

### Book Reviews

JOHN Z. BOWERS and ELIZABETH F. PURCELL (editors), *Advances in American medicine: essays at the Bicentennial*, 2 vols., New York, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 1976, 8vo, pp. viii, 918, illus., \$25.00.

For these excellent commemorative volumes the editors have gathered together nineteen solicited essays by distinguished medical men, all but two being American. Each is a comprehensive survey of the development in the United States of a medical topic, with extensive documentation and fulsome indices. Most parts of medicine are represented: human genetics, infectious diseases (microbiology), metabolism and endocrinology, neoplasia, undergraduate and graduate medical education, medical care, public health and preventive medicine, immunology, the heart and lungs, pathology, the neurosciences, surgery, the origins of medicinals, biomedical communications and 'The federal impact on biomedical research'. There are also two essays on non-American viewpoints, British and Swedish.

It is fascinating to read how many have been the advances achieved, mainly in the last century. During the previous one hundred years American medicine had depended heavily on Britain, France and Germany, in that chronological order. The relatively short period of time necessary for this nation to reach such a high order of excellence in medicine is remarkable, and the anthology presented here gives a detailed and authoritative account of it. Although the articles often deal with highly technical material, they can, nevertheless, be read by the layman as well as by the professional. They provide, and will continue to provide for some years, a most important source-book for the history of recent American medicine. But it is not only a mine of information, it also presents a stimulating record of an admirable achievement. The editors, the contributors, and the Macy Foundation deserve praise and thanks for offering us all this at a very modest price by present-day standards. Their book will be of the greatest value to medical historians and no-one who is studying nineteenth- and twentieth-century medicine will be able to ignore it.

RICHARD I. EVANS, *Konrad Lorenz. The man and his ideas*, London, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975, 8vo, pp. xviii, 302, [no price stated].

Nearly half of this book consists of reprints of four classical papers by Lorenz (pp. 129–269). The rest is a transcript of five interviews with him, when subjects such as ethology and imprinting, ethological interpretations of motivation, aggression reconsidered, some psychological concepts and issues, and reflections on contemporary issues, his critics and the future, were the topics of conversation. There is also an analytical review of Lorenz's work and his reactions to it. At the end there is a list of his major published works and a useful bibliography.

The author is a psychologist and has been able, mainly by the use of oral history, to capture the essence of Konrad Lorenz's contribution to biology. But in addition a good deal of his personality is revealed and his thoughts on current problems of sex, violence, pornography, love, homosexuality, war and peace, etc., are especially revealing. Throughout there are historical allusions and data. This excellent book offers an immediate service by providing information about ethology and one of its most distinguished practitioners. It will also be an important document in the future for the historical evaluation of each of them.