

### Book Reviews

global incidence of diseases and the geographical and social environmental factors influencing each of them, there is a small amount of historical data in some of the sections. Tropical and infectious diseases, industrial lung disease, drug abuse, cardiovascular disease, mental disorders and mental subnormality, malignant and deficiency diseases are discussed in twenty chapters, but there are no sections on neurological or rheumatic disorders. Thus, although intended for those concerned with present-day medical problems, it will be of value to the historian who wishes to read an authoritative review of the geography of a specific disease. For this it can be strongly recommended.

DAVID GRYLLES, *Guardians and angels. Parents and children in nineteenth-century literature*, London, Faber & Faber, 1978, 8vo, pp. 211, £6.50.

The author explores the relations between parent and child in the nineteenth century and their origins, by examining the literature of the period. He shows that everyday thought about children consisted eventually of a "Romantic" perspective, detectable in adult and children's books. By "Romantic" he means the attitude that romanticized the child as incapable of doing evil. Gradually the child was able to emancipate itself with the decline in parental control, despite the traditional view of the dictatorial Victorian father still held today.

Dr. Grylls deals mainly with Jane Austen, Dickens, Butler, and Gosse, and no doubt critics will contest this selection and the other authors he draws upon, or does not. He cites extensively, but unfortunately does not document his quotations. Nevertheless, his book can be recommended as another useful contribution to Victorian life, against which the history of medicine must be cast.

BRYAN GANDEVIA, *Tears often shed: child health and welfare in Australia from 1788*, Rushcutters Bay, Australia, and Oxford, Pergamon Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. 151, illus., [no price stated].

Dr Bryan Gandevia's contributions to the history of Australian medicine will be known to readers of this journal, since his articles have sometimes appeared in *Medical History*. Many of his publications, however, have come out in various Australian medical journals not routinely read by medical historians, so this present monograph will be particularly welcome. Most of Gandevia's historical work has been concerned with health and disease in their broadest manifestations, and the same generous approach characterizes this history of child health and welfare in Australia from the landing of the First Fleet in Botany Bay, January 1788, until the very recent past. Although Australia was primarily a convict colony until the middle of the nineteenth century, from the very beginning there were both convict children and the offspring of deported adults. During this period Australia acquired a reputation as a healthy place for children. Statistics are not completely reliable, but some figures for settlements in the western part of the colony suggest that, between 1842 and 1848, infant mortality ranged between four and ten per cent, roughly one-third the comparable rate in England. Gandevia analyses this phenomenon and points out that the major factor was the virtual absence of epidemic viral diseases such as measles and influenza. These viruses were generally unable to survive the long voyages from England, or if they did, were unable to remain endemic in the sparsely-populated