

Book Reviews

D. GERAINT JAMES (editor), *Circulation of the blood*, London, Pitman Medical, 1978, 4to, pp. [viii], 495, illus., £25.00.

The four hundredth anniversary of William Harvey's birth was celebrated on 1 April 1978, and the publication of this book is one of the many events planned to celebrate the occasion. There are three historical papers in this commemorative volume: a biographical study of Harvey by the editor; an account of the Harveian Society of New York by Professor A. G. Bearn; and an essay on 'Respiration and the pulmonary circulation in the century of genius' by Dr. Raymond Hierons. The rest of the book is comprised of authoritative surveys of various aspects of the cardiovascular system in health and in disease. Many of them contain historical data, but, as in the historical articles, this is of uneven value and not always accurate. Nevertheless, they provide excellent accounts of the present-day standing of many circulatory topics. The book is handsomely produced, and each contribution is elegantly illustrated and adequately documented.

JACQUES BARZUN and HENRY F. GRAFF, *The modern researcher*, 3rd ed., New York and London, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977, 8vo, pp. xx, 378, £4.95 (paperback).

The first edition of this book appeared in 1957 and it received an enthusiastic reception from students and scholars of history. It purports to help both, and the advice is detailed and helpful, the sub-title being 'The classic manual on all aspects of research and writing'. It will probably be of less value to the beginner, but to the teacher and thesis-writer it will continue to be an essential guide to the writing of good history and to the techniques of historiography. The authors divide their book into three sections: first principles; research and writing; unlike previous editions there is also a small section on lecturing. Predictably, the so-called "psychohistorians" and "clio metrics" in this edition are criticized cogently and at some length.

Clearly this modestly priced book should be read by all those who are dealing with historical research and teaching the discipline. It can be warmly recommended, and, like its previous versions, it will receive wide acclaim.

ERICH HINTZSCHE (editor), *Albrecht von Hallers Briefe an Auguste Tissot (1754-1777)*, Berne, Stuttgart, and Vienna, Hans Huber, 1977, 8vo, pp. 535, illus., S.Fr. 128.00.

The Swiss, Haller (1708-1777), was the most outstanding medical scientist of the eighteenth century, and over the years the late Professor Hintzsche has published a number of monographs on him. His fellow-countryman S. A. A. D. Tissot (1728-1797) is renowned more for his clinical achievements, but, like Haller, wrote extensively and is remembered for a number of books on popular medicine. These letters, from a scientist to a popularizer of medicine, are of very great interest, because they contain important material, not only about the writer and the recipient, but also about the eighteenth century in general, its medicine, its doctors, and many other aspects, often previously unknown. The majority are in French, the remainder being in German. They are fully transcribed, and Professor Hintzsche has provided a linking commentary which adds immeasurably to the value of the collection, as does the extensive index.