

Book Reviews

JEREMY L. TOBEY, *The history of ideas; a bibliographical introduction*, Volume I, *Classical Antiquity*, Oxford, Clio Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xii, 211, [no price stated].

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As the literature of Classical Antiquity expands with frightening rapidity, no one person can be expert in all its areas. An authoritative guide, therefore, becomes essential and this book, with its grand title, prestigious imprint and compiled by an historian of ideas, is claimed to be just this. It deals with general surveys of the period, and then with ancient philosophy, science, aesthetics, and religion.

No attempt can be made here to assess areas other than that dealing with the history of medicine, but, unfortunately, the contents of this section do not encourage us to place much reliance on those of the others. Thus on one page (p. 104) there are at least eleven errors: "Garrison and Morrison", the contents of which are described in a very peculiar way; C. H. Talbott for 'John H. Talbott', presumably due to confusion with C. H. Talbot the renowned medievalist; "Strudel" instead of "Steudel" and his *Index* is incorrectly described (three mistakes); *Current work* is said to have begun in 1913, when in fact the date was 1954; title of *Sudhoffs Archiv* cited incorrectly; the *Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.* is not a bibliography as suggested here; *Medical History* is stated to be published by the Cambridge University History of Medicine Society, and its title is incorrectly cited.

On this showing alone one must conclude that the author has had no personal experience with the material he is describing, and it can perhaps be inferred that the rest of the book is equally inaccurate and, therefore, unreliable.

JOHN R. GILLIS, *Youth and history. Tradition and change in European age relations 1770–present*, New York and London, Academic Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xiv, 232, \$12.50.

There is currently an increased interest in the history of childhood and youth, mainly because little in the past has been written on this important topic. The author is from Livingstone College in New Brunswick, N.J., and he provides one of the most outstanding surveys of adolescence presently available. He deals mainly with Britain, in particular Oxford, with some references to Germany, and having shown how in pre-industrial society adolescence as a developmental stage did not exist, he divides his subject into three historical periods: about 1870 to 1900, typified by the upper middle classes who created the idea of adolescence by means of public school and university education, which allowed teenagers and those in their early twenties to enjoy a carefree, pre-adult stage lacking in all responsibilities; 1900 to 1950, which saw the extension of the concept to the lower classes with activities ranging from scouting to reading boys' and girls' magazines; since 1950, however, social and economic changes have eroded the distinction between the adolescent and the adult, factors such as relatively high pay, equality with adults, sexual permissiveness, amongst others, being responsible for this and for the delinquency, student unrest, teenage gangs, etc., characteristic of this era.

This is a most stimulating book, well written and with full annotation, statistics and bibliography. It is certain that Mr. Gillis' work will lead to further research with interesting and important conclusions extending or negating his findings. It seems

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likely that there are even more factors to be taken into account in this complex story, and the medical ones, which are not dealt with in as much detail as they deserve, must be carefully examined and evaluated.

VANNE GOODALL (editor), *The quest for man*, London, Phaidon, 1975, 4to, pp. 140, illus., £6.95.

The editor of this book and her six contributors aim to bring together “. . . some of the skeins of modern scientific and metaphysical thought concerning human evolution. . . .” (p. 7) to create an integrated picture of mankind and so to show that man’s distant past relates to his present situation.

A psychiatrist first discusses ‘Ancient man in the twentieth century’ and points out that a knowledge of the forces that have shaped man during evolution, and his basic motivations for survival will help him to develop new ways to meet modern needs. Next, an anthropologist deals with the structural development of man, and an archaeologist reviews the cultural evolution of the human species. To understand modern man’s behaviour a study of his closest living relative, the chimpanzee is rewarding, and this is carried out in an excellent chapter, followed by an ethologist’s account of the Bushman of Botswana, who are comparable to our remote ancestors. The mind of man is discussed by a geneticist in a broad review of human evolution. To comprehend human nature better will allow man more successfully to grapple with difficulties he is creating for himself today. This is the central message of the book.

It is illustrated with more than two hundred pictures and there is extensive documentation of the text. It can be warmly recommended as an excellent background book for the medical historian. Moreover it shows clearly how a knowledge of the past can be useful for the present and the future, one of the basic rewards of historical research of any kind.

CARL MITCHAM and ROBERT MACKEY, *Bibliography of the philosophy of technology*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. xvii, 205, £5.45.

In the last two decades the philosophy of technology has become a popular and important topic, and this bibliography shows how studies have encompassed all aspects of technology’s involvement with man, society and nature. Few professional philosophers, however, have taken up the subject and it is hoped that this book will attract more to it.

The compilers are philosophers, and their material, which dates from 1925 to 1972, is arranged by topic: comprehensive philosophical works; ethical and political critiques; religious critiques; metaphysical and epistemological studies. An appendix contains information on classical documents by authors such as Babbage, Bacon, Ford, Mach, Marx, Rousseau, etc., and on the general history of technology. Both primary and secondary sources are recorded, and many entries are annotated.

As a pioneer work this book can be warmly welcomed. It will prove to be a most valuable source-book. Its relevance to the history of medicine is obvious, for many of the medical advances during the last century have been due to technological innovation.