

Book Reviews

book is the last period which covers their own professional lifetimes, 1946 to 1976.

In the first two sections the material is divided into more general topics such as medical education, medical practice, research, preventive medicine, and governmental control, whereas the third although dealing with some of these is devoted mainly to special subjects: drugs, cardiology, genetics, biochemistry, etc. However, the accounts of these specialties tend to be reviews of the literature. And this seems to be the main criticism of the book, that not enough consideration has been given to what Professor Richard Shryock, probably the most outstanding of American historians of medicine, termed the "external factors", called collectively "social".

Nevertheless the book achieves its authors' purpose, and for excellent surveys of the American contributions to various aspects of medicine it can be warmly recommended.

HERBERT LEVENTHAL, *In the shadow of the Enlightenment. Occultism and Renaissance science in eighteenth-century America*, New York University Press 1976, 8vo, pp. x, 330, \$15.00.

The author studies the influence of activities like witchcraft, alchemy, astrology, and of concepts such as the Ptolemaic universe, the humours, elements, spirits, and the Cabala. Thus his book begins with a section on 'The occult world', followed by 'The natural world', and 'The Elizabethan world picture in decay'. This account of the survival of occultism and the influence of Renaissance science forms a unique work dealing with the way in which the old prevailed as the new developed. Dr. Leventhal incorporates material previously unused and has many new interpretations. The influence of antique science on medical practice could have received a lengthier treatment but, nevertheless, this work will be of interest to historians of medicine as well as those of science. A more sustained handling of this fascinating topic seems warranted, in order to extend Dr. Leventhal's commendable research and excellent book.

STANLEY M. GURALNICK, *Science and the ante-bellum American college*, Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1975, 8vo, pp. xiv, 227, \$5.00 (paperback).

Science taught in fifteen leading northeastern colleges c. 1820 to 1860, is the subject of this detailed analysis. It was an important part of the curriculum and the author has uncovered a great deal of data from primary sources, for little has been written on this topic. Particular attention is paid to mathematics, physics, astronomy, and chemistry, but broader issues of science and education are also explored. There is little about medicine and this deserves an independent inquiry.

The variety of factors influencing science and the teaching of it is a fascinating aspect of a scholarly and well-written book. There are several useful appendices, including one containing brief biographies of fifty-nine science teachers in the colleges surveyed. Dr. Guralnick has provided only an introduction, albeit an excellent one, to an important yet neglected aspect of American education. It will, no doubt, inspire further research, and its low price will ensure a deservedly wide distribution.