

Book Reviews

historians. The author, a historian, has, therefore, prepared this book, which deals with some aspects of human sexuality, but concentrates on “. . . a history of attitudes toward sex and their relationship to certain forms of stigmatized sexual behaviour . . .” (p. viii). There are six sections: the background (culture and sexuality, sources of Western attitudes and the Jewish contribution); the European inheritance (Greeks, Romans, Christian hostility, early Christianity); attitudes toward sex in the non-Western world (Islam, India, China); the Christian world (Byzantium, early Middle Ages in the West, later Middle Ages); new horizons and the New World; the twentieth century, trends and assumptions.

Although some of the material has been published already, this is the first comprehensive survey of the history of stigmatized sexual behaviour. It includes primarily homo-sexuality, but also masturbation, transvestism, transexualism and bestiality, with information about celibacy, incest, rape, adultery, eunuchism, pornography, phallicism, sadism, masochism, and fetichism to support the main theme. Altogether, this scholarly book forms a mine of information, and Professor Bullough has documented his sources impeccably. But in addition to being an excellent historical survey it also deals with modern attitudes and the reasons for current changes. An understanding of the social and cultural factors that have determined present-day attitudes towards sex and its deviations will be of the greatest assistance to those who are at the moment grappling with its problems.

Professor Bullough's book can, therefore, be recommended to a wide circle of readers, including the historian of medicine, the social historian, the social worker and all those dealing with the sexual deviant.

MARGARET C. JACOB, *The Newtonians and the English Revolution 1689–1720*, Hassocks, Sussex, Harvester Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. 288, £10.50.

Dr. Jacob, a historian, attempts systematically to relate late seventeenth-century scientific concepts to the political, social, and religious background in which they evolved. This type of interdisciplinary study is becoming increasingly popular in the history of science and has already brought about several new interpretations. It involves the exploration of Shryock's external factors and much more of it is needed, especially in the history of medicine, where until recently it has been conspicuously deficient.

Newtonians related their natural philosophy to their social and political context, and it was adopted by the Anglican church for its own ends, after the Protestant revolution of 1688, and by the mercantile classes. The Newtonian cosmology bequeathed to the early Enlightenment was profoundly political and discouraged reforms in case they affected the church's power and social and political stability. Newtonianism conformed with essential social needs and this accounts for its survival and success. The author does not enter far into the eighteenth century, but declares that a re-examination of Newtonian thought in it will now be necessary.

This is an important book not only for the historian of science and medicine but also for intellectual historians in general, and in particular for those concerned with political, social, and religious history of the early eighteenth century. It will, no doubt, stimulate considerable research.