

Book Notices

Mirko D Grmek (ed.), *Storia del pensiero medico occidentale*, vol. 1, *Antichità e medioevo*, Rome and Bari, Editori Laterza, 1993, pp. 577 (88–420–4111–4).

For readers of Italian, this volume, the first of three covering the history of medicine from the Greeks to the present day, represents a bargain. The international cast of contributors not only provides an excellent synthesis of the research of others, but frequently offers new or unusual perspectives. The substantial amount of space allotted for the history of medicine before 1500 allows the authors not only to describe the general outlines, but also to choose telling examples and anecdotes to illustrate their own observations. The strength of this volume lies in its delineation of medical ideas—the social and epidemiological background is less well developed—and particularly in its discussions of medieval learned medicine and surgery. The few footnotes are supplemented by a large bibliography, but there are no maps or illustrations.

David Gardner-Medwin, Anne Hargreaves, and Elizabeth Lazenby (eds), *Medicine in Northumbria: essays in the history of medicine*, Newcastle upon Tyne, The Pybus Society for the History and Bibliography of Medicine (c/o The Children's Department, Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6BE), 1993, pp. xiv, 384, illus., £12.00 (0–9522097–0–5).

In *Medicine in Northumbria* the Pybus Society has put together a wholly admirable collection of essays about the growth of medicine in the north-east (though one might have wished for a contribution devoted to the activities and book collection of Frederick Charles Pybus himself). The chronological coverage takes us from 'Health care in the Roman north' (by Lindsay Allason-Jones) through to modern cardiology and a memorial essay for the late Anthony Spriggs, who

himself penned an essay for the volume on John Hutchinson, the inventor of the spirometer. And essays range from famous locals (John Clark, Thomas Trotter and John Snow)—and the somewhat less famous, like George Redmayne Murray, who developed the use of thyroid extract in the treatment of myxoedema—to surveys of medical education and institutions in the Northumbrian region. Proper historical attention to regional characteristics in British medicine is long overdue; this volume provides ample and illuminating materials for the study of an area falling within the force fields both of London and of Edinburgh but possessed of a fierce independence of its own.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

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

Robert H Blank and Andrea L Bonnicksen (eds), *Medicine unbound: the human body and the limits of medical intervention*, Emerging Issues in Biomedical Policy series, New York and Chichester, Columbia University Press, 1994, pp. ix, 287, £33.00 (hardback 0–231–08148–0), £15.00 (paperback 0–231–08149–9).

John Duffy, *From humours to medical science: a history of American medicine*, revised and expanded edition of *The healers* (1976), Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press, 1993, pp. xii, 418, \$42.50 (hardback 0–252–07136–6), \$14.95 (paperback 0–252–06300–7).

F P Dugo, *Fons aquae bonae*, reprint of 1662 edition; *Franciscus Prosper Dugo, Fons aquae bonae: Kommentar*, Freiburg, Deutscher Geschichtsforschender Verein des Kantons, 1993, pp. 113, and 69, illus. (no price given).

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Euthanasia: an edited collection of articles from the Journal of the Christian Medical Fellowship, London Christian Medical Fellowship, 1994, pp. 64, £3.00 (+p&p) (0-906747-29-5), available from CMF, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XN.

Trevor Nuthall, *The Lazaar House, Norwich: from leper hospital to library*, Norwich, Norfolk County Council Library, 1993, pp. 34, illus., £3.95, (0-903181-07-X) (cheques payable to Norfolk County Council; orders to Mr J Rawlings, Earlham Library, Colman Road, Norwich NR4 7HG).

Charles J Smith, *Edinburgh's contribution to medical microbiology*, ed. J G Collee, Publication No. 7, Glasgow, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 1994, pp. vi, 312, illus., £20.00 (paperback 0-9511765-6-0).

Owsei Temkin, *The falling sickness: a history of epilepsy from the Greeks to the beginnings of modern neurology*, 2nd ed. revised, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994, pp. xvi, 467, £20.50 (paperback 0-8018-4849-0).