

## Book Notices

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J. R. HAY, *The origins of Liberal welfare reforms 1906–1914*, London, Macmillan, 1975, 8vo, pp. 78, 85p. (paperback).

The Liberal government of 1906 to 1914 introduced old-age pensions, insurance against illness and unemployment, school meals and medical services for children. From the point of view of the social and economic historian this remarkable series of reforms is of great interest, and the reasons for it have never been adequately explained. The purpose of the author's excellent book is to explore the complex origins of these enlightened measures. It also provides an excellent background survey for the medical historian studying the social history of medicine and for this purpose it can be unreservedly recommended. It is brief, well written, adequately documented, and cheap.

ERWIN BÜNNING, *Wilhelm Pfeffer. Apotheker, Chemiker, Botaniker, Physiologe 1845–1920*, Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1975, 8vo, pp. 166, illus., DM.27.50.

Professor Bünning's excellent biography is volume 37 of the well-known series *Grosse Naturforscher*. Pfeffer, who worked mainly in Tübingen and Leipzig, is usually accepted as the founder of experimental botany, and by means of his writings and students he had great influence in Europe, America and Japan. His activities, however, were not confined to plant physiology, for he began his career by practising pharmacy, and by means of his osmometer he prepared the way for van't Hoff's revolutionary theory of solutions. He was also concerned with biological membranes, with bacteria and enzyme systems, and their ability to differentiate qualitatively between particular substances, a concept not revived until 1960.

Pfeffer was, therefore, an outstanding biologist and Dr. Bünning has provided us with a well-written, well-balanced and fully documented account of his life and work. There are also lists of his publications and students, and biographical notes on important persons mentioned in the text are most useful, especially those concerning lesser-known German scientists. The high standards of this series are amply maintained.

JEAN ENSELME, *Mort et maladies à l'aube de l'humanité*, Lyons, Editions Camugli, 1973, 8vo, pp. viii, 187, illus., [no price stated].

The first two parts of this book provide a general introduction to the palaeolithic and mesolithic periods, and to the lesions discovered in the remains of examples of man deriving from these eras, as well as detailing the surviving skeletal material in each instance. Evidence of hydrocephalus, trephining, bone injury, mastoiditis, arthritis, dental disease, congenital anomalies, and of other disorders have been encountered. The final section deals with the lesions in greater detail and they are grouped according to etiology: traumatic, infectious, and "rheumatic"; obesity and miscellaneous disorders, mainly dental maladies, are also discussed. There is a useful bibliography and a number of illustrations. Although there is little new in this book, it conveniently brings together information on prehistoric palaeopathology, and for this reason it will be a valuable reference source.

### Book Notices

ZENA STEIN, MERVYN SUSSER, GERHART SAENGER and FRANCIS MAROLLA, *Famine and human development. The Dutch hunger winter of 1944–1945*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xx, 284, £4.50 (paperback).

Towards the end of World War II the Germans cut off food supplies entering Holland in retaliation for a strike by Dutch railway workers, with the production of severe famine conditions in a large part of the country, including Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. The American authors of this book have made use of the excellent statistics and records available, in order to survey the effects of malnutrition on children conceived and born during the famine. Infecundity, premature birth, low birth weight, peri- or neo-natal death, and hydrocephalus or spina bifida with consequent fatal meningitis resulted. However, among the survivors there was no evidence that prenatal malnutrition of the nervous system resulted in adult mental retardation. Thus poor foetal nutrition cannot be considered a factor in the social distribution of mental ability among surviving adults in industrial societies, a conclusion as important to the historian as it is to the modern social scientist. Although there is a preponderance of technical material in this book it deserves attention in view of its relevance to the effects of famines and malnutrition in earlier periods. Reference should have been made to the classic paper by Ladurie on famine amenorrhoea and its demographic influences.

JOSEPH S. FRUTON, *Selected bibliography of biographical data for the history of biochemistry since 1800*, Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society Library (Library publication No. 6), 1974, 4to, pp. viii, 140, \$2.50.

As a side-product of Professor Fruton's outstanding *Molecules and life* (New York, 1972), this book presents references to biographical material on most of the individuals who have taken part in the development of the interplay between chemistry and biology since 1800. No living scientists are included. It is a most useful contribution to an era of the history of medicine where there has been little historical research. In addition, many of the persons included were active in other parts of the medical and biological sciences, so that Dr. Fruton's list will be widely used. He has provided a most useful research tool.

PHILIP P. WIENER and JOHN FISHER (editors), *Violence and aggression in the history of ideas*, New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xl, 273, \$15.00.

In June 1972 an International Conference on Violence and Aggression was held at Temple University and it brought together a wide variety of scholars from many countries, including experts in religion, sociology, anthropology, economics, political thought, and in the history of philosophy. The seventeen essays which make up this book were presented to the group, but they were handled in a unique fashion. After delivery they were analysed and disputed and eventually revised or affirmed in the light of these critical discussions. They are printed here, occasionally with a brief addendum defending or refuting and commenting on methods of coping with the future. Most of them are fully documented; in a series of articles on diverse topics an index would have been helpful.

### Book Notices

Dr. Wiener in the 'Introduction' draws attention to the value of the historical dimension and with it learning ". . . something from mankind's past experiences, sufferings, and errors." (p. x). Most of the essays deal with political aspects of violence and aggression, but as these are human attributes frequently exercised, it is reasonable that the historian of medicine, whose central concern is man, should know of this scholarly symposium. Thus the psychological and anthropological aspects are worthy of note and there is, for example, a paper on 'Paternalism and violence' which provides an excellent historical introduction to the present-day problem of the "battered baby".

W. H. THORPE, *Animal nature and human nature*, London, Methuen, 1974, 8vo, pp. xviii, 435, illus., £7.20.

The author is Emeritus Professor of Animal Ethology in the University of Cambridge and in these his Gifford Lectures he attempts to construct a synthetic view of the nature of man and animals, based on physiology, ethology, genetics, psychology and philosophy. The first section is on animal behaviour, and the second discusses the problem of whether man's traits are a natural extension of those of animals. Those uniquely human are dealt with in particular, and the problem of present-day man's responsibility for the whole evolutionary theory is outlined. Provocative arguments such as whether culture has produced man's distinctive anatomy or vice versa are considered and the relationships of philosophy and religion to biology receive sympathetic attention.

The historian of medicine is concerned primarily with the history of man, and as a brilliant present-day synthetic view of his nature and that of animals by an ethologist, this book can be strongly recommended.

AMALIA PRIETO CANTERO, *Bachilleres medicos graduados en la Universidad de Valladolid (1546-1870) con datos de sus licenciamientos y doctoramientos*, Valladolid, 1974 (*Acta Historico-Medica Vallisoletana, Monografias IV*), 8vo, pp. 228 [no price stated].

The author lists alphabetically the 2,426 medical graduates of the University of Valladolid between 1546 and 1870. Although a medical faculty was founded in 1404 there are no records before 1546. Each entry gives place of birth, precise date of graduation and a reference to where the individual's name appears in the university records. There is also a topographical index based on birth-places, Burgos, Calahorra, León, Osma, Palencia, Salamanca, Segovia, Toledo and, of course, Valladolid being the most frequently cited. A chronological index shows that apart from eighteen graduates in 1547, twenty-six in 1563, seventeen in 1777, sixteen in 1780, and eighteen in 1827, the annual number between 1546 and 1835 was fifteen or fewer, usually less than ten. A third list deals with additional information for some of the foregoing entries.

This provides a useful research tool and it is to be hoped that eventually all universities will publish such registers.

### Book Notices

EDYTHE LUTZKER, *Edith Pechey-Phipson, M.D. The story of England's foremost pioneering woman doctor*, New York, Exposition Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. xviii, 259, illus., \$7.50.

Edith Pechey (1845–1908) is, despite the sub-title of this book, one of the lesser-known British women who fought for the emancipation of the female in medicine. She studied at Edinburgh and then, with Sophia Jex-Blake and Annie Clark, at the University of Berne, where she was graduated M.D. in 1877. From then to the end of her life she campaigned for women's rights and for the adequate medical care of women and children. She spent most of her time in India furthering the latter aim.

In tracing her career the author depicts the long-drawn-out storming of the exclusively male citadel of medicine, and as well as providing a sympathetic biography of a devoted pioneer, she makes a useful contribution to the history of female medical education and of the role of women in medicine.

ALAN BURGESS, *Daylight must come. The story of Dr. Helen Roseveare*, London, Michael Joseph, 1975, 8vo, pp. 279, illus., £3.95.

The author presents a dramatized account of a British medically-qualified missionary who spent eighteen years in the Congo, or Zaire as it now is, from 1953. During the crises of 1960 and 1964 she preferred to stay at her work, thus suffering terror, humiliation, rape, and almost death. Despite these experiences she elected to return to Africa to continue her devoted labours. As the record of a war-torn country and of a remarkable woman imbued with faith, humanity, determination and humour, this book makes excellent reading. It also documents the very recent medical history of an African country beset by war, pillage and horror, and the methods employed to cope with the medical problems of an emerging people.

L. G. GRAMLING, *A history of pharmacy in Florida*, Gainesville, Florida, Ewing Printing, 1973, 8vo, pp. [12 11.], 225, illus., paperback, [no price stated].

Organized pharmacy in Florida dates from 1887 with the establishment of a state association of pharmacists. Dr. Gramling's book begins with this event and traces developments up to 1972. Then individual topics such as early pharmacy laws, pharmacy education, wholesale drug houses, hospital pharmacy, etc., are dealt with. It is a comprehensive survey packed with information, but intended for domestic consumption.

BARRY E. CHRISTOPHERS, *A list of the published works of Frederick Wood Jones 1879–1954*, Melbourne, Greensborough Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xxxiii, illus., \$(Australian)7.50.

The 362 items listed (1900–1968) are preceded by three sketches of Wood Jones' life by Sir Arthur Keith, Professor Sir Wilfred E. Le Gros Clark and by Professor Sir Sydney Sunderland and Professor K. F. Russell. They include articles and books on anatomy, archaeology, evolutionary theory, embryology, anthropology, clinical problems, zoology, and palaeontology. It is useful to have this list for it reminds us of a renowned and versatile anatomist, and it provides references to those articles published in obscure periodicals which would otherwise be overlooked.

### Book Notices

HELEN M. CHEW and WILLIAM KELLAWAY, *London Assize of Nuisance 1301–1431. A calendar*, (London Record Publications, Volume X for the year 1974), London, London Record Society, 1973, 8vo, pp. xxxiv, 221, £4.50.

An assize of nuisance was a freeholders' court of appeal to consider disputes between neighbours brought about by buildings, party walls, ditches, pools, gutters, privies, etc., the damage produced being visible and the kind condemned by law. After 1301 there is ample evidence in the rolls of how the assize operated. The editors give an ample introduction and then list the cases chronologically. They are of great interest to the legal practitioner, but they also tell us a good deal about the houses of fourteenth-century London, their construction, sanitary arrangements, and about the inhabitants themselves and their attitudes to their neighbours. This book will therefore be of interest to the historian of medieval medicine, medicine in society, and to those concerned with the history of housing and public health.

RICHARD M. EAKIN, *Great scientists speak again*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. viii, 119, illus., £4.50.

Finding that the traditional type of lecture was becoming less and less popular, Professor Eakin of the University of California at Berkeley was able to revitalize his course on general animal biology by personally playing the role of outstanding biologists. Thus he introduced the work of Harvey, Beaumont, Spemann (German embryologist and Nobel Laureate), Mendel, Pasteur and Darwin by donning the appropriate costume and make-up and demonstrating their vital experiments and, or, arguments. Films have been made of his innovation and the script he has prepared for each of his characters forms the substance of this book, together with photographs of his impressions, and a useful list of annotated books and articles for concurrent and further reading.

Professor Eakin has devised an excellent ruse to cajole students into attending lectures, and others with aspirations for the stage may wish to emulate him. If, however, a technique like this has to be used to attract an audience, there is surely something gravely amiss with our methods of teaching and communicating.

BARBARA EHRENREICH and DEIDRE ENGLISH, *Witches, midwives and nurses*.

*A history of women healers*, New York; The Feminist Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. 47, \$1.25.

BARBARA EHRENREICH and DEIDRE ENGLISH, *Complaints and disorders*.

*The sexual politics of sickness*, New York, The Feminist Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. 94, illus., \$1.75.

"The Feminist Press is a non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and publishing group organized to challenge sexual stereotypes in books and schools and libraries." As one would expect, these pamphlets are heavily biased. The first, although claimed by a publication entitled *Vaginal politics* to be "the best work I have read on the subject", is in fact an exceedingly slender effort. The second has been researched better; it has a bibliography appended and excellent illustrations. It deals with the role of women in the American health care system during the nineteenth and the present centuries, and the treatment of women. It is certainly worthy of perusal.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Scarecrow Press Inc., publishers of *Thomas Dover's life and legacy* edited by Dr. Kenneth Dewhurst (see review in *Med. Hist.*, 1976, 20: 88), would like to point out that there is an error in it: a number of pages from the end of the book were not included in the facsimile reprint. A new printing has now been prepared, and this will be offered without cost in exchange for an imperfect copy.

This unfortunate error should not, however, detract from the excellence of the series of reprints to which the book belongs.

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BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

FOCION FEBRES-CORDERO, *Ciertas practicas odontologicas de los Aborigenes del Nuevo Mundo*, Caracas, reprinted from Proceedings of the Second Venezuelan Congress on the History of Medicine (2 October 1974), pp. 54, illus., [no price stated].

MELANIE KLEIN, *Collected writings*. Vol. 1: *Love, guilt and reparation and other works 1921–1945*, pp. xi, 468, £6.50; Vol. 3: *Envy, gratitude and other works 1946–1963*, pp. vii, 365, £6.00. London, Hogarth Press, 1975.

ERNA LESKY and HELMUT WYKCLICKY (editors), 'Eine Epoche österreichischer Medizin 1900–1930', *Österreichische Ärzte Zeitung*, special number 1975, [no price stated].

*Specialized futures. Essays in honour of Sir George Godber, G.C.B.*, London, published for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust by the Oxford University Press, 1975, pp. xiii, 295, £6.00.

WALTER ZIMMERMANN, *Evolution. Geschichte ihrer Probleme und Erkenntnisse*, Munich, Karl Alber, 1953, pp. ix, 623 [no price stated].