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nature but some dealing with more particular topics in the history of German medicine and science during the period 1871 to 1914. Amongst them Seidler writes on the political status of the doctor, Goerke on the panel doctor, Winau on the doctor and disease in poetry, Querner on Roux, Murken on Bad Nauheim, Jusatz on tropical medicine, Eichberg on body culture, and Rosner on the reception of Western medicine in Japan. As in other volumes in this excellent series, the articles are well documented and illustrated. They reveal closely the thriving state of scholarly medical history at present active in West Germany.

FRANCIS X. GROLLIG and HAROLD B. HALEY (editors), *Medical anthropology*, The Hague and Paris, Mouton, (West Berlin, W. de Gruyter), 1976, 8vo, pp. xvii, 485, illus., DM. 76.00.

There are thirty-one papers in this volume, including four introductory papers to the four sections into which the essays are divided: native cultural aspects of healing; specific subject papers; interaction of traditional and Western medical practices; and theoretic aspects of medical anthropology. A group of international experts present a great variety of topics, dealing with native cultural aspects of healing and the deep-seated nature of health beliefs which are basic to applied medical anthropology. The cultural background to these subjects is of vital importance, and Western healers have much to learn from their more primitive colleagues.

Much of this book is relevant to the history of medicine in view of the analogy between primitive and pre-historical medicine, and because of its value in the general history of therapeutics. It should receive wide attention in the fields of anthropology, clinical medicine, fringe medicine, ethnology, and medical history.

ADAM KUPER (editor), *The social anthropology of Radcliffe-Brown*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 296, £3.50 (paperback).

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown (1881–1955) was one of the first professional anthropologists, and he aimed to establish scientific comparative sociology, that is, a structural and sociological anthropology. In this collection of his writings there are eleven essays divided into three sections: 'Structure and function', on social structure, functionalism, the comparative method in social anthropology, etc.; 'Rites and values', on Andaman Island ceremonies, and on religion and society; 'The study of kinship systems' in Australian tribes, joking relationships, and systems of kinship and marriage. The editing, however, is quite inadequate and limited to a seven-page 'Preface' and a fourteen-page introduction to Part I. There is a bibliography and a limited index.

ROSANNA LEDBETTER, *A history of the Malthusian League 1877–1927*, Columbus, Ohio State University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xxii, 261, \$12.50.

The League was the first organization to advocate birth control as the only way of solving the problems of the poor, and the first of many sexual reform groups. It was founded by Charles Bradlaugh, the leading British Freethinker of his day, and its aims were clearcut: to allow free discussion of contraception, and to preach the importance of family limitation. The author, a historian, depicts the League's rise and fall in a scholarly, well-written book. The complex background is analysed care-

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fully, and the factors that promoted the League and those that determined its downfall are carefully identified and skilfully dissected out. A broad approach is adopted throughout, so that Dr. Ledbetter's book is not only an important addition to the birth control movement, but also to the history of social change in general.

Naval history. Part One: the Middle Ages to 1815, London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1976, 4to, pp. xi, 209, illus., £12.00.

The Catalogue of the Library of the National Maritime Museum is in the process of publication, and this is the fifth volume. It is an elegant and scholarly production, and Mr. Michael Anderson, the Librarian, is to be congratulated on its excellence.

There are five sections: medieval, sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth (up to 1815) centuries; and a section on 'General works'. These are subdivided by localities and naval wars, and altogether there are 2,318 items, many with brief annotations. As well as printed books, reference is also made to periodical articles. A comprehensive index is provided and there are twelve well-chosen plates.

Like its predecessors, this catalogue will be a remarkably useful source-book, and, as it includes a number of references to naval medicine, it will also be of value to historians of medicine.

SIEGHARD NEUFELDT, *Chronologie Chemie 1800–1970*, Weinheim and New York, Verlag Chemie, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 359, illus., DM.78.00.

Each year is taken in sequence and the important contributions to chemistry during that year are recorded. The subsequent development of the idea or technique is briefly given. Thus one of the entries for 1929 is Fleming's classic paper and the work of Florey, Chain, and others is recorded, up to the first synthesis of penicillin in 1973. Accurate references to the primary sources are given, but without article titles. In the appendix outstanding additions to chemical knowledge are considered chronologically (Dalton, Berzelius, Kekulé, van't Hoff, Röntgen, etc.); there are lists of Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry, and physiology or medicine, and of like honours, important literature on chemical nomenclature, lists of chemical societies, journals, and history of chemistry literature. There follow name and subject indexes.

The author, therefore, provides a most valuable source-book for the historian of chemistry. It will also be useful to the historian of medicine because of the biochemical, pharmacological, and pharmaceutical material it contains.

EDWARD FORD, *Bibliography of Australian medicine 1790–1900*, Sydney University Press (Hemel Hempstead, Prentice Hall International), 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 348, illus., £21.00.

Sir Edward Ford, the distinguished Australian medical scholar, has produced a most outstanding and important source-book. It contains, as far as possible, detailed annotated entries for every work on Australian medicine, domestic or overseas, from the period of national development, 1790, to 1900. Ancillary topics, such as nursing, dentistry, domestic, and fringe medicine, are included. Items are in alphabetical order and include notes on the author and the book, pamphlet, or broadsheet, and the location of copies. There is a subject index and a chronological list of publica-