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CATHERINE ROBERTS, *Science, animals, and evolution. Reflections on some unrealized potentials of biology and medicine*, Westport, Conn., and London, Greenwood Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. xv, 221, £10.95.

This book, most of which is based on previously published articles, is a plea for holistic science founded on a kind of mystical Christian Platonism. The author seems to be in favour of certain aspects of biological research but is essentially opposed to vivisection and many medical measures aimed at prolonging life. These latter include transplantation surgery against which Dr. Roberts has a particular vendetta as an “unnatural” activity artificially lengthening life beyond its “natural” limits. She is also violently opposed to anthropocentric humanistic ethics. In fact, the author apparently finds much of modern life alien, and while her book raises a number of important ethical issues in science and medicine, her own idiosyncratic solutions are not argued with much cogency.

ALAN KROHN, *Hysteria: the elusive neurosis*, New York, International Universities Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. ix, 343, \$25.00.

This monograph, by a psychologist and psychoanalyst, challenges the notion that hysteria is a disease which, though common in earlier times, has largely disappeared in this age of sexual liberation. Rather, Krohn asserts that hysteria is a character disorder which takes on culturally specific forms. In Victorian Britain and America, this generally manifested itself in conversion hysteria with definite physical symptoms such as paralysis or anaesthesias. Today, with changes in cultural values, child-rearing practices, and limits of socially acceptable behaviour, hysterics more commonly embody “neurotic” traits such as excessive passivity, narcissism, and dependence. Krohn’s historical thesis, although argued only schematically, is thought-provoking, for it synthesizes psychoanalytical and social elements into an integral whole. The book in addition contains a clear exposition of Freud’s developing views on hysteria, along with an analysis of contemporary psychological and psychoanalytical work on the condition.

ROGER SHATTUCK, *The forbidden experiment. The story of the Wild Boy of Aveyron*. London, Secker & Warburg, 1980, 8vo, pp. xi, 220, £6.95.

The Wild Boy of Aveyron, who walked out of the woods near the village of Saint-Sernin in Southern France in January 1800, into civilization and scrutiny, also walked into the history books. Lucien Malson and Harlan Lane have recently written scholarly accounts of the attempts by French intellectuals and scientists in the Paris Society of Observers of Man both to categorize and to civilize the mute savage, who seemed to want to have no more to do with society than eat and sleep. Roger Shattuck’s new book is essentially a popularized narrative of the events, engagingly written but contributing nothing new. His book, however, does usefully underline the full irony of the Wild Boy’s fate. Having survived successfully in the woods for several years, and lived with Occitan villagers for some months, he was summoned up to Paris by the intellectuals, as putative raw material for their social experimentation, almost immediately labelled an idiot, and consigned to institutionalized neglect (before being taken up by Dr. Jean Itard). Mythologists of noble savages really did look a gift savage in the mouth.

HOWARD W. HAGGARD, *Devils, drugs and doctors*, Boston, Mass., Charles Rivers Books, 1980, 8vo, pp. xxii, 405, illus., £10.00

Howard Haggard’s *Devils, drugs and doctors* (1929) was an exceptionally popular introduction to the history of medicine. Arranged topically rather than chronologically, the book touched on many topics, including childbirth, plague, and aseptic surgery. Unfortunately, the scholarship is now rather outdated, although Dr. Haggard’s chatty style and the many illustrations make for good light entertainment.

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EUGENE DEBS ROBIN (editor), *Claude Bernard and the internal environment. A memorial symposium*, New York and Basle, Marcel Dekker, 1979, 8vo, pp. xvi, 299, illus., S.Fr. 72.00.

Claude Bernard continues to excite widespread adulation and occasional contextual analysis. This memorial volume, based on a symposium held exactly a year after his death (12 February 1878) is eulogistic in tone, although some of the papers are based on fresh research on Bernard himself and others contain useful summaries of subsequent physiological research deriving from Bernard's ideas. Outstanding among the first group is André Cournand's analysis of Bernard's contribution to cardiac physiology, while the papers of the late François Morel, Pierre Dejours, and Hermann Rahn on osmoregulation, respiration, and acid-base balance are exemplars of the latter approach. On balance, the volume will appeal more to scientists than historians; like scientific symposia it reproduces verbatim discussions which only rarely contain new insights. Although reasonably produced and nicely illustrated, the book's utility is hampered by the absence of an index.

R. W. RIEBER (editor) *Wilhelm Wundt and the making of a scientific psychology*, New York and London, Plenum Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. xii, 252, illus., \$24.50.

Although Wundt is a familiar name to historians of medicine, detailed studies in English on his life and work are scarce. The standard source for an introduction to his thought has long been E. G. Boring's *A history of experimental psychology*, first published in 1929. Boring's account was a faithful representation of Wundt's work as it was enlisted into the associationist tradition in America. This collection of essays and extracts from Wundt's writings seeks to elucidate his work in the German context and to demonstrate and explain its hybrid American form. In both of these enterprises it is successful, displaying how deeply Wundt's thought relied on German philosophical tradition and how, necessarily, it was at odds with Anglo-American empiricism and pragmatism. Arthur L. Blumenthal's excellent "Wundt and early American psychology" shows, nevertheless, how it was that Wundt's experimental methods were easily appropriated by young American psychologists to measure Lockean sensations and habits even though they were devised to study volitions. Similarly, most of the pieces show how Wundt's concept of "apperception" underwent facile manipulation to mean merely a distinct sensation. This work has importance beyond its application to the history of psychology since it is an important study of how disciplines write their own history. One can only wonder, however, whether this book, which in itself is a rewriting of the history of psychology in America, is a sign that current American psychology is changing direction and thus crucifying some of its ancestors and raising up others.

SARA JOSEPHINE BAKER, *Fighting for life*, Huntington, N.Y., Robert E. Krieger, 1980, (original ed., 1939), 8vo, pp. xxiv, 272, illus., [no price stated].

Sara Josephine Baker's autobiography is a gem of a historical document. First, it is an interesting primary source in that Dr. Baker speaks extensively about her own work as a practising physician in New York, a part-time medical inspector for the city health department, and especially, of course, as Chief of the Division of Child Hygiene. Dr. Baker explains what she did, how she managed to do it, her successes, and also her difficulties. Fortunately, however, she did not confine her autobiography to a chronological reconstruction of her life. *Fighting for life* is also a shrewd assessment of the political situation in New York and of the social mores of the times in which she lived. A minimum number of maudlin self-serving stories, and a wealth of information about the experience of a woman physician coping with the political and medical realities of child welfare work in New York City, during the first third of this century, make this a highly recommended book.

This reprint is prefaced by a brief introductory essay (with references and notes) by Patricia C. Kuszler and Charles G. Roland giving a concise account of Dr. Baker's life and career, and ends with a complete list of her publications in both the professional and lay press.

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GEORGE PETER MURDOCK, *Theories of illness: a world survey*, Pittsburgh, Pa., University of Pittsburgh Press, 1980, 8vo. pp. xv, 127, \$9.95.

This small book on a large subject is by an elder statesman of American anthropology. In it, Murdock surveys, largely in tabular form, beliefs about the causation of illness in 139 cultures scattered throughout the world. Most human societies have traditionally attributed illness to the operation of supernatural agencies such as witchcraft, sorcery, spirit aggression, etc. Using ethnographic information gathered by field anthropologists, Murdock correlates the finer details of beliefs about illness with other cultural parameters such as child-rearing practice, the possession of writing, sexual mores, and the level of economic development. His method permits only the establishment of general tendencies, but some of these are intriguing. For instance, pastoral cultures tend to favour spirit aggression theories, as do societies which possess writing. Sorcery theories were more important among North and South American natives than elsewhere, and witchcraft theories can be correlated with patrilineage and with social stratification into classes or castes. Murdock gives us the results without much of the evidence, but a full bibliography arranged by culture permits those interested to evaluate his evidence. For non-anthropologists and those who are not certain of the difference between the Trobrianders and the Tikopia, a larger, more discursive book would have been more useful. But even in its terse format, Murdock's monograph presents much food for thought.

The Morris H. Saffron Collection of books on historical medicine. A short title catalogue, Newark, N.J., George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, 1981, pp.70, illus.

Collections of old and valuable medical books often lurk unused in unlikely places. It is all the more praiseworthy that the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey should have published swiftly a short title catalogue of the Morris H. Saffron Collection, presented to it by the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. The catalogue contains 528 entries of works published before 1900, 212 of which antedate 1800. The earliest is a 1517 printing of Savonarola's *Practica de febribus*, and the major medical authors are well represented, although Aristotle would blush to find himself unequivocally recorded as the author of *Aristotle's masterpiece*.

This catalogue can be obtained on application to: Victor A. Basile, George F. Smith Library, College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, 100 Bergen St., Newark, New Jersey 07013. We hope that it will serve not only to acknowledge the existence of these volumes but also to restore them to the use of medical historians.

STANLEY JOEL REISER, *Medicine and the reign of technology*, Cambridge University Press, 1978, pp. xi, 317, illus., £5.95 (paperback).

This exceptionally useful book (reviewed *Med. Hist.*, 1979, 23: 237-38) is now happily available in soft covers. In its new incarnation (and price) it should find its way on to many shelves.

CHARLES-EDWARD AMORY WINSLOW, *The conquest of epidemic disease: a chapter in the history of ideas*, Madison and London, University of Wisconsin Press, 1980, pp. viii, 411, [no price stated], (paperback).

This paperback facsimile reprint of C.-E. A. Winslow's classic (1943) history of the concept of infection and the development of bacteriology and public health is much welcomed. Its present-day value would have been much enhanced by a new introduction, setting Winslow's work in its historiographical context and giving a select bibliography of work on the subject published since 1943.

PETER KÖPP, *Vademecum eines frühmittelalterlichen Aerztes*, Aarau, Frankfurt, and Salzburg, Verlag Sauerländer, 1980, 8vo, pp. 128, illus., S.Fr. 28.00.

This is a very valuable and competent transcription, with notes, of a fragmentary handbook on medicine, written in Northern Italy, possibly at Bobbio, in the ninth century. Its surviving pages are to be found in two libraries at St. Gall in Switzerland, and they are here assembled together in the right order. Dr. Köpp has also provided photographs of each page, and a

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German translation of the whole text. Other scholars may now attempt to set this important manuscript in its historical and cultural context and use it to explore the fascinating story of the survival of Greek learning among the barbarians of Northern Italy.

GUGLIELMO LÜTZENKIRCHEN, *Saggio di bibliografia sulla scuola medica salernitana*, (Centro studi e documentazione della scuola medica salernitana, Quaderni 1), Salerno, 1980, 8vo, pp. [24], [no price stated], (paperback).

FABIO TRONCARELLI, *Catalogo della mostra fotografica*, (Centro studi e documentazione della scuola medica salernitana, Quaderni 2), Salerno, 1980, 8vo, pp. [34], illus., [no price stated], (paperback).

These two little booklets, a bibliography of work done in the last thirty years on the medical school of Salerno, and an illustrated catalogue of an exhibition held in 1980, are the first fruits of a new Centre, dedicated to the study of the history of the medical school from its foundation until its closure by Joachim Murat. They are a happy augury for the Centre's success.

LILLIAN FEDER, *Madness in literature*, Princeton, N.J., and Guildford, Surrey, Princeton University Press, 1980, 8vo, pp. xvi, 331, £9.80.

In the absence of any similar treatments, Dr. Feder's attempt to survey the theme of madness in literature from *The Bacchae* to Sylvia Plath is brave and sometimes stimulating. Unfortunately its ambition outstrips its achievement. Dr. Feder seems to dabble indiscriminately in description, literary criticism, retrospective psychoanalysis of writers, and exploration of the archetypal resources and functions of madness. Sometimes she is chiefly interested in the artistic uses of madness; sometimes in the artist as madman (e.g. Christopher Smart); sometimes in the illumination of madness by art. It is all rather a hotch-potch, made worse by the arbitrariness in choice of the writers considered (lots about Thomas Tryon, almost nothing about Burton), and the fact that Dr. Feder's style is largely to write through dialogue with other scholars. The exposition of intellectual, cultural, and social context which would have given the book backbone is almost entirely absent. Yet if this book fails as a survey, many of its discussions of individual authors are learned and lively, the analysis of the Dionysiac tradition in the contemporary Nigerian playwright Wole Soyinka being particularly stimulating.

HERBERT H. LANG (editor), *Pat Nixon of Texas: autobiography of a doctor*, College Station and London, Texas A & M University Press, 1979, 8vo, pp. xi, 288, illus., \$13.50.

Pat Ireland Nixon (1883–1965) practised surgery and medicine in San Antonio, Texas, for nearly fifty years. A local figure of some substance, he was more generally known as the historian of the Texas Medical Association and other aspects of Texas medicine. This autobiography, introduced and edited by H. H. Lang, shows Nixon as a rather saintly but self-satisfied, non-smoking, non-drinking, and politically conservative man for whom socialized medicine was the work of the devil. Of himself: "I have had a conscious, unutterably assuring feeling that I am one of God's Elect." Of his diaries, kept as a medical student: "... the comments and observations show evidences of serious purpose and mature thought." Of F. D. Roosevelt: "... a tremendous political and moral imposter." Of William Osler: "... the greatest physician who ever lived." Much of this book will probably be of limited interest, although a long section describing Nixon's student days at Johns Hopkins Medical School and his comments on setting up his medical practice are rewarding.

C. M. CIPOLLA, *Fighting the plague in seventeenth-century Italy*, Madison and London, University of Wisconsin Press, 1981, 8vo, pp. xi, 123, £8.00 (£2.95 paperback).

These elegant lectures continue to display their author's wit and insight. They consider the problems of fighting a disease without a true aetiology, an early attempt (1652–6) at international standardization of procedures against plague by Florence and Genoa, and the outbreak

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of plague at Pistoia in 1630–1. Here, despite a high mortality in the pesthouses, the overall mortality is surprisingly low, 1.5 per cent, and certainly less than 3.5 per cent of the total population, as compared with 12 per cent at Florence, 25 per cent at Prato, and 61 per cent at Verona in the same epidemic. In the rural areas around Empoli, some parishes had no fatalities, while others lost almost half their inhabitants. This is an epidemic puzzle on which the excellent appendix of Renaissance ideas on plague throws little light. At its paperback price, this book is a bargain not to be missed.

M. A. SCREECH, *Ecstasy and the praise of folly*, London, Duckworth, 1980, 8vo, pp. xxiv, 267, £24.00.

This learned and subtle book, an exposition of the ending of Erasmus's *The praise of folly* (1511), reminds us that madness can take many forms, and that the ecstasy of the religious, the ignorance of the fool, and the inspiration of the poet have all been seen, described, and even explained in terms of medical insanity. This is humane scholarship at its best, but at an inhuman price.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list 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.)

Bibliography of the history of medicine, No. 15, 1979, Bethesda, Md., National Library of Medicine (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), 1981, 4to, pp. x, 924, lxxii, [no price stated], (paperback).

Conferencias y Estudios de Historia y Organización de la Ciencia, La Habana, Cuba, Museo Histórico de las Ciencias Carlos J. Finlay, 1979–80, Nos. 11, 13, 16.

DAVID DELVIN, *A patient's guide to operations*, Harmondsworth, Middx., Penguin Books, 1981, 8vo, pp. 329, £1.95 (paperback).

JOSE LOPEZ SANCHEZ and ZOE DE LA TORRIENTE BRAU, *Bibliografía científica cubana (1790–1848)*, La Habana, Cuba, Museo Histórico de las Ciencias Carlos J. Finlay, 1979, 4to, pp. 176, [no price stated].