

Book Notices

JOHN A. CALLAHAN, THOMAS E. KEYS, and JACK D. KEY (editors), *Classics of cardiology*, Malabar, Florida, Robert E. Krieger, 1983, 4to, pp. xiv, 623, illus., \$36.00.

This well-produced book is a sequel to *Cardiac classics*, which was first published in 1941 and reprinted as a two-volume *Classics of cardiology* in 1961. The current volume includes forty-seven original articles published between 1895 and 1954, reproduced complete. It also has an invaluable list of key references by W. Bruce Fye. Works like this are dangerous to anyone interested in twentieth-century medicine, physiology, and conceptions of the heart. They make access to some material so convenient that historians risk losing the use of their legs. But although this book is almost priceless as a work of reference, it has other uses that are best avoided. For one thing, its formal structure dictates that all the authors included in it were pursuing the same object of intellectual attention, the heart. But Thomas Lewis's physiological heart of 1909 was quite different from Henry Souttar's surgical heart of 1925. Lewis's fundamental conception of what a heart was made surgical therapy almost literally unthinkable. Books like this, therefore, are almost the enemy within, they impose unity where there was diversity, agreement where there was no shared language.

STEVEN MARCUS, *Freud and the culture of psychoanalysis*, Boston, Mass., and London, Allen & Unwin, 1984, 8vo, pp. xi, 268, £18.00.

Steven Marcus's erudite and elegant essays range across the central issues of Freudianism, concentrating in particular on the case studies of Dora and the Rat Man. Marcus approaches Freud neither as a psychiatrist, evaluating Freud's scientific claims, nor as a historian, interrogating the facts of Freud's life and work; but principally as a literary critic, interested in the standing of the case studies as art and artistry, regarding them as masterpieces of writing to be compared with Ibsen or Tolstoy. This approach has its real merits (not least Marcus's insistence that, like the novel, psychoanalysis's fate is intimately bound up with the fate of bourgeois culture). But Marcus's enthusiasm for Freud as a writer sometimes seems to cloud his judgements on reality (e.g., Freud's literary handling of the character "Dora" is praised, without much comment on Freud's appalling treatment of her in real life). And the book in general takes an over-indulgently heroic attitude towards Freud. Freud's ability to fly in the face of evidence is more than once depicted as a facet of his "personal and intellectual courage", when other interpretations might be more appropriate.

ILHAM DILMAN, *Freud and the mind*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1984, 8vo, pp. vii, 204, £15.00.

This volume is part of a larger philosophical reworking of Freud which the author will complete in several volumes. His aim is to present a tidied-up modernized reading of Freud, in which inconsistent concepts and notions with which the author does not agree (e.g., Freud's causal conception of mental action and its hedonism) are suppressed, but Freudian ideas which meet the author's approval (e.g., the unconscious) are rendered prominent. It is strictly a book for philosophers, not historians.

URS BOSCHUNG (editor), *Johannes von Muralt 1645—1733*, Zurich, Hans Rohr, 1983, 8vo, pp. 105, illus., SFr.18.00 (paperback).

Johannes von Muralt, the son of a Swiss merchant, had a seventeenth-century medical education which took in virtually every major European university, including Oxford and Cambridge. He practised and lectured in Zurich and has attracted most attention amongst historians for the opposition he encountered for conducting public animal dissections. He eventually attained a number of influential medical appointments in Zurich and was a leading figure in making his native city an important centre of medical education. This slim volume contains three careful scholarly essays on Muralt's life, his anatomy, and what might be termed his metaphysics, the latter essay being in French.

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NEIL CAMPBELL and R. MARTIN S. SMELLIE, *The Royal Society of Edinburgh (1783—1983)*, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1983, 8vo, pp. xvi, 186, illus., [no price stated].

This is an extremely well-composed first, "in house" history of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. It brings together in a single volume a great deal of information about the institution's formal affairs which would otherwise take a great deal of time to discover. The chapters on the scientific work associated with the Society, which the authors acknowledge are incomplete, provide useful initial access to the debates and controversies that were a continuous feature of the institution's past.

GORDON DAMMAN, *A pictorial encyclopedia of Civil War medical instruments and equipment*, Missoula, Montana, Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1983, 4to, pp. iv, 97, illus., \$7.95 (paperback).

What constitutes a suitable area for defining a catalogue of objects? Is it age, subject, association, colour, shape, size? One answer is that it does not matter so long as the job is well done. Dr Damman, presumably out of enthusiasm, has chosen to catalogue objects pertaining to medicine and the American Civil War and he has indeed made a success of it. The instruments he has examined are mainly surgical, which he has illustrated with extremely good photographs, and identified with useful captions, although perhaps in some instances these are a little brief. One must presume that those instruments whose ownership is not cited are in the author's private collection.

JUDITH WALZER LEAVITT (editor), *Women and health in America. Historical readings*, Madison and London, University of Wisconsin Press, 1984, 8vo, pp. ix, 526, illus., £30.90 (£14.20 paperback).

Studies of women and medicine are burgeoning, but it is sometimes difficult to keep up with them. This is partly because they tend to be published in journals covering a very wide range of disciplines, from sociology and literary studies across to the regular medical history periodicals. The present collection of published articles is therefore particularly to be welcomed for making available between two covers some three dozen major essays which have appeared in the journals over the last couple of decades (and at a most reasonable price!). The volume is divided into sections as follows: 'Menstrual cycle', 'Sexuality', 'Birth Control', 'Childbirth', 'Women's diseases and treatments', 'Midwives', 'Health reformers', 'Physicians', and 'Nurses'. A good short bibliography is appended at the end. This collection should prove invaluable as a teaching aid.

JOHN R. FLEETWOOD, *The history of medicine in Ireland*, 2nd ed., Dublin, Skellig Press, 1983, 8vo, pp. xiii, 373, illus., £19.95.

Dr Fleetwood's book, first published in 1951, has long been the classic overview of the history of Irish medicine, surveying developments from pre-Christian times and the Brehon Laws up to the present. For this welcome second edition, the author has revised and updated his text, has added a completely new chapter on the Royal College of General Practitioners, and has brought his statistical information up to the present. A great deal of Fleetwood's original text, not least his chapters on the Dublin School of Midwifery and the private medical schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth-centuries, triumphantly has stood the test of time.

ANTHONY S. WOHL, *Endangered lives. Public health in Victorian Britain*, London, Methuen, 1984, 8vo, pp. viii, 440, illus., £7.95 (paperback).

We welcome this reasonably priced paperback edition of Professor Wohl's book, reviewed in *Medical History*, 1984, 28: 216–217. It should prove useful for students of Victorian social and medical history.