

Book Reviews

This volume is part of an Arno Press collection entitled 'Perspectives in Psychological Research'. Other authors represented in the collection include Alfred Russel Wallace, F. W. H. Myers, and Hans Driesch.

RÜDIGER ROBERT BEER, *Unicorn. Myth and reality*, translated by Charles M. Stern, New York and London, Ash & Grant, 1977, 8vo, pp. 215, illus., £7.95.

The original versions of this book were published in German. It now appears in an elegant volume with a multitude of illustrations taken from a wide variety of sources, including tapestries, mosaics, and carvings, as well as manuscripts and printed books. In addition to the fascinating text, there is also a 'Commentary on the illustrations', a bibliography, and a meagre index.

For thousands of years the mythical unicorn has been of great interest and it continues to be so. This lengthy story is traced by the author, from Ancient India to twentieth-century poetry. Its varying image, its symbolism and supposed physical form, the legends associated with it, and the therapeutic value of its horn, are all dealt with in a scholarly manner.

The books in English on the unicorn are few, so that this one is a valuable addition to the literature on fabled beasts.

MICHAEL FLINN (editor), *Scottish population history from the seventeenth century to the 1930s*, Cambridge University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxv, 547, £19.50.

A group of seven scholars have produced this excellent book. They first of all give a general survey, and then discuss sources and methods. Thereafter three parts deal with population in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A final section considers population movements.

Their work is unique, for little detailed study has been carried out in this area. They base it entirely on original sources, using computer-aided techniques to handle their material. But this is not just a collection of data, for the authors have provided searching interpretations of them and they have integrated their findings with their wide and deep knowledge of Scottish social and economic history. Bills of mortality, famine, bubonic plague, smallpox, causes of death, and the demographic influence of the potato are the main medical matters under consideration.

Professor Flinn and his colleagues should be congratulated on producing a book which will be much in demand. It will become a classic of its kind, and it is to be hoped that it will stimulate other groups to produce similar regional demographic histories. It is a pity, therefore, that the price is so high and the paper and format so poor.

PETER LASLETT, *Family life and illicit love in earlier generations*, Cambridge University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. [vi], 270, £15.00.

Mr. Laslett is Director of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, and he believes that of the various approaches to the increasingly popular topic, the history of the family, the quantitative is the most valuable. To illustrate this he has collected together seven essays, most of which are based on papers published elsewhere or presented at conferences. From masses of data collected