

Book Reviews

ERNEST A. MOODY, *Studies in medieval philosophy, science, and logic. Collected papers 1933–1969*, Berkeley and London, University of California Press, 1975, 8vo. pp. xix, 453, £11.00.

Dr. Moody is now Emeritus Professor of Philosophy in the University of California at Los Angeles, and over the years he has made important contributions to the study of medieval thought. His books on *The logic of William Ockham*, *The medieval science of weights* (jointly with Marshall Clagett) and *Truth and consequence in medieval logic* are well known, but he has also published many significant shorter studies, and thirteen of them, written over a period of thirty-seven years, are collected together here with a fourteenth, unpublished. An explanatory *Preface* by the author includes some useful autobiographical material, for it correlates the writing of the papers with his career, and reveals the evolution of his interests in medieval thought.

The topics are concerned mainly with outstanding medieval contributors to science and philosophy, such as William of Auvergne (the one unpublished paper), John Buridan, William of Ockham, and Galileo being the ones considered in detail. There are also five papers on late medieval physics and its relation to the mechanics of Galileo, and others on medieval logic and the philosophy of language; they deal almost exclusively with the physical sciences. Nevertheless the historian of biology and medicine can learn a great deal by perusing the works of an outstanding scholar, like Professor Moody. Quite apart from the way in which he marshals and synthesizes his arguments and produces new interpretations and insights, it is educative to observe his impeccable handling of the techniques of writing and documenting. A volume that thus may appear to have little of value to offer the medical historian can, in fact, be consulted with benefit and can thus be strongly recommended.

JOHN EMERY MURDOCH and EDITH DUDLEY SYLLA (editors), *The cultural context of medieval learning*, Dordrecht and Boston, D. Reidel, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 566, \$49.00 (\$28.00 paperback).

In September 1973 the First International Colloquium on Philosophy, Science and Theology in the Middle Ages was held at Boston University, and this is its proceedings, which include the twelve papers presented and the discussion generated. It focused attention on three areas: the interdisciplinary relations of medieval philosophy science and theology, and in some cases their relations with other disciplines; the institutional and social factors influencing the origin, growth and survival of these three; the interchange between Islam and the Latin West, and between these and the ancient Greek learning which they absorbed.

Each of the papers is a substantial and scholarly essay, and they are divided into three groups: Islam; the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in the Latin West; the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries in the Latin West. Some are technical and highly specialized, like Rashed's on Arabic algebra, Beaujouan's 'Réflexions sur les rapports entre théorie et pratique au moyen âge' and Stock's on Bernard of Clairvaux, but others are of broader scope, and therefore of wider interest. Of the latter there is Professor Murdoch's 'From social into intellectual factors: an aspect of the unitary character of late medieval learning', McKeon's 'The organization of sciences and the relations of cultures in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries' and Schmitt's