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capillaries between arterial and venous blood vessels. Even then Borelli much to his embarrassment could not see them.

Similar light is cast on Malpighi's discoveries in his studies of the tongue, the organ of touch, the kidneys, glands, and polypus of the heart.

Special mention should be made of Malpighi's dissertation on embryology. Here clearly Malpighi saw that there was a rich unexplored field for microscopic study. This work has been recently analysed with the greatest diligence by Howard B. Adelman. It is, of course, of the first importance in the history of embryology. Malpighi quotes Harvey to the effect that 'the primary outlines of nature lie hidden in the depths of night, and by reason of their subtlety escape the keenest reason no less than the most piercing eye'. Nevertheless he sees on the first day of incubation, the embryo unfolding from its pre-existent form in a way that gave rise to the doctrine of preformation, and later to its perverted version of embôitement.

To those interested in the history of science, the last section of this book is of great interest. This comprises Malpighi's reply to the letter on the study of Medicine by 'modern' doctors from his colleague and bitter opponent at Bologna, Giovanni Sbaraglia. This letter, clearly directed at Malpighi, engages in a debate between the value of ancient and modern medicine which reflects the situation in most European countries during the second half of the seventeenth century. Sbaraglia praises the achievements of the ancients, and scoffs at the advances of the 'moderns' particularly those in 'detailed anatomy achieved by the microscope'. These discoveries he dubs as quite useless in the treatment of a patient. It is an old quarrel which has continued until very recent times. Malpighi replies to these accusations paragraph by paragraph with great patience and in praiseworthy-controlled language. In doing so as Belloni points out, he reveals his scientific credo. Much of this altercation smacks of sterile polemics but Malpighi's declarations of his belief in the tenets of Francis Bacon, his accurate assessment of the achievements of his own century, and his perception of the goals of the medical science of the future, reveal his qualities as a scientific thinker in a new and vivid light.

Professor Belloni's work will be cordially welcomed by all those who feel the need of an integrated presentation of Malpighi's work and outlook. It provides too a nucleus around which to set Italian medico-biological science of the seventeenth century, and is thus a most valuable contribution to the history of its country and time.

KENNETH D. KEELE

Abnormal Hypnotic Phenomena: A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Cases, ed. by ERIC J. DINGWALL, London, J. & A. Churchill, 1968. Vol. I: *France*, pp. vii, 328, illus.; Vol. II: *Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Scandinavia*, pp. viii, 256, illus.; Vol. III: *Russia and Poland, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Latin America*, pp. vii, 216, illus.; Vol. IV: *U.S.A. and Great Britain*, pp. viii, 174, illus. 50s. per volume (set of four, £8).

In these four volumes a number of different contributors have made a special study of the paranormal phenomena which occurred in mesmerised subjects during the nineteenth century. Somnambulism, thought transference, clairvoyance and eyeless

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sight were constantly in the minds of the early magnetists, who reported their findings in the *Zoist* and other journals concerned with magnetism or phrenology. A Satanic agency was attributed to Braid, and the hint of the occult in many of the phenomena was sufficient both to attract and repel and to make the mesmeric controversy more an emotional than an intellectual exercise. The Parapsychology Foundation of New York has sponsored these four volumes, and has been fortunate in obtaining the editorial services of that remarkably erudite individual, Dr. Dingwall.

The first volume deals with the paranormal element in mesmerism as it occurred in France between 1800 and 1900. Although Mesmer discovered his magnetic fluid in Austria, it was in the French capital that his ideas were received with the greatest enthusiasm; France remained during the nineteenth century the centre of mesmerism, sending out practitioners such as Du Potet and clairvoyants such as Alexis Didier to other parts of Europe, and rescuing Braidism from the obscurity into which it had fallen following Braid's death. The names of the practitioners and subjects which occur in the pages of this first volume are very familiar to the student of the British scene. Alexis Didier and his lesser-known brother, Adolphe, for instance, were both the subject of much interest in Elliotson's circle, and long accounts of their activities, particularly those of Alexis, were published in the *Zoist*. They were indeed remarkable; several instances of clairvoyance at a distance, in which the possibilities of deception seem to have been minimal, defy explanation in any accepted scientific terms. It was this mixture of the supernatural and the therapeutic which led to so much hostility toward mesmerism. The situation became much more tolerable for the medical profession when this element of the paranormal was removed by the development of cult groups—psychodunamists, electrobiologists, statuvolists—and their eventual supersession by the spiritualist movement. After 1880, when the word hypnosis came into well-nigh universal use, paranormal phenomena became the almost exclusive preserve of the spiritualists. In some respects this set back the scientific study of the paranormal, for the credulity of the early mesmerists was replaced by a similar credulity but without that leaven of scientific involvement which at least some of the mesmerists possessed.

The second volume deals with the situation in Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Scandinavia. In 1781, cast down in health by the hostility he had experienced in Paris, Mesmer settled for a time at Spa, the Belgian watering place. Here he made the decision to return to France, and to found the Society of Harmony. Despite this brief personal connection, Belgium remained little influenced by Mesmer until 1830, when mesmerism became a much discussed topic and Lafontaine its leading exponent. It was when Lafontaine visited Manchester that Braid's interest in the subject was aroused. In general the Belgians followed the ideas of their French neighbours whilst in Germany, the ideas of de Puységur became popular, first brought to Bremen by Lavater. The history of mesmerism in each country is thoroughly described by Drs. Zorab, Moser and Bjelfvenstam, each chapter being followed by an excellent bibliography. Certainly these are the most comprehensive and valuable contributions extant on the history of the subject. The cataloguing of the most remarkable examples of paranormal phenomena which occurred in the mesmeric state has been done with remarkable care and skill, and with the modesty which is associated with vast erudition.

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These two volumes must become standard works in the history of psychiatry and indeed in the early history of spiritualism.

Volume III is particularly valuable, for access to the literature of hypnosis in Russia, Poland and in the Spanish and Portuguese homelands, colonies and ex-colonies is particularly difficult. Dr. Ludmila Zielinski rightly points out that ideological bias has affected nearly all scientific enquiry in the Soviet Union since 1917, and that the materialist approach does not favour studies of the paranormal. However, it is surprising what she has unearthed. The golden age of animal magnetism occurred in Russia between 1880 and 1890, at a much later stage than in other parts of Europe, but its manifestations were very similar. Aristocratic and middle class patients were fascinated and amused by the process, the usual crop of paranormal experiences were reported and a special journal called *Rebus* was published, somewhat akin to the *Zoist*. In Poland the political situation, and in Italy, Portugal and Spain and Latin America the influence of the Catholic Church all contributed toward the somewhat fragmentary quality of the work that was done, but, although mostly trivial, Dr. Dingwall has done us a service in publishing the data he has gleaned from the literature of all these countries.

Volume IV is another matter, for it deals with the United States and Great Britain, the two countries which, together with France, played the major roles in the study of magnetic phenomena. It is with some reluctance that one has to admit to some disappointment with this particular volume, especially with the section dealing with the United States—the home of Mary Baker Eddy, Phineas Quinby and William James. Nor is the seventy-eight page account of hypnotism in Great Britain at all comprehensive enough for the student of the subject. It is also a great pity that there is not more than a brief summary and conclusions at the end of Volume IV, for a synthesis of the vast amount of interesting material contained in the four volumes would have been invaluable. Despite this, anyone who has worked in this field knows how much has to be read, how difficult the material is to obtain, and how daunting a task it is to put it all down on paper. Dr. Dingwall has left us greatly in his debt for accomplishing what he has, and like all his other books, these volumes will become collectors' pieces, as well as necessities for our libraries.

DENIS LEIGH

Die Würzburger Siebold, by HANS KÖRNER, Leipzig, Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1967, pp. 662, illus., DM.88.

For several decades Dr. Friedrich-Karl von Siebold collected material for the 'Siebold Archives' including all—not necessarily related—families of that name. A study of four unrelated Siebold families was published in 1962 and 1963.

The Würzburg branch of the family, a line which produced many generations of doctors, natural scientists and politicians during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries provided the material for a doctoral thesis in history for Hans Körner, Siebold's nephew. An extended and revised version of this thesis has now appeared as the thirteenth volume in a series of 'Lives of German Naturalists' published by the Leopoldina German Academy of Natural Scientists. This contains meticulously compiled, encyclopaedic details of the genealogy of the Siebold family up to the