

### Book Reviews

theorist, Revolutionary deputy, man of letters and social reformer. On the scientific side, Mr. Baker gives excellent and concise accounts of the history of scientific language in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and of the theory of probability in mathematics. Condorcet thought that by means of the latter the Newtonian model of natural philosophy could be applied to all of human experience.

Condorcet's contribution was extensive in the social sciences for he attempted an empirical analysis of social phenomena and developed the first complete theory of social organization based on a theory of human nature. His social mathematics was to inform an ideal society, and he insisted that economics is a subject which lends itself ideally to scientific and mathematical approaches. Moreover, the government of society needed science, and above all Condorcet's utopia was ruled by scientists who carefully controlled all its social aspects and scientific endeavour.

Professor Baker's excellent book is written in a pleasing style, and has copious notes and a useful bibliography. It provides one of the best accounts of Condorcet available and for those who study eighteenth-century science or medicine, especially in France, it will become essential reading.

HORACIO FABREGA, jr., *Disease and social behaviour; an interdisciplinary perspective*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xvii, 341, £9.00.

Using his dual training and experience in medicine and sociology, the author explores the meeting ground of medicine and social science as it concerns the relations between disease and human behaviour. He is especially concerned with fundamental aspects of how the social and biological sciences are related in medical theory, practice, education and research.

First of all he reviews and criticizes the traditional approaches in social medicine: social and cultural aspects of illness; the social biology of disease; ethno-medicine, social epidemiology and medical ecology. The second part of his book considers the analytical foundations of sociomedical studies: disease definition and meaning; illness behaviour and a suggested model of it. The third and final section discusses the practical problems of social medicine, the potential contributions of sociomedical study: disease concepts and the organization of medical care; the beliefs about disease and medical care among a native Mexican group; the form and course of sociomedical inquiries.

Although there is not much here on the history of medicine, this is an important book which should be consulted by all those studying the history of disease, as well as by medical workers, anthropologists and social scientists. On the whole there is rather more sociological jargon than one would wish for, but to put forward ideas on the social dynamics of disease it seems to be necessary. Dr. Fabrega is also concerned to emphasize interdisciplinary research and cross-cultural approaches, with their new research techniques and subjects such as "ethnoscience".

The relationships between medicine and social science are becoming of increasing significance and Dr. Fabrega's attempt at a theoretical analysis of them is a valuable addition to this field of study.