

Book Notices

JOSÉ HARRIS, *William Beveridge. A biography*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 488, front., £9.50.

Beveridge (1879–1963) is usually considered to be the last of the great line of “all-round” social reformers who, over the last two hundred years, have helped to mould British institutions. He was social scientist, bureaucrat, journalist, popular moralist, politician, and philanthropist, and he stands in the same line of tradition as Chadwick, Simon, and Nightingale. He presents the biographer with a challenging subject, and Dr. Harris is fully equal to the task. Her book, which is the first full-length study of Beveridge, presents a fair and thoughtful assessment of a man whose name is a household word in Britain on account of his 1941 Report on Social Policy. At the same time, it is a valuable contribution to the intellectual and administrative history of the first half of the twentieth century.

CHARLES BREASTED, *Pioneer of the past. The story of James Henry Breasted, archaeologist*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. x, 436, illus., £4.10 (paperback).

J. H. Breasted is a well-known name in the historiography of medicine, for his translation in 1930 of the Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus revolutionized our ideas of Ancient Egyptian medicine. Instead of being dominated by magico-religious concepts, incantations, and occult practices, therapy was seen to contain at least some rational approaches.

However, it gains little attention here, and naturally enough, as Breasted (1865–1935) was a prolific scholar and the surgical papyrus was among many outstanding publications. He was one of America’s most renowned archaeologists, and his son’s account, based mainly on personal observations, of a hyperactive life is a fascinating story of pioneer work carried out on brilliant expeditions with incredible industry and enthusiasm by a most kindly and likeable scholar.

PETER SUTCLIFFE, *The Oxford University Press. An informal history*, Oxford, Clarendon Press; Oxford University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xxviii, 303, illus., £6.75.

To commemorate five hundred years of printing in Oxford, this elegant volume, engagingly and wittily written and richly illustrated, has been produced. It deals primarily with the individuals who have established a house of publishing excellence, and covers almost exclusively the period from 1860. What might have been a dry business history, bolstered with tiresome tables and loaded appendices, is in fact a delightful book to read, and in addition is a contribution to cultural and intellectual history, and to the portrait gallery of Oxford types and authors of universal acclaim. Its price is modest for the quality provided.

PAUL THOMPSON, *The voice of the past. Oral history*, Oxford University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xi, 257, £4.50 (£2.25 paperback).

All aspects of oral history are here dealt with. The techniques involved and the practical issues of designing a project are covered in three chapters: ‘Projects’; ‘The interview’; and ‘Storing and sifting’. These inevitably incite concern with deeper issues regarding the nature of history itself. The character of evidence, the reliability of oral

Book Notices

evidence, and its value compared with the traditional documentary data are vital issues, and in the third chapter the author assesses the recent contribution oral history has made to historiography. He also discusses the general problems of the changing approach of historians to evidence, and the social function of history.

This book is not, therefore, only a practical guide to a historical method, but it is also concerned with the very core of all historical research: the meaning of evidence, expressed as a fundamental and searching question—"Whose is The Voice of the Past?" It is therefore a book to be read carefully by all historians, not only those who seek an excellent survey of a valuable and rewarding technique of recording historical data.

ROBERT I. WATSON, *The history of psychology and the behavioral sciences. A bibliographic guide*, New York, Springer, 1978, 8vo, pp. ix, 241, [no price stated].

Guides to the literature of a subject are always welcome if they have been carefully prepared by an expert. Such is the case with this one. The material is divided into general resources, historical accounts, methods of historical research, historiographic fields, and historiographic theories. The entries are annotated, frequently critically, but unfortunately they can only be approached by subject, as there is no author index—a curious omission in a book of reference. There are a few textual errors which jeopardize its value, and the selection of titles under 'Medicine', for example, is much too limited. There is also a preponderance of American material, perhaps because this is a true reflection of the literature.

In a field which overlaps with many other disciplines, this book is especially welcome, and, although not entirely perfect at the moment, it will no doubt mature by means of future editions.

DANIEL N. ROBINSON, *Psychology. Traditions and perspectives*, New York and London, Van Nostrand, 1977, 4to, pp. xv, 489, illus., [no price stated].

This is an attempt to present a historically oriented introduction to psychology, based on an earlier book, *Psychology: a study of its origins and principles*. It is a textbook that "examines the issues of knowledge and conduct within the context of modern psychology". Unfortunately the author's knowledge and handling of historical material leaves much to be desired.

PHILLIS CUNNINGTON and CATHERINE LUCAS, *Charity costumes*, London, Adam & Charles Black, 1978, 8vo, pp. x, 331, illus., £8.50.

The authors present an excellent and comprehensive survey of the evolution in England of clothing provided for poor people by charities, from late medieval times to the mid-twentieth century. This includes uniforms of great variety, often designed to point out the humble status of the wearers, and worn in schools, homes for children and young women, universities, almshouses, and so forth. Economic and hygienic aspects are fully dealt with. This book, which is heavily illustrated and contains full documentation, will be of interest to a wide circle of readers, including historians of medicine concerned with the evolution of personal hygiene, medical aspects of clothing, and the treatment of the poor.

Book Notices

N. W. SAFFIN, *Science, religion, and education in Britain 1804–1904*, Kilmore, Australia, Lowden Publishing Co., (U.K. distributors, Kennys Bookshops Ltd., Galway, Ireland), 1973, 8vo, pp. xi, 367, illus., £12.00.

The author, an Australian historian, examines the philosophical background to nineteenth-century English education. He is especially concerned with the struggle against metaphysicists and classicists to introduce science into the curriculum. Lord Taunton's Report was especially influential in these reforms, and the political background of them is considered in detail. The role of religion is also analysed in two excellent chapters.

This scholarly study, based on a considerable amount of primary material, makes frequent reference to biology and medicine, and, as a background book to the history of medical education in the nineteenth century, it will be most useful.

BRIAN M. STABLEFORD, *The mysteries of modern science*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977, 8vo, pp. [iv], 270, £4.95.

The author attempts to demonstrate why science of the last one hundred years has retained its mysteries. It does so because of, rather than in spite of, its great triumphs. In Part Two, 'The tree of life', he deals with such problems as 'The pattern of evolution', 'The chicken and the egg', 'Human evolution', and 'The seat of the soul'. Throughout, the material is accessible to the non-scientific layman, and is presented in a clear and engaging style.

The approach here is to explore, not explain, mysteries, and the book is "a general survey of the kinds of ideas which have surfaced as a result of twentieth-century advances in science". As such it can be recommended as an informative and thoughtful approach to enigmas that are important to all of us.

REGNA DARNELL, *Readings in the history of anthropology*, London, Harper & Row, 1974, 8vo, pp. x, 479, £10.45.

Having the conviction that the history of anthropology is part of the discipline, the author has collected together thirty-one readings, divided into four sections: 'The nature of anthropology'; 'Voyagers and philosophers'; 'Professionalization of anthropology'; 'History from within the discipline'. Each has a brief introduction, and often there are a few footnotes, in addition to the original author's. For teachers and students alike, this excellent selection will be most useful and can be highly recommended.

IAN D. POOL, *The Maori population of New Zealand 1769–1971*, Auckland University Press; Oxford University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. 266, £8.50.

Based on a Ph.D. thesis, this book is a scholarly and detailed analysis of the subject, an approach that has not been attempted before at this depth. The available data are plentiful and the author has, therefore, been able to trace fertility and mortality trends over the last hundred years or more. Consequently this study is an important one, because, in the absence of vital statistics, the demographic history of comparable races cannot be similarly investigated. Although seemingly of restricted interest, it sheds light on the population aspects of a primitive race and the impact upon it of Western civilization.

Book Notices

JOHN RIDDLE, *Marbode of Rennes' (1035–1123) De lapidibus*, Wiesbaden, Steiner, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 144, DM. 48.00 (paperback).

This *De lapidibus* was written in 1090. In it the author described some sixty stones as far as their appearance, qualities, and powers are concerned, and especially their use in medicine. The latter explains its wide popularity in the Middle Ages, and fully justifies this excellent and scholarly study and translation. Marbode also wrote smaller lapidaries, and Dr. Riddle provides new critical texts of them. There is also a lengthy discussion of the sources used by the author.

This is an important addition to our relatively scant knowledge of medieval therapy and a monograph on this topic at such a high level of scholarship is most welcome.

CHARLES WILSON and GEOFFREY PARKER, *An introduction to the sources of European economic history 1500–1800*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1977, 8vo, pp. xxx, 265, illus., £12.50.

Economic and social history has expanded vastly in the last few years, and there is, as far as the former is concerned, a need for a guide-book to its diversified sources of quantitative material. This book provides as many as possible of them as they concern Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Low Countries, the British Isles, France, and Germany, arranged in this order to indicate the chronological shift of economic power. Each country's section contains data on population, agriculture, industry, trade and transport, currency, and prices and wages.

There is a good deal of information of concern to historians of medicine, and they should all be aware of the existence of this excellent and reliable guide, insight, and source-book.

MARC-A. BARBLAN, 'Journalisme médical et échanges intellectuels au tournant du XVIII^e siècle. Le cas de la *Bibliothèque Britannique* (1796–1815)', *Archives des Sciences*, Genève, 1977, vol. 30, fasc. 3, pp. [iv], 287–398, [no price stated].

The *Bibliothèque* introduced British articles on literature, science, and the arts to French-reading Europeans. This monograph traces its history as far as the medical content is concerned, which was in charge of Louis Odier (1748–1817). Its contents are analysed in detail, and at the end there is a list of all the authors and their contributions. At this time France was very much concerned with her own affairs, and it is of considerable interest to learn more of the cultural contacts she maintained with Britain.

JOHN L. THORNTON and R. I. J. TULLY, *Scientific books, libraries and collectors; supplement to the third edition (covering the years 1969–1975)*, London, The Library Association, 1978, 8vo, pp. viii, 172, £7.00 (£5.60 to members of the Association).

The first edition of this book appeared in 1954, and it has been in constant use ever since as a book of accurate reference and of pleasant reading. A third edition was published in 1971 and now, instead of a fourth, a supplement has been prepared, covering 1969 to 1975. Essentially it deals with the same topics, and it is to be used with the third edition which is now reprinted. Although not ideal, this solution, necessary for economic reasons, is a useful compromise that other authors might adopt.

Book Notices

IAN GIBSON, *The English vice. Beating, sex and shame in Victorian England and after*, London, Duckworth, 1978, 8vo, pp. xii, 364, illus., £12.50.

Since the nineteenth century the British have been renowned for beating; and, judging by the continued practice of birching in the Isle of Man, vestigial remnants of the vice persist here and elsewhere in Britain and in previously British colonies. The author argues cogently and with a vast body of evidence that the public school system was responsible for the practice of beating, attempts at its suppression being countered by those who had suffered in their youth and did not wish to deprive their descendants of a salutary experience that had done them no harm. The sexual element of flagellation is also investigated in detail, and much of the deep analysis has been carried out for the first time.

Mr. Gibson's book is one of the few scholarly studies of another fascinating aspect of Victorian life. More extensive research into the medical and psychological aspects of it should now be undertaken.

MARTIN HOWARD, *Victorian grotesque*, London, Jupiter Books, 1977, 4to, pp. 154, illus., £5.95.

The bizarre, grotesque, anomalous, and curious manifestations of human life have always received wide attention, and a series of books dating from the sixteenth century deal with them. Probably the most complete and best known is that by Gould and Pyle, *Anomalies and curiosities of medicine* (1897). The present work deals with a selected period, and consists mainly of a catalogue of the usual teratological specimens: dwarfism, giantism, obesity, hirsutism, extraordinary feats, strange customs, etc., etc. Although it is profusely illustrated, it contains no precise references to the literature and its main attraction is the dramatic nature of the strange topics with which it is concerned. There is now a pressing need for a scholarly treatise on the history of teratology.

MANFRED WASERMAN and CAROL CLAUSEN (compilers), *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences. Index: volumes I-XXX (1946-1975)*, New Haven, Conn., Journal of the History of Medicine Inc., 1977, 8vo, pp. 131, \$17.50.

Authors of all articles and book reviews are listed, and all articles are indexed by subject. Authors and editors of books reviewed are indexed as subjects. Entries are in a continuous alphabetical sequence. This arrangement is greatly inferior to that used in the two indexes of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, and, at times, it is confusing and frustrating.

JOSEPH KETT, *Rites of passage. Adolescence in America, 1790 to the present*, New York, Basic Books, 1977, 8vo, pp. xi, 327, illus., \$16.50.

From a vast amount of material, the author, who is a historian, looks at the roles, experiences, and social and political functions of the American teenager. The first part of the book deals with youth in the early republic (1790-1840), the second is entitled 'Toward the age of adolescence, 1840-1900', and the third 'The era of adolescence, 1900-present'. This is a scholarly work that will have wide appeal and interest, concerned as it is with a group that previously has not received adequate study.

Book Notices

MAURICE B. GORDON, *Naval and maritime medicine during the American Revolution*, Ventnor, N.J., Ventnor Publishers, 1978, 4to, pp. ix, 134, illus., \$17.50.

A detailed account of a little-known aspect of naval medical history, based on a wealth of documents, several of them reproduced as illustrations. Although insufficient contemporary comparative material is used, in order to avoid the epithet of parochial, the study nevertheless presents a great deal of interesting material relating to naval matters, naval surgeons, and naval illnesses.

MAURICE CAULLERY, *Universities and scientific life in the United States*, New York, Arno Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xvii, 269, \$16.00.

For five months during 1915–1916 the French biologist, Caullery, visited the United States and recorded his observations and impressions. They were published in French in 1917, and provide an excellent source of information gleaned by a foreigner, but scrupulously integrated into the general framework of American society. For anyone dealing with science, especially biological, in pre-World War I America, the English version, here reprinted in facsimile without introduction, will be essential reading.

WILLIAM M. DENEVAN (editor), *The native population of the Americas in 1492*, Madison and London, University of Wisconsin Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xxii, 353, illus., \$15.00.

This book is comprised of eight essays, which are grouped as follows: 'Estimating the unknown'; 'The Caribbean, Central America, and Yucatan'; 'Mexico'; 'South America'; 'North America'. Each section has an excellent introduction and the essays are all of a high scholarly order. There is a glossary of Latin American terms, and a comprehensive and most useful bibliography.

Although the topic is of a somewhat specialized nature, nevertheless the techniques and data will be of interest to all those concerned with historical demography, especially of primitive races, as well as to students of early American history.

MICHAEL B. SHIMKIN, *Contrary to nature*, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1977, 4to, pp. xix, 497, illus., \$12.75.

A sumptuously illustrated and printed history of cancer, based on events, persons, and written records which are arranged chronologically and by topics. As is usual with this popular type of book, the part dealing with the earlier periods is defective or erroneous, or both. It is, therefore, not surprising to find "Clarissimus (or Claudius) Galen". However, only one hundred pages are devoted to the pre-nineteenth-century period, and the author comes into his own with his survey of the last few decades. It is for the twentieth-century part of this history (pp. 187–488) that Mr. Shimkin's book will be largely consulted, and for this it can be recommended.

PETER WALLIS and RUTH WALLIS, *Newton and Newtoniana 1672–1975. A bibliography*, Folkestone, Kent, Dawson, 1977, 4to, pp. xxiv, 362, £30.00.

The literature on Newton continues to expand and has already reached formidable proportions. Mr. and Mrs. Wallis are, therefore, to be thanked and congratulated for their scholarly guide to it and to Newton's writings. Details of the latter occupy 224 pp., and each entry gives a full account of the book, as well as locations of copies. The section on 'Biographies and general works' dealing with the secondary literature occu-

Book Notices

pies 111 pages, and there are extensive indexes of names (authors, editors, translators, reviewers) and of places of printing and publication.

For a long time this excellent volume will be the definitive bibliography on Newton and Newtoniana. Despite its price, it will be an essential purchase for many libraries and individuals.

GEORGE JASPER WHERRETT, *The miracle of the empty beds. A history of tuberculosis in Canada*, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. xx, 299, illus., £12.50.

The dramatic decline in incidence of tuberculosis is mirrored by the diminution of the number of hospital beds provided for this one-time scourge. Dr. Wherrett, himself a tuberculosis expert who has lived through this revolution, depicts the story of how the successful attack on tuberculosis in Canada has been carried out. As elsewhere, it was achieved by both medical and social advances in the handling of the disease, and the author deals first with the national crusade against it, and then with details of provincial services provided. Although mainly of parochial interest, Dr. Wherrett's book contributes to the recent international history of tuberculosis, and some day a world-wide survey will be possible, based on works such as this.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

BRIAN ABEL-SMITH, *National Health Service. The first thirty years*, London, H.M.S.O., 1978, 8vo, pp. [iv], 64, illus., [no price stated].

JOHN BLACKING (editor), *The anthropology of the body*, London and New York, Academic Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 426, illus., £8.80.

GRACE L. DELOUGHERY, *History and trends in professional nursing*, 8th ed., St. Louis, C. V. Mosby; London, Henry Kimpton, 1977, 4to, pp. vi, 277, illus., £6.80 (paperback).

WOLFGANG GÖTZ, *Zu Leben und Werk von Johann Bartholomäus Trommsdorff (1770–1837)*, Würzburg, Jal-verlag, 1977, 8vo, pp. 345, illus., [no price stated].

S. W. HAMERS-VAN DUYNEN, *Hieronymus David Gaubius (1705–1780). Zijn correspondentie met Antonio Nunes, Ribiero Sanches en andere tijdgenoten*, Assen, Van Gorcum, 1978, 8vo, pp. ix, 288, illus., Dfl. 48.00 (paperback).

JUAN ANTONIO PANIAGUA *El Doctor Chanca y su obra médica*, Madrid, Ediciones Cultura Hispanica, 1977, 4to, pp. 140, 300 pesetas (paperback).

ANNETTE THOMAS, *Arzneimittelforschung und Arneimittelbehandlung des Wiener Klinikers Anton de Haen (1704–1776)*, doctoral dissertation, University of Munich, 1976, pp. [viii], 149, illus.

[JOSIAH WEDGWOOD], *'The Arts and Sciences United', an exhibition of Josiah Wedgwood's correspondence, etc.*, (Science Museum, London, 21 March to 24 September 1978), Barlaston, Staffs., Josiah Wedgwood & Sons, 1978, 4to, pp. 80, illus., [no price stated].

PHILIP J. WILKE and H. J. HALL, *Analysis of ancient feces: a discussion and annotated bibliography*, Berkeley, University of California, Department of Anthropology, 1975, 4to, pp. 47.