

Book Reviews

an intellectual giant; quite possibly he was not. It does not alter the fact that several very astute successors have been standing on his shoulders, including Pasteur who in 1881, at the height of his career, had no qualms at all about acknowledging his debt to Jenner.

Paradoxically the present volume leaves a reader who had no illusions about Jenner—as nobody who has read for example Dixon's balanced account in *Smallpox* need have—with a desire to defend him. But at the somewhat surprising price of £10 for little more than 100 paper-bound pages with no illustrations (by way of comparison, Beveridge's lively and informative 124 pages on influenza including more than a dozen illustrations, which has appeared almost simultaneously, is available for a mere £2.95) the book is perhaps not likely to influence a wide readership.

CHARLES E. ROSENBERG (editor), *The family in history*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. vii, 208, \$10.00.

The six essays published here were presented to the first Stephen Allen Kaplan Memorial Symposium in social history. They illuminate an area of study which is growing rapidly, and although unequal in quality they add to the increasing accumulation of scholarship on an important, but so far neglected, topic. Articles on the upper-class family in China prior to the nineteenth century and on 'Domestic ideas and social behaviour: evidence from medieval Genoa' are of particular value for they discuss little-known subjects and are based on materials not previously widely available. The final piece is on 'Dr. Spock: the confidence man' and it analyses the writings of a man responsible and influenced by a changing pattern of child-rearing in twentieth-century America.

The essays are well written, with full documentation, but the typographical errors are too frequent and the italic type too faint.

ROBERT FORSTER and OREST RANUM (editors), *Family and society. Selections from the "Annales Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations"*, Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. x, 261, £2.75 (paperback).

The editors present the second volume of translations from the prestigious and innovative historical periodical, the *Annales*. All but one of the eleven papers in this volume are from a single issue published in 1972. The family as a means of protecting lineage and family holdings is the main theme. Customs of rearing children, dowries and marriage practices, the life of the peasant as contrasted with that of the gentry, inheritance laws, pregnancies, illegitimate births, fertility and industrialization are also discussed with evidence being produced from a wealth of relevant documents. Most essays deal with France, but similar studies could, no doubt, be carried out in other countries where adequate primary sources are available. The *Annales* aims at an interdisciplinary and holistic reconstruction of the past, or total history, and the present selection of its offerings is as welcome as its predecessor. It is to be hoped that it will stimulate others to adopt this praiseworthy and rewarding technique.