

Book Reviews

be rejected as useless by the modern therapist and his critics. If they examine them they will discover that an important common denominator is the devotion and enthusiasm of the individual practising the revolutionary method of treatment. This must surely be the reason for Dr. Issels' apparent successes.

Thomas's book is a biased and emotional polemic, which does not discuss with any authority the substance of the criticisms levelled against Issels. It is surely more important to have this information than details of all the ways in which doctors have opposed him. The attempt to justify Issels' holistic concept of cancer by recruiting the Hippocratic Writers is pitiable. Admittedly the best way of appraising the whole affair is to look at it with historical perspective, but not carefully to select bygone ideas which seem to support a present-day theory.

E. RUTH HARVEY, *The inward wits. Psychological theory in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, London, The Warburg Institute (Warburg Institute Surveys, No. 6), 1975, 8vo, pp. [v], 79, illus., £2.00.

Throughout the Middle Ages and well into the sixteenth century it was held that the psychological functions of commonsense (*sensus communis*, deriving from the special and tactile senses), reasoning, imagination, and memory were located within the brain's ventricles. Ruth Harvey traces the origins of the idea from Nemesius at the end of the fourth century A.D., and discusses it in the light of medical and then philosophical tradition.

Her study is a scholarly one, but defective in several ways. She incorporates into her text a lot of material that is very well known; for example, we are told that Galen was born in Pergamum, etc., etc. Also she demonstrates some naïvety when handling this data. She has omitted a good deal of the "medical" secondary literature and has made a number of errors. Thus she states that, "... Galen handed on a scheme which located the powers of imagination, thought, and memory in the three main cerebral ventricles . . ." (p. 60), but it did not originate with Galen, although he had delineated both the ventricles and the three main psychological functions. Galen was not "... the great Alexandrian master . . ." (p. 29) and would have objected loudly to such an appellation. There is no such structure as the "middle-pan" of the brain; the middle cranial fossa is being referred to.

However, this is the most detailed account in English of the so-called "Cell doctrine" and it may stimulate others to improve on it.

CHARLES LICHTENTHAELER, *Geschichte der Medizin*, 2 vols., Cologne, Deutscher Ärzte Verlag, 1975, 8vo, pp. 736, illus., DM.49.

The renowned medical historian, Professor Lichtenthaeler, is Swiss by birth and now teaches the history of medicine at the Universities of Hamburg and Lausanne. His book is intended for student, doctor, historian, and all those interested in history, and it is claimed to be the first comprehensive textbook of medical history since that of Theodor Meyer—Steinig and Karl Sudhoff published in 1920. There is, however, the outstanding short history by Ackerknecht, first published in English, and then in German in 1959; it is perhaps judged too brief to compete.

The arrangement here is into twenty lectures, from prehistoric magico-religious