

Book Notices

SEEBERT J. GOLDOWSKY, *Yankee surgeon: the life and times of Usher Parsons 1788–1868*, Boston, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, in cooperation with The Rhode Island Publications Society, 1988, 8vo, pp. xvi, 450, illus., \$24.50, dist. Science History Publications USA, P.O. Box 493, Canton, MA 02021.

In common with the hero of this authoritative biography (in which references are provided generously), Dr Goldowsky was a practising surgeon in Providence, Rhode Island and a graduate of Brown University and of Harvard. Parsons, surgeon to the *John Adams* during the battle of Lake Erie (1813), was later an academic anatomist and a vice president of the AMA (1854). The book is informative and a “damm good read” for medical and naval persons—Parsons served for ten years.

KENNETH BARLOW, *Recognising health*, London, The McCarrison Society, [24 Paddington St., London W1M 4DR], 1988, 8vo, pp. ix, 142, [no price stated], (paperback).

This interesting book’s purpose is to draw attention to what the author considers an unjustly neglected experiment in public health, that of the Peckham Centre. The Peckham Centre opened its doors in 1926 and expanded its premises in 1935. It was, in some ways, a pioneer of the “health centre” idea but to call it that would not do justice to the ideas underlying the involvement of medical and other staff in the Peckham experiment. They based their ideas on the view that positive health rather than medical intervention in illness should be the main direction of public health. To achieve this individuals should be studied interacting with their environment. The theory behind this was that health is the product of the total being achieving through growth and interaction the full development of its faculties.

In practical terms this led the pioneers at Peckham to provide a variety of activities and environmental experiences for the working-class families who attended the Centre. Although there were medical facilities available the traditional role of the doctor was not the prime function of the Centre. Instead, the emphasis was upon the healthy development of all who attended.

The author argues that an opportunity was missed with the reorganization of the health services in 1948. This reorganization was carried out on the old principle of medical care as an intervention in sickness and of supply and demand. As the author points out, this has not made us as a nation more noticeably healthy, nor has the need for health care shown any diminution over forty years. Therefore the author concludes with a plea for a re-examination of the ideas of positive health pioneered by the Peckham Centre.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

HERBERT BAUR, *Drei historische Darstellungen der Zahnheilkunde im Vergleich: Geist-Jacobi, Sudhoff und Hoffmann-Axthelm*, Zürcher medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen, nr. 205, Zurich, Juris, 1989, 8vo, pp. 76, Sfr. 21.00 (paperback).

EDWARD D. BERKOWITZ, *Disabled policy: America’s programs for the handicapped*, A Twentieth Century Fund Report, Cambridge University Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. xiii, 280, £27.50, \$24.95.

ANN HILL BEUF, *Biting off the bracelet: a study of children in hospitals*, 2nd ed., Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. xi, 206, £11.95, (paperback).

CATH CIRKET, *A woman’s guide to breast health*, Grapevine, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1989, 8vo, pp. 208, illus., £4.99 (paperback).

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STEVE CONNOR and SHARON KINGMAN, *The search for the virus: the scientific discovery of AIDS and the quest for a cure*, London, Penguin Books, 1988, 8vo, pp. ix, 320, illus., £3.95 (paperback).

JOHN DONALDSON, *Living with asthma and hay fever*, London, Penguin Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. xiii, 226, illus., £4.99, (paperback).

Ear, nose and throat nursing, Penguin Nursing Revision Notes, advisory ed. P. A. Downie, rev. ed., London, Penguin Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. viii, 152, £3.99, (paperback).

JONATHAN GLOVER and others, *Fertility and the family: the Glover Report on Reproductive Technologies to the European Commission*, London, Fourth Estate, 1989, 8vo, pp. 159, £7.95 (paperback).

SUZIE HAYMAN, *The well woman handbook*, London, Penguin Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. 182, illus., £3.99, (paperback).

SANDRA HORN, *Coping with bereavement: coming to terms with a sense of loss*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1989, 8vo, pp. 128, £4.99, (paperback).

P. J. KOEHLER, *Het localisatieconcept in de neurologie van Brown-Séguard*, Amsterdam and Atlanta, GA, Rodopi, 1989, 8vo, pp. xv, 274, illus., Dfl. 60.00 (paperback).

KARL KUHN, *80 Jahre Institute für Geschichte der Medizin (1906–1986) in Deutschland (BRD und DDR), Österreich und der Schweiz*, Medizinhistorische Institutionen und Publikationen 1, Blieskastel, Selbstverlag, 1986, 8vo, pp. 312, [no price stated], (paperback).

RICHARD LACEY, *Safe shopping, safe cooking, safe eating: simple rules that can protect you and your family*, London, Penguin Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. xiv, 177, £2.99 (paperback).

ROBERT E. LEE, *AIDS in America: our chances, our choices. A survival guide*, Troy, NY, Whitston Publishing, 1987, 8vo, pp. 208, \$18.50, \$9.95 (paperback).

M. J. van LIEBURG, *Woord en boek in de geschiedenis van de geneeskunde: een beschouwing over de toegankelijkheid van medische kennis*, Amsterdam and Atlanta, GA, Rodopi, 1989, 8vo, pp. 28, illus., Dfl. 8.50 (paperback).

MARIA LORETAN, *William Silberschmidt 1869–1947: Hygieniker und Bakteriologe*, Zürcher medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen, nr. 203, Zurich, Juris, 1988, 8vo, pp. 124, Sfr. 31.00, (paperback).

HANS-MARTIN NIEDERER, *Alfred Vogt (1879–1943): seine Zürcher Jahre 1923–1943*, Zürcher medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen, nr. 207, Zurich, Juris, 1989, 8vo, pp. 307, Sfr. 60.00, (paperback).

Ophthalmic nursing, Penguin Nursing Revision Notes, advisory ed. P. A. Downie, rev. ed., London, Penguin Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. viii, 112, £3.99, (paperback).

MICHAEL ORME and SUSANNA GRAHAM-JONES (eds.), *Medicine: the self-help guide*, London, Penguin Books, 1989, 8vo, pp. 304, illus., £6.95, (paperback).

MARIA PLANGGER-VAVRA, *Die Anatomien Hedwig Frey (1877–1938): erste Professorin der Universität Zurich*, Zürcher medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen, nr. 202, Zurich, Juris, 1988, 8vo, pp. 76, Sfr. 20.00, (paperback).