

Book Notices

JO MANTON, *Mary Carpenter and the children of the streets*, London, Heinemann, 1976, 8vo, pp. xii, 268, illus., £9.50.

Mary Carpenter (1807–1877), late in life, became an outstanding nineteenth-century social reformer who directed her talents, tenacity and ability at controversy to the widespread evil of the juvenile delinquent and criminal. Hoards of them infested every town and many grew up to be professionals, but the only defence society had adopted to control them was flogging or imprisonment. Miss Carpenter rejected these forms of punishment and, in the belief that this social evil was due to society's neglect of lower-class children, she advocated a variety of schools to cope with the neglected, the homeless, and the convicted child.

The author traces Miss Carpenter's life, her ideals, and her endeavours, skilfully depicted against a background of contemporary society, thus providing an important contribution not only to the history of the child but also to social conditions and attempts at reform, at the same time depicting a formidable Victorian lady social worker.

BEVERLEY HOOPER (editor), *With Captain James Cook in the Antarctic and Pacific. The private journal of James Burney Second Lieutenant of the 'Adventure' on Cook's second voyage, 1772–1773*, Canberra, National Library of Australia, 1975, 8vo, pp. xi, 112, illus., Aus.\$10.50.

James Burney, the brother of Fanny Burney, sailed with Cook in the expedition which included Antarctica, New Zealand, Tasmania, Tahiti, and Tonga, and during it he kept a diary. This is here transcribed and it provides an additional and previously unknown source of information about eighteenth-century shipboard life, not the least of the sailor's problems being those of nutrition, hygiene, and illness. The ethnological and anthropological data are also of considerable value and interest. Altogether the journal provides a fascinating account of maritime exploration, quite apart from the light it sheds on an interesting man, who later became an outstanding geographer. It is certainly an important document, although not as revealing of himself or of his times as his sister's writings.

JOHN A. CARMAN, *A medical history of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya. A personal memoir*, London, Rex Collings, 1976, 8vo, pp. [vi], 110, illus., £3.00.

In a highly personal account of his own experiences from 1926 to 1951, Dr. Carman presents a most interesting and readable history of medicine in Kenya before Independence. It is clear that much of the success of the present medical service stems from the foundations laid down by the British. Although by no means a scholarly book it provides a remarkable record of a period through which the author lived. Without this type of primary source a detailed history planned some time in the future would be impossible to produce.

As well as the day-to-day problems of coping with the practical needs of an efficient medical service, the local inhabitants' concept of disease and the ways of handling it were of vital importance. Great tact and tolerance were necessary to integrate modern medicine with primitive beliefs.

A slight book perhaps, but worthy of wide circulation and of special interest to those concerned with palaeo- and primitive medicine.

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W. I. B. BEVERIDGE, *Influenza; the last great plague. An unfinished story of discovery*, London, Heinemann, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 124, illus., £2.95.

Professor Beveridge presents an excellent survey of known information concerning the only surviving disease still capable of producing pandemics. Being a veterinary pathologist he has a good deal to say about the disease in animals, an important aspect that is frequently underemphasized. His book is intended for the non-medical reader, and not only provides information on the history of influenza and the natural history of its causative virus, but also discusses epidemiology and virology in general. The portion dealing with the earlier history of 'flu is necessarily limited, but some mention of sweating sickness and the possibility of its being influenza might have been made. Throughout, the literature cited is scanty, but nevertheless this book can be warmly recommended.

JOSEPH H. BOYES, *On the shoulders of giants. Notable names in hand surgery*, Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott; Oxford, Blackwell, 1976, 8vo, pp. xii, 222, illus., £16.00.

The author provides a series of biographies, chronologically arranged, of surgeons who have contributed to the development of surgery of the hand. He begins with Felix Würtz (1514–1575) and ends with Michael Mason (1895–1963), a list of seventy-four men and one woman. The biographies are adequate, although there is a great paucity of references to sources, but the accounts of the individuals' work are not. It is, for example, difficult to know why certain persons have been selected for inclusion; thus the account of Ramón y Cajal covers three pages but his contribution to hand surgery is not made clear. There are portraits of most of those selected and usually a reproduction of the title-page or first page of a periodical article which justifies the author's choice.

Unfortunately his knowledge of history and of the history of medicine is limited, and it is impossible to derive from his book a survey of the evolution of hand surgery. Moreover, as most of the biographies can be found elsewhere, many may object to paying the high price asked, which includes sumptuous padded binding.

GERT H. BRIEGER (editor), *Theory and practice in American medicine. Historical studies from the 'Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences'*, New York, Science History Publications, 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 272, illus., £7.75 (£4.95 paperback).

OTTO MAYR (editor), *Philosophers and machines*, New York, Science History Publications, 1976, 8vo, pp. x, 193, illus., \$7.95 (\$4.95 paperback).

To reprint articles from little-known periodicals of small circulation is entirely justifiable, but to collect together papers that have appeared in international journals with widespread sales, such as the *Journal* in the first of these books and *Isis* in the second, is difficult to understand, unless student use is intended.

In each instance there is a brief introduction, followed in Dr. Brieger's book by sixteen articles in five groups: medical education; medical theory and medical research; medical practice; surgery; medical care. In Dr. Mayr's there are nineteen. The papers are produced facsimile, but it is interesting that in neither of the books are their locations given, almost as though the publishers wished to conceal their origins. There are, of course, no indexes.

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JOSEPH K. BALDWIN, *A collector's guide to patent and proprietary medicine bottles of the nineteenth century*, Nashville, Tenn., Nelson, 1973, 4to, pp. 540, illus., \$15.00.

A comprehensive guide to medicine bottle collecting which is now a flourishing hobby. There are 4,385 entries, each giving the name of the contents, its supposed therapeutic use, the place of advertising, and, in more than 800 cases, a drawing of it. They are arranged alphabetically by the name of the medicine, so that as well as a guide to American bottles the book is also an index to American patent and proprietary remedies. Their variety and number is a revelation, and it would be most useful to have a similar list of British so-called quack medicines.

P. J. DAVIES (editor), *Historical and current aspects of plant physiology; a symposium honoring F. C. Steward*, Ithaca, N.Y., New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 1975, 8vo, pp. ix, 262, illus., \$10.00 (paperback).

On 1 May 1973 a symposium was held to honour Professor F. C. Steward of Cornell University, and papers presented are reproduced here. The first is 'Reflections on the contribution of F. C. Steward, F.R.S. . . .' and following it is a long essay on 'Excerpts from the history of plant physiology and development' which is a thorough and well-documented survey. The other three articles deal with modern problems in plant physiology, areas in which Professor Steward worked; that on 'Some recent aspects of nitrogen metabolism' provides an excellent review and bibliography. There is also a list of Steward's publications, 1928 to 1974.

This book is a welcome addition to the small amount of information available on the history of plant physiology.

ELLEN G. GARTRELL (compiler), *Electricity, magnetism, and animal magnetism. A checklist of printed sources 1600–1850*, Wilmington, Del., Scholarly Resources, 1975, 4to, pp. ix, 125, illus., \$17.50.

Based on the holdings of the American Philosophical Society, this book also lists those of the Library Company of Philadelphia, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania, the Franklin Institute, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. There are about 1,300 entries arranged by alphabet under 'Electricity and Magnetism 1600–1850', and periodicals. Only the bare bibliographical information is given, together with locations of copies, and whether they are recorded in the standard electricity reference books. A useful reference book, but the period after 1850 was equally, if not more, important and it needs similar treatment.

GEORGE E. GIFFORD, jr. (editor), *Physician signers of the Declaration of Independence*, New York, Science History Publications, 1976, 8vo, pp. [vi], 164, illus., \$10.00.

Five of the fifty-six signers were medical men: Josiah Bartlett (1729–1795) and Matthew Thornton (1714?–1803), both of New Hampshire; Oliver Wolcott (1725–1797) of Connecticut; Lyman Hall (1724–1790) of Georgia; Benjamin Rush (1746–1813) of Philadelphia. This book contains six essays by six authors and after a general introduction by John Blake, the biographies of the five men follow. They are accurate, well documented and illustrated, but tend to be somewhat parochial.

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LEANNA GOODWATER, *Women in antiquity; an annotated bibliography*, Metuchen, N. J., Scarecrow Press; Folkestone, Bailey Bros. & Swinfen, 1975, 8vo, pp. iv, 171, £5.95.

After a lengthy and valuable introduction and a discussion of format and procedures, the author groups her material under 'Ancient sources' and 'Modern works'. In the former are works by and about female authors and then by male authors. The section on 'Modern works' contains 'General works on women (Greece and Rome)', 'Women in Greece', 'Etruscan women', and 'Women in Rome and provinces'. There are 534 entries altogether referring to books and periodical articles, with useful comments concerning most of them. An 'Index of women in antiquity' and 'Index of authors, editors, and translators' complete the volume. All classical libraries will wish to possess it.

JOHN HARVEY, *Early nurserymen. With reprints of documents and lists*, Chichester, Phillimore, 1974, 8vo, pp. xiv, 276, illus., £4.75.

Trade in seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees seems to have begun in Britain in the thirteenth century and the author traces it from these distant origins to the nineteenth century. This is a fascinating story, of value especially to the historian of botany, but also to the historian of medicine and pharmacy in view of the close association with the cultivation of herbs. The economic historian will also find it of interest and, of course, the general reader. The text is amply supplied with notes and references.

About half of it consists of appendices where various lists and catalogues are reproduced, and there is a remarkably ample index. The author must be congratulated on bringing together a very large amount of widely scattered material, and his labours can be warmly recommended.

Public health and housing in early Victorian Nottingham, Archive Teaching Unit No. 3, Manuscripts Department, University of Nottingham, 1975, [no price stated].

Akin to the Jackdaw series of teaching kits, this folder contains an 'Introduction' which details the origins of the various component parts and gives a brief account of Nottingham's public health problems, which include overcrowding and disease, infectious diseases prevalent in the first half of the nineteenth century such as cholera, typhoid and typhus, and water supplies. Supporting documents extend these topics, and maps and photographs illustrate them.

This is an excellent method of bringing to life historical periods and problems, and helping the student to memorize facts. There are many other topics in the history of medicine which could be handled in this fashion.

WALTER RIESE, *Il concetto di malattia. Storia, interpretazioni, e natura*, Milan, Episteme Editrice, 1976, 8vo, pp. 159, [no price stated].

Dr. Riese's book, *The conception of disease; its history, its versions and its nature*, appeared first in 1953 (see, for example, Professor O. Temkin's review in *Bull. Hist. Med.*, 1956, 30: 386-388). This translation has a new preface by the author, but, as Temkin points out, although it is not a history of the subject, it adopts a historical approach.

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PAUL ROBINSON, *The modernization of sex*, New York, Harper & Row, 1976, 8vo, pp. vi, 200, \$8.95.

The most influential exponents of sexual thought in the present century, according to the author, have been Havelock Ellis, Alfred Kinsey, William Masters, and Virginia Johnson. The writings of each are examined in turn and there is an epilogue on 'Sexual Modernism and Romanticism'. Being an intellectual historian, Dr. Robinson's fundamental assumption is that sexual thought is now an integral component of our intellectual history and the outstanding theorists of it require more detailed consideration than they have received in the past. Freud, of course, has been closely analysed but those dealt with here are relatively neglected. He therefore provides three intellectual portraits, although a good deal of his material deals with sexual physiology rather than thought. It is curious that no mention is made of Marie Stopes, surely an outstanding pioneer in this field and certainly better known than Masters and Johnson.

J. F. SCOTT, *The scientific work of René Descartes (1596–1650)*, London, Taylor & Francis, 1976, 4to, pp. x, 211, illus., £8.50.

An exact reproduction of the first issue of 1952 with nothing added, not even a brief account of scholarship in this field during the last quarter-century. The title is somewhat misleading for there is little about Descartes' biological studies.

WILLIAM D. SHARPE, *Confederate States medical and surgical journal*, Metuchen, N. J., Scarecrow Press; Folkestone, Bailey Bros. & Swinfen, 1976, 4to, pp. xiii, 224, 48, illus., \$22.50.

This periodical began in January 1864 and ended in February 1865. Fourteen issues appeared, and they are reprinted here in facsimile, a most welcome production in view of the extreme rarity of the originals. In the latter the printing was crude and the paper poor so that parts are difficult to read. It is, nevertheless, full of interesting material, mostly concerned with military surgery.

Dr. Sharpe provides an eight-page introduction in which he discusses the journal's contents and impact. His book is a significant contribution to the history of military medicine.

WALTER L. VOEGTLIN, *The stone age diet*, New York, Vantage Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xvii, 277, \$6.95.

Dr. Voegtlin first discusses diet and food in general, and digestion in man and animals. He then deals with palaeodietetics and proceeds to modern man's diet, including that of modern primitive man, and diets of the future. His book is a curious mixture of history partially documented, dietary advice, and opinions that oppose accepted belief and substantiated fact. It makes interesting reading and may "leave you much food for thought" as the dust-jacket puns. The sub-title provides the purpose of the book and the author's style: "It's safe. It's sane. It's simple, and it really works!" The naivety of the author and the publishers concerning scholarly works is also displayed on the title-page when they claim that the book is "Based on in-depth studies of human ecology and the diet of man".

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C. A. WESLAGER, *Magic medicines of the Indians*, Wallingford, Penn., Middle Atlantic Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xi, 161, illus., \$8.00.

The author, a historian of the American colonial period and of Indian-white relations in the Middle Atlantic States, provides a condensed account intended for the layman, of North American Indian herbal and non-herbal remedies. His sources, which are mostly documented in the text, are early contemporary writers and interviews with modern Indians. Early settlers who used Indian medicines testify to their value, although in some instances the supernatural or magical elements were not revealed to them. In this regard they were presumably no different from the components of folk-medicine elsewhere in the world. It is valuable, however, to have a careful and reliable account of them by an expert, providing that they are evaluated in the light of North American Indian culture and not of ours.

This is the third printing of the 1973 edition which is evidence of its popularity.

CARL HAFFTER (editor), *Tagebuch des Zürcher Medizinstudenten Elias Haffter aus dem Jahr 1823*, Zürich, Hans Rohr, 1976, 8vo, pp. 72, S.Fr.9.80.

During 1823 whilst at the Zürich Medical School Elias Haffter (1803–1861) kept a diary which is here transcribed with explanatory comments. One learns not only of the diarist but also, usefully, of the medical curriculum, staff, teaching, text-books, etc. This information is important because it adds to our knowledge of a relatively neglected individual in medicine, the student.

CHARLES W. TRICHE III and DIANE SAMSON TRICHE, *The sickle cell hemoglobinopathies. A comprehensive bibliography 1910–1972*, 1973, 8vo, pp. iv, 453; 1973–1975, 1976, 8vo, pp. iv, 140; Troy, N.Y., Whitston Publishing Co., [no price stated].

These volumes provide the only full coverage of the literature relating to the sickle cell and its genetic variants. The 'Preface' of the first one exhibits a curious illiteracy, but the bibliography will be of great value to a wide spectrum of research workers and clinicians. The references are arranged by subject headings, and there is an index of authors and co-authors.

CHARLES W. TRICHE III and DIANE SAMSON TRICHE, *The euthanasia controversy 1812–1974. A bibliography with select annotations*, Troy, N.Y., Whitston Publishing Co., 1975, 8vo, pp. ix, 242, \$18.00.

The 1363 entries are arranged by topic and indexed by author. The vast majority of the material is from publications of the last few decades, covering a very wide area of literature which ranges from theses to newspapers. It is the first bibliography of its kind and will be especially useful for locating items illustrating popular reactions to a controversial topic which is receiving increasing attention. Supplements every two or three years are promised.

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ROBERT HENRY WELKER, *Natural man. The life of William Beebe*, Bloomington and London, Indiana University Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xv, 224, illus., £8.00.

William Beebe (1877–1962) began his career as an ornithologist, then became an observer of marine life, and finally turned to entymology. He had the rare gift of being able to report the results of his scientific investigations with skill, and at the same time producing popular articles based on his adventures as a scientist and explorer. At one time he was the best known nature writer in the U.S.A. and produced about twenty books on various themes. Some of them concerned his daring descents in his bathysphere, and his exploration of the jungles of Venezuela. Mr. Welker's biography is a sympathetic survey of an outstanding and articulate pioneer-naturalist.

WOLFGANG WIELAND, *Diagnose Überlegungen zur Medizintheorie*, Berlin and New York, W. de Gruyter, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 176, DM. 36.00.

This book deals essentially with the theory and methodology of diagnosis. No diagnosis can be made from a single fact and a plurality of facts will often lead to a plurality of possible diagnoses. Once a choice between these possibilities has been made, the physician will usually defend his diagnosis even if further facts make it doubtful. This may be a completely unconscious process, motivated by observation, logic, and also by prestige. The use of computers for diagnosis is discussed, but for this the basic concepts of disease would have to be changed. Is disease more than an accumulation of symptoms caused by genetic and acute physical and possibly psychological factors? Is the idea of syndromes out of date because the factors can be combined in all kinds of permutations? Can a computer show the sum total of a situation for a valid diagnosis? All in all, this book will appeal only to those who find discussions of methodology interesting and fruitful.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title in this list does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review.)

JOSEPH AGASSI, *The continuing revolution. A history of physics from the Greeks to Einstein*, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1968, pp. 225, illus., \$5.95.

MARK D. ALTSCHULE, *What medicine is about. Using its past to improve its future*, Boston, Mass., Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, 1975, pp. [vi], 100, [no price stated].

LLOYD DEMAUSE (editor), *The new psychohistory*, New York, Psychohistory Press, 1975, pp. [vi], 313, illus., \$12.95.

Robbery of dead bodies, (Studies in Labour History, No. 1), Brighton, John L. Noyce, 1976, pp. 31, £1.40.