

Book Reviews

The influence of early Enlightenment thought upon German classical science and letters, New York, Science History Publications, 1972, pp. xii, 47, illus., \$3.00.

This short book with a long title contains three papers and a commentary on them which were presented some years ago at a joint session of the American Historical Association and the History of Science Society. In the first paper, Ronald Calinger attempts to trace the relationship between Newtonian and Leibnizian traditions in German thought between about 1760 and 1790. He suggests that by the end of this period, a kind of synthesis had been elaborated by men like Euler, Kant and Herder. In a second paper, J. W. Marchand makes a few rather bland comments about the importance of German men of letters—Goethe, Herder, Lichtenberg, etc.—in the rise of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century German science. Finally, Guenter Risse sketches the impact which Kant's critical philosophy had on German medicine of the period. Risse's paper is essentially a précis of a fuller treatment of the subject which the author has published in *J. Hist. Med.*, 1972, 27: 145–158. In a commentary on these papers L. Pearce Williams assaults Calinger's paper as an inadequate oversimplification. In a short response, Calinger defends himself.

The value of this volume is uncertain. The papers are either superficial (Marchand), problematical (Calinger), or available in more satisfactory form elsewhere (Risse).

BRIAN WATKIN, *Documents on health and social services, 1834 to the present day*, London, Methuen, 1975, 8vo, pp. xi, 468, £10.00 (£5.50 paperback).

From a period of 140 years, the compiler has selected some eighty Royal Commission, committee and working party reports and Acts of Parliament, mostly dealing with England and Wales, and he presents here representative extracts from many of them, with a brief essay introduction to each; in some instances there are no extracts, only the essay. The book is divided into ten parts: the new Poor Law; public health and community health services; social security; provision and organization of health services; internal administration of hospitals under the National Health Service; the medical and dental professions; the nursing and midwifery professions; the paramedical professions; mental disorder; social work and family welfare. There is also a brief bibliography and index.

As Mr. Watkin points out, his book brings together a wide range of source material, some of which is not readily accessible outside the major centres. Moreover, the student would have neither the time nor inclination to wade through all the documents represented here, and the services of a guide are essential. Nevertheless, one of the purposes of the book is to stimulate the student to look at some of the original reports or Acts.

The anthology will prove an excellent aid not only to students of social administration and to the trainee and practising administrators in the health and social services, but also to those working in the social aspects of medical history. It is, however, a pity that even the paperback edition of a student's source-book should be so expensive.

Similar collections dealing with some of the ten parts in more detail, or with medical education, pharmacy, drug reform, medical institutions, and so forth, could be prepared.