

Book Notices

KURT GOLDAMMER, *Paracelsus in neuen Horizonten. Gesammelte Aufsätze (Salzburger Beiträge zur Paracelsusforschung 24)*, Vienna, VWGÖ-Verlag, 1986, 8vo, pp. 400, Ös.483.00/DM. 69.00 (paperback).

To celebrate the seventieth birthday of its President, the International Paracelsus-Gesellschaft has commissioned the reprinting of his collected papers on Paracelsus. It is Goldammer's great service to have directed attention to the political and, especially, the religious background of Paracelsus, the "Luther of medicine" as some contemporaries called him. These essays, many of them first published in *Festschriften* or local journals, are thus of prime importance in helping to set that most paradoxical of Renaissance physicians into his proper context. They throw new light on to unexpected places, even among Paracelsus' opponents, and deserve careful reading by all medical historians. The last essay, 'Humor bei Paracelsus', is both learned and charming, and, more than any other, reveals the essential qualities of Goldammer's work.

JOHN H. APPLEBY, 'A survey of some Anglo-Russian medical and natural history material in British archives, from the seventeenth century to the beginning of the nineteenth century', in Janet M. Hartley (editor), *The study of Russian history from British archival sources*, London, Mansell, 1986, pp. 107–131.

Dr Appleby demonstrates the rich—and readily accessible—resources existing in British archives for the study of Anglo-Russian medicine and natural history. His comprehensive survey is arranged in chronological order, and includes material at many institutions throughout the United Kingdom. The surviving wealth of correspondence between leading British and Russian scientists demonstrates the close co-operation that has always existed within the international scientific community. Not only are details given of manuscripts and autograph letters, but also of collections of minerals, fossils, botanical specimens, etc., with their accompanying descriptions. Scholars beginning research in this field would do well to consult this useful survey.

HENRIK WULFF, STIG ANDUR PEDERSEN, and RABEN ROSENBERG, *Philosophy of medicine*, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1986, 8vo, pp. xvi, 222, £22.50.

A rather artificial academic genre has grown up called "philosophy of medicine", whose status is frankly unclear: it is uncertain what real relationship it has to what doctors or medical scientists actually do or should be doing. It offers stereotypical, pre-packaged bites of Kuhn, of Popper, of the critique of empiricism; it discusses the problems of causation and hermeneutics; it looks at mind/body relations; it glances at medical ethics. Somehow it is now thought good that doctors should read such books, rather as once they were expected to read Greek poetry. This book is as good as any within this unnecessary genre.

CHARLOTTE F. OTTEN (ed), *A lycanthropy reader. Werewolves in western culture*, Syracuse University Press, 1986, 8vo, pp. xvi, 337, illus., \$32.50/\$14.95 (paperback).

"Lycanthropia", wrote Burton in his *Anatomy of melancholy*, "when men run howling about graves and fields in the night, and will not be persuaded but that they are wolves", has fascinated many scholars, past and present. (It is, of course, echoed in Freud's "wolf-man".) How far was it a clinical condition? How far a culture-bound practice? How far merely a figment of "imagination"? Dr Otten's excellent reader contains two dozen extracts, ranging from Ovid to the latest historical and anthropological researches, with substantial linking commentary. One wishes for a richer selection of illustrations, and misses full use of Keith Thomas's suggestive work on the growing separation of man and animals in the early modern period. These quibbles aside, this is a thoroughly stimulating and well-compiled anthology.

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JUDITH SCHNEID LEWIS, *In the family way. Childbearing in the British aristocracy 1760–1860*, New Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, 1986, 8vo, pp. xi, 313, [no price stated].

This well-written monograph complements and extends Randolph Trumbach's earlier researches which showed how the British aristocracy was in the van of innovations in childbirth and baby-rearing. Lewis shows how eagerly aristocratic women endorsed the new male *accoucheur* and discarded many of the old birthing practices (e.g., the over-heated, darkened room). Pregnancy was a badge of pride, and the seven or eight months' pregnant woman was not "invalided" out of society. Noble ladies widely practised breast-feeding. Of particular interest is the excellent use made of the manuscripts of Croft, Clarke, Knighton, Locock, and other aristocratic *accoucheurs*, which reveal close and trusting relations between female patients and their physicians.

JOSEPH ROBINS, *Fools and the mad. A history of the insane in Ireland*, Dublin, Institute of Public Administration, 1986, 8vo, pp. viii, 256, illus., Ir£14.95.

This is a well-researched and well-written survey by a scholar admirably skilled in the handling of official documents. Robins correctly stresses how the absence of a parochial Poor Law in Ireland before Victorian times decisively differentiated treatment of the insane there from the English pattern. In Ireland, bridewells and houses of industry assumed much greater importance as depots for the insane. Many lunatics were conveyed during the eighteenth century to centralized institutions in Dublin, and a network of some dozen large madhouses was set up under government authority earlier than the equivalent public asylums in England. Relatively speaking, the private "trade in lunacy" was weaker, and, with the exception of William Hallaran at Cork, specialist mad-doctors were slow to emerge and make a contribution to psychiatry. It is a pity that so little is said about twentieth-century developments, and we get little more than a glance at the mad in their own right. But, used alongside Mark Finnane's *Insanity and the insane in post-famine Ireland* (1981), this work offers a rounded picture of provision for the insane emerging within the framework of imperial policy.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collections of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.

MARC AUGÉ (editor), 'Interpreting illness', *History and Anthropology*, vol. 2, part 1, September 1985, New York, Harwood Academic Publishers, 1986, 4to, pp. 205, \$55.00 (paperback).

Charité-Annalen, Neue Folge, Band 5, 1985, Berlin DDR, Akademie-Verlag, M.48.00 (paperback).

THOMAS STEELE HALL, *A biomedical index to the correspondence of René Descartes*, 4to, pp. 15; copies available without charge, on request to Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894, USA.

HULDRYCH M. KOELBING and CHRISTOPH MÖRGELI (editors), *Johann Friedrich Horner 1831–86. Der Begründer der Schweizer Augenheilkunde in seiner Autobiographie*, Zurich, Hans Rohr, 1986, 8vo, pp. 113, S.Fr.24.00 (paperback).

CARLOS MARQUEZ ESPINOS, *Las juntas literarias del Real Colegio de Cirugia de Cadiz. Catalogo de las "observaciones" manuscritas*, Universidad de Cadiz, Servicio de Publicaciones, 1986, 8vo, pp. 266, illus., no price stated (paperback).