

## Book Notices

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LEAH LYDIA OTIS, *Prostitution in medieval society. The history of an urban institution in Languedoc*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1985, 8vo, pp. xvii, 240, £21.50.

Prostitution is still too often viewed through the psychopathological categories invented by nineteenth-century psychiatrists and popularized by novelists such as Zola. Corrective studies such as Dr Otis's survey of prostitution in medieval Languedoc show the value of the social historical approach in redressing the balance. Careful interpretation of evidence shows that the late medieval town regarded prostitution as a necessary evil which served certain positive social functions (e.g. protecting wives and daughters from debauch). Hence the brothel was institutionalized, and prostitutes given extensive legal protection so long as they worked within their own quarter according to the rules. In this sense, prostitutes were treated much like Jews. Because of the relative shortage of "surplus" young women in post-Black Death Society, there was a dearth rather than a glut of *filles de joie* (contrast later centuries), and successful prostitutes grew rich and respected. This original study offers important insights upon a social institution of much importance to the history of medicine.

JONATHAN L. HARTWELL, *Plants used against cancer: a survey*, Lawrence, Mass., Quaterman Publications, 1985, 8vo, pp. viii, 438, \$75.00.

Between 1967 and 1971, Jonathan Hartwell published in instalments the bibliographical results of his extensive search of the world literature concerning plants claimed to be effective in the treatment of cancer. These instalments, originally appearing in a journal called *Lloydia*, have now been collected together in a substantial volume, which will be of great interest to medical historians, folklorists, and ethnobotanists.

*Contemporary Medical Archives Centre, consolidated accessions list*, London, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 1985, 8vo, pp. 32, £1.50 (paperback).

Since 1979, the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine has been active in locating, collecting, and cataloguing archives of relevance to all aspects of medicine and medical research in twentieth-century Britain. This accessions list (much enlarged from the first one of 1982) contains details of more than 150 collections now housed in the Centre. This includes the papers of individuals (e.g. Sir Ernst Chain, Sir Thomas Lewis, Sir Leonard Rogers, Dr Marie Stopes), and of medical and scientific societies (e.g. British Pharmacological Society, Eugenics Society), as well as much other material on a variety of topics. A subject guide and general index make the List easy to use. It may be obtained for £1.50 from the CMAC, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

J. D. NORTH, and J. J. ROCHE (editors), *The light of nature. Essays in the history and philosophy of science presented to A. C. Crombie*, Dordrecht, Boston, and Lancaster, Martinus Nijhoff, 1985, 8vo, pp. viii, 471, Dfl.200.00/£55.50.

Those honouring A. C. Crombie in this *Festschrift* testify to his interest in a variety of areas, for the collected essays span the history of science and medicine from Islam to the nineteenth century. Not surprisingly, however, most of the papers concentrate on the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. In general, the contributions combine into the usual curate's egg, but perhaps with more good parts than usual. In particular, Mordechai Feingold's study of Robert Payne of Oxford is a fine reconstruction of the friendship and patronage networks that made up a section of the learned community in the early seventeenth century. The papers on medicine and the life sciences are as variegated as the volume as a whole. Roger French's study of Gentile da Foligno has a scholarly solidity which serves to accentuate the book's unevenness. Alice Stroup's article on French medicine during the reign of Louis XIV, and David Knight on the nineteenth-century natural-history-illustrator William Swainson are useful, careful studies, and Renato Mazzolini's

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'Adam Gottlob Schirach's experiments on bees' is a delightful account of Enlightenment apiarology. Buried within the volume too, and well worth exhuming, is Elizabeth Patterson's transcription of Mary Somerville's diary, which she composed as a traveller in France in 1817. This is a wonderful account of the social world of French scientists in the immediate post-Napoleonic era.

ANAND C. CHITNIS, *The Scottish Enlightenment and early Victorian English society*, London, Croom Helm, 1986, 8vo, pp. vi, 201, £19.95.

A number of historical areas seem to cry out for someone to survey the literature and produce an account that welds together a multitude of familiar fragments. The place of Scottish thought and the products of Scottish institutions in shaping English intellectual and social life is one such area. Anand Chitnis has taken this task upon himself for one particular period; the first forty years of the nineteenth century (the book's title is thoroughly misleading). In general, he has produced a coherent and useful account of the role of the Scots in England. The book concentrates on two areas: political theory and medicine. In the instance of politics, it is easier to see the effects of what was called "Scotch knowledge". Chitnis deftly charts a chain of intellectual debt in one direction and patronage in the other, from Dugald Stewart, the *Edinburgh Review*, Holland House, and the Whig Party. The example is convincing because of the distinct ideas and the small numbers of individuals involved. Chitnis's account of medicine and medical men in English life is harder to understand because it is not clear what claim is being made. He assiduously narrates the careers of a large number of the doctors who were active in the early nineteenth century in the civic life of the industrial north and who had at some point attended Edinburgh University. Their civic involvement, Chitnis claims, followed from their marginality and their use of science as a legitimacy device. Like the chapter on political economy, the one on the doctors is also headed "Scotch knowledge". Yet at no point is it made clear what was peculiarly Scottish about the medical knowledge these men employed. This methodological problem, however, should not dissuade readers from approaching a useful work of synthesis.

'Les maladies de nos ancêtres', *Les Dossiers d'Histoire et Archéologie*, no. 97, September 1985, Dijon; Archéologia, pp. 88, illus., Fr.32.00.

As Michel Fleury points out in his introduction to this special issue, the discipline of palaeopathology is a comparatively new one. New techniques are enabling scholars to carry out meticulous research on the human and animal remains of ancient civilizations, and to identify with precision the diseases that afflicted them. Pierre Léon Thillaud, in his two papers 'La paléopathologie au service de l'archéologie' and 'L'homme de Cro-Magnon et ses maladies', describes modern researches on mummified material, and macroscopic and radiologic observations in osteoarchaeology. However, a note of caution is sounded by Jean Dastugue ('Difficultés et écueils en paléopathologie'), who emphasizes the importance of assuring that the lesions observed were actually produced during the subject's lifetime. Similarly, Christiane Kramar ('La fausse pathologie') describes some post-mortem changes in skeletal material that could lead to inaccurate conclusions. Pierre-François Puech and François Cianfarani discuss palaeodontology and its relevance to studies of the diet and everyday life of ancient peoples. Danielle Gourevitch gives an account of the various art forms representing disease in pre-literate societies; and Raoul Perrot presents the palaeopathological evidence concerning wounds and their treatment in the Middle Ages—particularly the frequently occurring arrow wounds and cranial lesions. Michel Sakka describes the Musée Dupuytren, Paris, founded by Guillaume Dupuytren (1777–1835) on the basis of his own pathological anatomy collection and still carefully conserved and augmented. One of the most interesting specimens in the museum, a case of osteomalacia (eighteenth century), is described in detail.

Book reviews, news items, and a section on famous palaeopathologists (Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, Calvin Wells, and Aidan Cockburn) are also included. All the items in this special issue are beautifully illustrated in colour or black-and-white.

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ALAN MACFARLANE, *Marriage and love in England 1300–1840*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1986, 8vo, pp. xi, 380, £19.50.

In his new book Alan Macfarlane takes the arguments of his *The origins of English individualism* in two further directions, by addressing the issues of marriage, children, and the family. On the one hand, and expressly confuting Lawrence Stone, he demonstrates that there is little sign of massive secular changes of affect. It is implausible to claim that love-based marriages were an invention of “modernity”. The sorts of feelings surrounding love and family life have an immense continuity about them. On the other hand, he addresses the issue of why married couples choose to have the number of children they do. He shows that the English were traditionally in two minds over the blessings of fertility, since deeply ingrained habits, embodied in the law, meant that parents did not necessarily benefit economically from the child’s labour, nor could they count on support from their children in later life (hence the role of the Poor Law). Not perhaps till the age of the Industrial Revolution did it make unambiguous economic sense for the masses to produce more children (i.e., to marry in larger numbers at an earlier age). Such a shift in the balance of advantages largely explains the massive rise in population in the late-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, argues Macfarlane, making use of the detailed demographic evidence of Wrigley and Schofield.

As background to the medical history of pregnancy, childbirth, fertility, and contraception, this book makes essential reading alongside Angus Maclaren’s *Reproductive rituals* (1984).

PATRICK ROMANELL, *John Locke and medicine*, Buffalo, NY, Prometheus Books, 1984, 8vo, pp. 225, [no price stated].

It is useful to have Locke’s medical ideas sifted once again in Patrick Romanell’s book, even if he has little fundamentally new to add to the work of Dewhurst and others and his approach suffers from Whiggism and hero-worship. Romanell makes out a good case for believing that Locke’s extremely clinical approach to medicine (a Hippocratic preoccupation with symptoms) squared with his epistemological empiricism, and he is sensible on the Locke/Sydenham interaction (Sydenham learnt scepticism from Locke, Locke got a practical orientation from Sydenham). Locke’s fragmentary medical manuscripts are systematically dealt with, although Romanell makes surprisingly little of the vast array of medical reference in Locke’s correspondence.

J. W. NAPJUS and G. A. LINDEBOOM, *De hoogleraren in de geneeskunde aan de Hogeschool en het Athenaeum te Franeker*, Amsterdam, Rodopi, 1985, 8vo, pp. xix, 210, xxvi, illus., Dfl.40.00.

Dr Napjus (1891–1941) had, before his untimely death, published a series of articles and biographical studies on the medical faculty of the University of Franeker. Closed in 1811, it was reopened in 1815 as an Athenaeum, but it did not flourish in Friesland, and closed again in 1843. Professor Lindeboom has completed Dr Napjus’ biographies with short studies of the last thirteen professors. This is a valuable collection of information about a small medical school which, in particular in the seventeenth century, had a reputation throughout Europe.

PAUL WEINDLING, *From bacteriology to social hygiene: the papers of Martin Hahn (1865–1934)*, Oxford, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 1986 (Research Publications, no. 5), 4to pp. 20, port., £2.50/\$4.00.

Martin Hahn, professor of hygiene in Berlin 1922–33, was a leading expert in bacteriology, immunology, and public health at a time when Germany led the world in studies of organic chemistry and experimental biology. A collection of Hahn’s papers and publications was deposited at the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford, by Prof. H. T. Himmelweit and Mr E. K. Littauer in 1982 and 1984. These items and similar material deposited at the University of Bremen are listed here in detail. A short biography and a bibliography of Hahn are also included in this useful publication, which is obtainable from Jean Loudon, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45–47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE, England.

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*Würzburger medizinhistorische Forschungen* (general editor, Gundolf Keil), Pattensen/Han, Horst Wellm Verlag.

Band 30: ORTRUN RIHA, *'Meister Alexanders Monatsregeln'*, 1985, 8vo, pp. 298, DM.44.00.

Band 33: ASTRID HIRSCHMANN, *Die Leipziger Rogerglosse*, 1984, 8vo, pp. 147, illus., DM.32.00.

Band 34: DIETER LEHMANN, *Zwei wundärztliche Rezeptbücher des 15. Jahrhunderts vom Oberrhein*, 1985, 8vo, pp. 341, illus., DM.48.00.

Band 36: KRISTIAN BOSSELMANN-CYRAN, *'Secreta mulierum' mit Glosse in der deutschen Bearbeitung von Johann Hartlieb*, 1985, 8vo, pp. 359, illus., DM.48.00.

These editions of medieval texts on, respectively, dietetics, surgery, wound-surgery, and gynaecology, are provided with useful glossaries and notes, and make accessible texts existing otherwise only in manuscript. They show the flourishing state of German medical interest in the Middle Ages, for, perhaps most remarkable of all, three of their authors are practising physicians, and only one an academic researcher. The interests of the "Würzburg school", however, are not confined to the middle ages, as can be seen from their new journal, *Würzburger medizinhistorische Mitteilungen*, which appeared for the first time in 1983.

*Journal of Contemporary History*, special issue, 1985.

The October 1985 issue of the *Journal of Contemporary History* is entirely devoted to 'Medicine, History and Society'. It contains twelve articles on a variety of topics, including Barry Smith on tuberculosis and quackery, Christopher Lawrence on the art of medicine in late Victorian Britain, Claudia Heurkamp on smallpox vaccination in Germany, Mark Micale on the Salpêtrière in the age of Charcot, and Lesley Hall on male sexual problems in the interwar years.

GWYN MACFARLANE, *Alexander Fleming. The man and the myth*, Oxford University Press, 1985, 8vo, pp. xi, 304, illus., £4.95 (paperback).

This splendid biography, first published in 1984 and reviewed in this journal (1984, 28: 453–455), is now available in paperback. It will be the definitive study of Fleming for many years to come.