

Book Reviews

disappearance of national characteristics, except for the name.

Whilst most hospitals' histories are written by members of staff whose warmth in partially remembered narrative and anecdotal detail appeals to readers, this book seems at first glance somewhat dry. Also, one looks in vain for specialized case histories. On the other hand, meticulous attention is given to a vast amount of primary sources, among them ninety-nine volumes of hospital records and a list of ninety-five secondary sources in English and German. There is an instructive report of new architecture analysed with regard to Nightingale principles of ventilation and calculation of bed space. Statistical diagrams illustrate lucidly the rise and fall of patients' numbers and their national mixture. An index of doctors provides the optimum of available biographical detail. Clarity of style and structure distinguish this book as an exemplary monograph in the series of *Studies in the History of Hospitals*.

Renate Burgess
Wellcome Institute

DIETER JETTER, *Geschichte des Hospitals, Band 4: Spanien von den Anfängen bis um 1500*, Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner Verlag, 1980, 8vo, pp. viii, 239, illus., DM. 74.00 (paperback).

This exhaustive survey of medieval hospitals in Spain (and in neighbouring Morocco) lives up to the high standards of its predecessors, and its maps and plans will be extremely valuable. Professor Jetter ranges widely from the Greek temples of Asclepius, through the Romans and their legionary hospital at Leon, to the Visigoths, Arabs, and the Christian monastic and charitable orders. He brings out the differences between the type of building favoured by each group, and stresses the multiplicity of functions of the medieval pilgrim hostels (cf. J. Sumption, *Pilgrimage*, 1975, pp. 198–202). The discussion of the literary evidence is at times unnecessarily complicated by a desire to include all mentions of a particular point in the secondary literature, errors and all, often before the actual evidence is given, but it is well to be reminded of the chaos that can follow from an uncritical reliance on second-hand information. For the sake of completeness, I offer the theory of Schulten that there was a hospital at the Roman siege camp of Numantia, and, more solidly, a dedication to four healing gods at Leon, including Aesculapius and Salus (AE 1967, 223). Professor Jetter has amply fulfilled his aim, and there is no longer any excuse for scholars North of the Pyrenees to remain in ignorance of the variety and magnificence of the hospitals of medieval Spain.

Vivian Nutton
Wellcome Institute

DIETRICH KURZE (editor), *Büchelin wye der Mensch bewar das Leben sein. Eine Mittelalterliche Gesundheitslehre in Lateinisch-Deutschen Versen*, Wiesbaden, Guido Pressler, 1980, 8vo, pp. 173, illus., DM. 96.00.

Judging from the thick plastic slip jacket, the royal blue cover, the fine, thick paper, numerous photographic plates, facing-page facsimiles, vast margins and excellent typeface, the reader may be forgiven for expecting something of greater moment than