

Book Notices

Peter Dear (ed.), *The scientific enterprise in early modern Europe: readings from Isis*, University of Chicago Press, 1997, pp. 337, \$37.50 (hardback 0-226-13946-8), \$17.95 (paperback 0-226-13947-6).

This volume comprises a useful selection of articles from *Isis*, reprinted exactly as they originally appeared except that they have been repaginated. The papers included range from Robert Westman's account of contrasting interpretations of Copernicanism in the sixteenth century, through contributions on such topics as Galileo and the early Royal Society, to Londa Schiebinger's exploration of the attitudes of scientists towards women as revealed by the case of Maria Winkelmann and the Berlin Academy. The range is admirable, as in general is the quality, though the pursuit of balance has arguably led to the inclusion of a couple of slightly weak pieces and the exclusion of better ones. This is revealed by the complete list of articles on early modern science in *Isis* from 1970 to 1996 which is also included, together with a helpful brief introduction by the editor in which the rationale of the volume is expounded.

José Pardo Tomás, María Luz López Terrada, *Las primeras noticias sobre plantas americanas en las relaciones de viajes y crónicas de Indias (1493–1553)*, Cuadernos Valencianos de historia de la Medicina y de la Ciencia XL (serie A), Valencia, Instituto de Estudios Documentales e Históricos sobre la Ciencia, 1993, pp. 364 (84-370-1177-9).

Concentrating on travel accounts, reports to the Crown, and writings on the newly discovered continent that circulated in Europe in the early years of Spanish expansion, the authors analyse and reconstruct the knowledge that Europeans could have gained about American plants. The book is divided into two main sections. The first part contains a well

informed presentation of the sources and their authors. This includes biographical details relating to the authors' travels or interests in New Spain, their previous knowledge of botany and medicine, and the purpose and content of the writings, all of which puts the information found in each work into context. There is much emphasis on the translations and editions printed, and the circulation that the writings gained at the time.

The second part, which contains the descriptions of the particular plant species found in the various sources, gives a picture of the kind of plants that first attracted the attention of the Spaniards, and consequently were the first known in Europe. These are presented in three categories, those used as food, as medicine and finally, other useful plants. This extensive work concludes with a condensed and very useful list of the plants mentioned in the texts analysed, which specifies sources and adds further information on plant identity, uses and relevance.

Lazzaro Spallanzani, *Edizione nazionale delle opere di Lazzaro Spallanzani, Parte quarta, Volume secondo (1768–1773)*, a cura di Pericle Di Pietro, Modena, Mucchi Editore, 1997, pp. 337, no price given.

This volume—the second of the fourth part of the complete edition of Lazzaro Spallanzani's work that the Italian Ministero dei Beni culturali ed ambientali has undertaken since 1984—contains four of the Italian naturalist's works originally published between 1768 and 1773. Two of these, *Dell'Azione del cuore en' vasi sanguigni* and *De' Fenomeni della circolazione osservate nel giro universale de' vasi*, deal with various issues related to the circulation of blood, and will be of special interest to scholars working on the role of experimental and analogical reasoning in the history of the eighteenth-century life sciences in general, and on the anatomy and physiology

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of the cardiovascular apparatus in particular. The book also includes Spallanzani's notes and additions to his Italian translation of Charles Bonnet's *Contemplation de la nature*, as well as Spallanzani's own *Prolusio* in Latin, which he wrote on the occasion of his appointment to the new Cattedra di Storia Naturale of the University of Pavia. The *Prolusio* contains Spallanzani's response to the comments on the issue of spontaneous generation that were added by John Turberville Needham to the French edition of Spallanzani's *Saggio* published in Paris in 1769. Each of these pieces has commentaries by Pericle Di Pietro and Ernesto Capanna.

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.)

Mikel Astrain Gallart, Fernando Girón Irueste, Guillermo Olagüe de Ros, Esteban Rodríguez Ocaña, *Historia y medicina en la Universidad de Granada, siglos XIX–XX*, Granada, Área de Historia de la Ciencia, Universidad de Granada, 1997, pp. 259, illus., no price given (84-600-9394-8).

Joan Cassell, *The woman in the surgeon's body*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1998, pp. vii, 267, £23.50 (0-674-95467-X).

Herbert C Covey, *Social perceptions of people with disabilities in history*, Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1998, pp. xvii, 305, illus., \$65.95 (hardback 0-398-06837-2), \$49.95 (paperback 0-398-06838-0).

J Thomas Dalby (ed.), *Mental disease in history: a selection of translated readings*, The Reshaping of Psychoanalysis from Sigmund Freud to Ernest Becker, vol. 7, New York and Frankfurt am Main, Peter Lang, 1997, pp. xix, 264, £32.00 (0-8204-3056-0).

Emma J Edelstein and Ludwig Edelstein (eds), *Asclepius: collection and interpretation of the testimonies*, Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998, (hardcover edition published in 1945), pp. xxvii, 277, £25.00 (paperback 0-8018-5769-4).

Esther Fischer-Homberger, *Hunger—Herz—Schmerz—Geschlecht. Brüche und Fugen im Bild von Leib und Seele*, Bern, eFeF-Verlag, 1997, pp. 224, illus., SFr 34.00, DM 36.00 (3-905561-14-X).

Arthur Kleinman, *Writing at the margin: discourse between anthropology and medicine*, Berkeley and London, University of California Press, 1997, pp. xiii, 314, £12.95, \$16.95 (0-520-20965-6).

Paracelsus, *Four treatises of Theophrastus von Hohenheim called Paracelsus*, transl. by C Lilian Temkin, George Rosen, Gregory Zilboorg, Henry E Sigerist, ed. by Henry E. Sigerist, Baltimore and London, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, pp. xii, 256, £13.00 (0-8018-5523-3).