

Book Reviews

be “comprehensively followed from the official reports”. Fortunately, official publications and actual events at local level frequently show interesting discrepancies and nineteenth-century provincial newspapers are full of detailed and useful accounts of the epidemic that certainly deserve setting alongside these official records. Pattison clearly has veterinary heroes and villains, not all of whom perhaps deserve his praise or opprobrium; thus he writes equally enthusiastically of John McFadyean as a leader of the profession and of Alfred Adrian Jones, a sculptor-veterinarian.

If one accepts that the history of a profession in Britain is to be found in its journals and publications, then Pattison’s book will satisfy the reader. However, a comprehensive story of veterinary practice and practitioners remains to be told, especially the recruitment of veterinary surgeons, their social origins and contribution to community health. Much archive material survives on the early history of the profession; the records of the nineteenth-century provincial associations, practitioners’ own account books, prescriptions and correspondence, as well as the veterinary surgeon’s appearance in other contemporary records, being paid for his professional attendance, owning property and advertising his services in the press (permitted until 1894), and so on. A volume based on these materials has still to be written; in the meantime Pattison’s book can be seen as one contribution towards a larger account.

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H. MOCHMANN and W. KOHLER, *Meilensteine der Bakteriologie*, Jena DDR, Gustav Fischer, 1984, pp. 386, illus., M.60.00 (paperback).

The 100th anniversary of Robert Koch’s discovery of the tubercle bacillus in 1882 brought a number of celebrations and biographical volumes on Koch from East Germany, covering familiar ground and in most cases bordering on eulogy. The present volume has the same protagonist but spreads its net much wider among early bacteriologists. It is based on a series of articles celebrating ‘One hundred years of bacteriology’ published in the journal *Medicamentum* since 1976. The authors emphasize that theirs is no comprehensive history but merely a collection of “stories from the history of bacteriology”. As such, they provide an entertaining guide to many early achievements by the rival German and French schools of bacteriology and immunology, extending also to the works of Ehrlich and of Metchnikoff and including much general and some exclusive biographic information. “Stories” they may be, but based on a well-documented study of the original literature they are eminently factual and never descend to the level of anecdote.

As a curtain-raiser, there is a historical perspective on the appalling consequences, especially for European Jews, of the superstitions aroused by the phenomenon of “bleeding” caused by periodic contamination of food and in particular of the Eucharist host with the “blood bacterium” *Serratia marcescens* from the early Middle Ages until a scientific explanation was finally given in the nineteenth century. There is an extensive bibliography of early bacteriology, although publications in languages other than German are few and far between. For a paperback volume, there is a generous number of well-chosen illustrations.

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BRYAN GANDEVIA, ALISON HOLSTER and SHEILA SIMPSON *An annotated bibliography of the history of medicine and health in Australia*, Sydney, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 1984, 4to, pp. xiv, 187, 38.50 Australian dollars (paperback).

Anyone interested in health and the development of medicine in Australia will find this comprehensive bibliography a valuable research tool. Although essentially medical in its orientation, it extends to works dealing with the social, economic, and political implications of