goldsmith's medical career, the mysteries surrounding it are not further elucidated, except that Professor Sells could find no record in the university, cathedral, or city archives of his stay in Padua during 1755. Our knowledge of his