Book Notices

GERALDINE JONÇICH, *The sane positivist. A biography of Edward L. Thorndike,* Middletown, Conn., Wesleyan University Press, 1968, 8vo, pp. [x], 634, illus., $12.50.

Edward Lee Thorndike (1874–1949) has on the whole been neglected and we should, therefore, be reminded of this book. He was a pioneer in the application of experimental methods and quantitative techniques to educational psychology, and Professor Jonçich's full-scale biography presents the man, the range and ingenuity of his work, and his importance. But at the same time we learn a lot about the development of psychology, of education and of the professionalization of the larger American universities in the first two decades of the present century. A voluminous intellectual biography, it is valuable for historians of psychology and education, although a portrait of the man himself is more difficult to discover.

ŇUTA CERVEŇANSKÁ, *Prvé obdobie vývoja resuscitácie,* Bratislava, Vydavatel'stvo Stovenskej Akadémie Vied, 1973, 8vo, pp. 241, illus., [no price stated].

The author provides a critical and comparative study of the seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century European literature on resuscitation, both scientific and popular. The greatest progress was in the eighteenth century, due to Enlightenment humanitarianism, and this resulted in the formation of humane societies, the first being established in Amsterdam in 1767. Government action followed with the compulsory provision of first-aid in several countries. After a loss of interest at the beginning of the nineteenth century, resuscitation has become increasingly important from the clinical point of view, and scientific investigation has been carried out on it. Improvement in methods has provided the modern doctor with potent life-saving procedures.

This is the first lengthy consideration of the subject and it is of considerable merit. It is a scholarly work, for it includes forty pages of references and ninety illustrations. Perhaps an English translation may be possible some day; it would certainly be justifiable and welcome.

PIERRE LOUIS (editor and translator), *Aristote. Marche des animaux, mouvement des animaux, index des traités biologiques,* Paris, Société d'édition 'Les belles lettres', 1973, 8vo, pp. x, 170, [no price stated].

New texts of Aristotle's *De incessu animalium* and *De motu animalium* with translations of them into French and accompanying notes are presented. There is also a French-Greek lexicon of the names of animals, and indexes of animals by name, parts of the body, organs, faculties and functions, and one of plant names. These indexes are of great value because they include references to all uses of individual words in each of Aristotle's biological treatises. Constructed by a person with deep knowledge of Aristotle's biology, these will prove to be more reliable sources than the various concordances produced by scholars without specialized knowledge of this area of science.

As an excellent text and translation of Aristotle's discussions of animal motion, and as a valuable reference work this book is recommended.

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D. C. GOODMAN (editor), *Science and religious belief 1600–1900. A selection of primary sources,* Milton Keynes, J. Wright and the Open University, 1973, 4to, pp. 482, £2.75 (paperback).

Although this is intended primarily as a companion volume to set books in the Open University's course, "Science and belief: from Copernicus to Darwin", it will be useful to other students and readers who are concerned with this central problem. Twenty-six extracts in facsimile, from Kepler's *Mysterium cosmographicum,* 1596 to Huxley's *On the reception of the 'Origin of species',* 1887, are arranged chronologically, and are either from the original English or from a translation, and are preceded by a very brief introduction. They illustrate a number of identifiable themes: the origin of the universe; the investigation of natural phenomena as a means of revealing and understanding God; the relationship between man and animals; scientific data as evidence for God's wisdom and design; the explanation for the paradoxical existence of evil and harmful animals and things in a world abounding in God's goodness; the presence of atheist argument and the steps taken to counter it; the reconciliation of evidence from the natural world with that derived from the Bible.

For those not taking the course it would have been useful to have had a more detailed introduction and reference to more of the voluminous secondary literature.

PHELOMON STEIN, *Medical engravings of the nineteenth century,* New York, Universe Books, 1974, 4to, [no pagination], illus., $8.00 ($3.95 paperback).

For some individuals the attraction of medical history is the curious and apparently misguided ways of our forebears. This book caters for an unhistorical attitude of this nature by presenting a series of engravings illustrating, with a brief legend, 'Pathologia', 'Chirurgia', 'Hydroelectrotherapia', 'Mecanotherapia', and 'Teratalogia' as the sections are learnedly entitled. To the serious student they may be of some interest, but their sources are not given and one gets the impression that the dramatic, the bizarre and the sensational have been purposely selected. Other than a spectacle, the purpose of the book is not obvious.

LILIANE VIRÉ, *La distribution publique d'eau à Bruxelles 1830–1870,* Brussels, Pro Civitate, 1973, 8vo, pp. xxxii, 238, illus., [no price stated].

The provision of readily available, clean drinking-water in plentiful supply was one of the great public health achievements of the nineteenth century, for it lead rapidly to a marked decline in gastro-intestinal disorders, and is typified by the well-known work of Snow on cholera in London. It is, therefore, paradoxical that relatively little has been written on the subject. This book is a scholarly account of the task of providing the city of Brussels with a modern water supply and it provides an excellent example of what was going on at the same time in many other large cities throughout the world. The delays, the problems, the opposition were universal, but so was the eventual victory.

The author draws on many local archives, but confines her story to Belgium, whereas comparative comments would have been valuable. Nevertheless as a significant contribution to the history of public health and hygiene it can be warmly recommended. A comparable volume on London's water supply would be most welcome.

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JOHN R. HERMAN, *Urology. A view through the retrospectroscope,* Hagerstown, Md., Harper & Row, 1973, 8vo, pp. x, 182, illus., $10.95.

Those who form an opinion of this book by means of its subtitle will not be disappointed when they open it. The author demonstrates laudable enthusiasm and devotion to medical history, but unfortunately his book is full of errors, misinterpretations and unhistorical comments. One need not go further than p. 12 where 'Claudius' Galen is referred to. This is an even better diagnostic sign than the subtitle.

C. G. POURNAROPOULOS, [*Medical instruments used by the Ancient Greeks*], Athens, privately printed, 1973, 8vo, pp. vi, 329, [no price stated].

Written in Greek with a very brief summary in English, this doctoral thesis is a detailed survey of surgical instruments used by the Ancient Greeks, based on references in their literature and with full documentation. It covers the period from prehistory to Byzantium and in it are described more than 350 instruments. As the author says, his book contains the longest list of Greek surgical instruments so far produced, and an English translation would be very welcome.

RUTH D'ARCY THOMPSON, *The remarkable Gamgees. A story of achievement,* Edinburgh, Ramsay Head Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. 216, illus., £3.95.

The unusual name of Gamgee is familiar in medicine today mainly because of a dressing bearing the name introduced by the surgeon, Sampson Gamgee (1828–1886). However, there were four additional members of the family who achieved fame: Joseph Gamgee (1801–1895), a founder of the veterinary profession in this country—the surgeon, Gamgee, being his eldest son; his second son Professor John Gamgee (1831–1894), prominent in veterinary medicine; his third son, Arthur (1841–1909), physiologist and physician; his grandson, Professor Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson (1860–1948), the eminent biologist.

The dynasty is described by the last-named's daughter in a rambling narrative composed mainly of transcribed letters and quotations for which no references are given. Unfortunately, the copy reviewed lacked pp. 61–64.

HARRY VERDON STOPES-ROE, with IAN SCOTT, *Marie Stopes and birth control,* London, Priory Press, 1974, 4to, pp. 96, illus., £2.25.

Marie Stopes (1880–1958) was responsible more than any other individual for revolutionizing the rigid Victorian ideas of sex, married love, and contraception. In this regard her name is now a household word, and, because of her, attitudes that were universal in Britain before her day are now difficult for us to comprehend. Her remarkable career began with brilliant training and research in palaeobotany and ended in lonely bitterness. It is told here sympathetically yet without bias by her son, with abundant illustrations and a useful appendix on birth control then and now, exactly as his mother would have wished so that her doctrine could be propagated. It is an excellent introduction to Marie Stopes and to the history of birth control and of attitudes to sex.

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MICHAEL M. SMITH, *The 'Real expedición marítima de la vacuna' in New Spain and Guatemala,* Philadelphia, The American Philosophical Society, 1974, 4to, pp. 74, $4.00.

One of the deleterious effects of the Spanish Conquest of America was the importation of smallpox, which became the leading fatal disease throughout the colonial period. Relief came, however, in 1803 when Jennerian vaccination was introduced by Dr. Francisco Xavier de Balmis y Berenguer and his Royal Maritime Vaccination Expedition to the New World. This scholarly study deals mainly with his activities in Mexico and Guatemala and shows how thoroughly and efficiently Balmis organized his expedition, justly said to have been ". . . the most ambitious medical project conceived and carried out to its day . . . ."

Dr. Smith's monograph is, therefore, of general importance to the history of medicine and is not just of parochial interest. It is well written, fully documented, and should be read by those concerned with the history of preventive medicine, as well as by historians of medicine in the New World.

R. K. FRENCH, *Anatomical education in a Scottish university, 1620,* Aberdeen, Equipress, 1975, 8vo, pp. xix, 88, illus., £3.00.

During the academic year 1619 to 1620 John Moir attended various lectures held in Marischal College, Aberdeen. Those on anatomy, given by James Sibbald, are here translated from Latin, with an introduction, eighty-nine elucidatory notes, and a brief index. Like the lecture notes of Harvey, they derive largely from Caspar Bauhin. Anatomy was taught in Aberdeen at this time without dissection and in these notes there are many of the features of pre-Vesalian natural philosophy, based on Plato, Aristotle, and Galen. This is academic anatomy. They represent an important addition to the history of anatomy in general, and in particular to the early development of anatomical instruction in British universities. The textual annotations are helpful, but there are no references to the extensive secondary literature, the addition of which would have increased their value. Illustrations are from contemporary textbooks of anatomy.

Dr. French's book should interest historians of medicine, science, and of education.

JEAN-JACQUES PEUMERY, *Les origines de la transfusion sanguine,* Amsterdam, B. M. Israël, 1974, 4to, pp. [83], illus., H.fl.36.00.

Priority for the first use of blood transfusion has often been contested. Dr. Peumery now presents all the evidence and examines closely two periods: the first, from Wren's intravenous injection of 1657 to 1668 when the procedure fell into disuse; the second, from 1788, when it was revived by Michel Rosa of Modena, to the discovery of blood groups in 1900. The second phase is dealt with in two pages, the rest of the monograph dealing with the seventeenth-century advances. Richard Lower first transfused an animal in 1665, and Jean-Baptiste Denis of Paris carried out the procedure on a boy on 5 June 1667. All the details of these and subsequent developments are given here, but there seems to be more emphasis on the French contributions, important though they were. There is also a neglect of some of the secondary literature in English.

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Sex and science. Phrenological reflections on sex and marriage in nineteenth century America, New York, Arno Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. [vi], 136, 65, $12.00.

Another volume in the series *Sex, marriage and society,* containing two facsimile reprints: L. N. Fowler, *The principles of phrenology and physiology applied to man's social relations: together with an analysis of the domestic feelings,* New York, 1842; O. S. Fowler, *Amativeness: embracing the evils and remedies of excessive and perverted sexuality, including warning and advice to the married and single,* New York, 1889. It is most useful to have reproductions of these interesting tracts, and social historians of medicine of the nineteenth century will be especially interested in them. However there are no editorial comments or annotations and no introduction, all of which are essential in a book of this kind. And for the price asked one could certainly expect them.

The male mid-wife and the female doctor. The gynecology controversy in nineteenth-century America, New York, Arno Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. 22, 48, 50, 48, 50, $15.00.

The role of men in midwifery has been hotly disputed since the seventeenth century, and the debate continues at the present time as the introduction of an amendment to extend the Midwives Act of 1951 to men is sought in Parliament. Women in medicine has likewise been a contentious topic for centuries. In this book facsimile reprints of pamphlets dealing with the two disputes are presented, each having been published in the U.S.A. between 1820 and 1853. The presentation of such primary sources in this way is useful for students and research workers alike, for they represent important social documents. However, the book would have been much enhanced in value had an introduction and a bibliography been provided. Moreover, the high price for a volume of modest size will discourage most private individuals from purchasing it.

CHRISTINA MACDONALD, *Medicines of the Maori from their trees, shrubs and other plants together with foods from the same sources,* Auckland and London, Collins, 1974, 8vo, pp. 142, illus., £2.75.

Like any other primitive community, the Maoris discovered by trial and error valuable therapeutic agents in the plants that grew around them. Over a lengthy period of time, therefore, they established their distinctive form of folk medicine and the author records much of it here for the first time. Some of it has been only in the form of oral tradition, transmitted, interestingly enough, only by the women; Christina Macdonald must be complimented for having rescued it from eventual extinction.

There is first of all an account of the Maori before the advent of the white man, his way of life, his diet and cooking, and medicinal steam baths. Then the various herbs, provided by trees, shrubs and other plants are described in detail, with an illustration, and then the therapeutic uses of them are given. There are also early settlers' recipes, a glossary of medical terms, and a bibliography.

This book makes an important contribution to folk medicine, which is an essential part of medical history. Many of the remedies described seem to be effective and it would be of interest to know the nature of the active ingredients by modern analysis, as has been done in other countries, such as India.

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INGEBORG PAULUS, *The search for pure food. A sociology of legislation in Britain,* London, Martin Robertson, 1974, 8vo, pp. 144, £3.25.

The author is an American sociologist and the book is one of a series entitled, *Law in society*. Basically it deals with the disputes, debates and resultant reforms aimed at providing pure food, drugs and drink. Not only does this provide an interesting topic in the history of public health, but it is also a case study in the sociology of law. The legislation necessary to prevent the adulteration of culinary substances is traced from the mid-nineteenth century, the main objectives being to thwart the defrauding and poisoning of the British population. All in all it is a fascinating story reflecting business and governmental attitudes and practice as well as technological and medical aspects. The material is fully annotated and the author has obviously researched his topic thoroughly. His book will be of interest to public health officials, and to students of nineteenth-century medicine, nutrition, social history, and legislation.

GERHARD KÜNTSCHER, *The callus-problem,* translated by Peter C. Altner, St. Louis, Miss., W. H. Green, 1974, 8vo, pp. viii, 147, illus., $9.50.

The German original of this book appeared probably in 1970, and is a comprehensive monograph on a vital topic in orthopaedic surgery, intended as a guide for the surgeon. There is a brief historical introduction, and an extensive bibliography, which refers only to recent literature. The book throughout is written in an incredibly *staccato* fashion, and there are many curious words and clumsy expressions, resulting no doubt from inadequate or faulty translation.

EDMUND BERKELEY and DOROTHY SMITH BERKELEY, *Dr. John Mitchell. The man who made the map of North America,* Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xix, 283, illus., $12.50.

When the Americans were granted their independence from Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1783 a map of British and French America played an important role in the negotiations, and it did likewise when the border between America and Canada was being fixed. The cartographer was Dr. John Mitchell (1711–1768) who was born in Virginia, but spent the last twenty-two years of his life in England. He graduated in medicine at Edinburgh and for a time practised in Urbanna, Virginia, at the same time studying the flora and fauna of the region. In London he indulged wide interests: botany, zoology, physiology, clinical medicine, chemistry, electricity, agriculture, climatology, and cartography. He is especially remembered as a botanist and spent two years at Kew planning the botanical garden. He was in contact with a large cross-section of eighteenth-century British society, and it was Lord Halifax who recommended him for the job of preparing the map which he completed in 1755. It is now known as "the most important and famous map in American history", and measured three and one-half feet by six feet.

The Berkeleys have produced the first full-length biography of Mitchell. As there is very little known of his life, no letters, journals or like documents, to do this they have had to carry out wide research in collateral manuscript material. The result of their labours is an excellent and scholarly work detailing the life and works of an important eighteenth-century physician-scientist.

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ROBERT JACKSON, *Francis Camps. Famous case histories of the celebrated pathologist,* London, Hart-Davis, MacGibbon, 1975, 8vo, pp. 208, illus., £3.95.

Medical jurisprudence probably receives more publicity than any other part of medicine, and the names of the outstanding proponents of it become household words to those who peruse the newspapers regularly. Dr. Francis Edward Camps (1905–1972), late Professor of Forensic Medicine at the London Hospital Medical College, became one of the best known, and he figured in many notorious cases in the 'fifties and 'sixties. Mr. Jackson, a professional writer, records some of these here in a pleasing style, intended primarily as entertainment, for those with morbid tastes. Nevertheless a full picture of Professor Camps' personality and work is achieved.

CARL L. ERHARDT and JOYCE E. BERLIN (editors), *Mortality and morbidity in the United States,* Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xxv, 289, £5.50.

Fifteen volumes in the series *Vital and health statistics monographs* have already appeared, dealing with accidents, several specific diseases, fertility, child mortality, epidemiology, etc., and the present book is a general overview of them, attempting to synthesize the material they presented. There are nine essays by outstanding authorities, which review major trends during the twentieth century, with particular reference to mortality and morbidity in the 1960s. These are analyzed on the basis of the cause of death, the type of disease, the topographical area, age, marital status, and of race, as well as of other variables. Essays also discuss international comparisons of mortality and longevity, and future needs both for personnel and the provision of medical and dental care. Much of the material is technical in nature, but a good deal of it will be of value to medical historians. Historical demographers, those engaged in the provision of health care, and planners of its future, will also find in it a wealth of data conveniently collected together.

JOHN A. RUSH, *Witchcraft and sorcery. An anthropological perspective of the occult,* Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1974, 8vo, pp. ix, 166, illus., $10.50 ($7.95 paperback).

The author admits that his book is aimed at the general public who may wish to learn about occult beliefs around the world and their anthropological analysis. Furthermore his selection of material relates to his own interests. It is arranged geographically including Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas; and the usual topics (such as witchcraft, werewolf, evil eye), considered in more detail than the other (folk medicine, sorcery, and occult beliefs of primitive races), are present. There are many quotations from books and articles, and these and other information are documented.

Altogether this gives a useful survey of occult beliefs and practices, although some of the author's historical interpretations are open to question, especially that of European witchcraft. In fact, on the whole, there is much more data than interpretation and opinion.

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DONALD D. AULT, *Visionary physics. Blake's response to Newton,* Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1974, illus., pp. xv, 229, £6.85.

It is well known that Blake vigorously rejected the Newtonian as well as other mechanical systems. That he did this out of hand has usually been maintained, but the author here judges Blake as an astute critic of eighteenth-century science whose entire activity was devoted to countering Newton's physics. Professor Ault, whose training and experience has been in English, mathematics and engineering, is one of the few individuals who can understand adequately both the labyrinthine mind of Blake as expressed in his poetry and paintings, and the mathematics of Newton, with the object of discovering the influence of the one upon the other. He maintains that by inverting parts of Newton's visionary cosmos Blake could counter them. His response to Newton is therefore an active and useful one, if complex, and not just destructive, for he employs past systems to create his own.

This scholarly study is by no means easy to read, but it is one of the most original of the several recent books on Blake. It will be of great interest to historians of eighteenth-century science and literature, as well as to philosophers and to historians of psychology. To all these it can be heartily recommended.

JAMES HARVEY YOUNG, *American self-dosage medicines. An historical perspective,* Lawrence, Kansas, Coronado Press, 1974, 8vo, pp. xiv, 75, $5.00.

The published series of lectures established in honour of Dr. Logan Clendening of the University of Kansas was terminated in 1963. This is the first of a new series, and it is devoted to the emergence of American proprietary medicines from quackery to their present status of respectability.

In 1708 the first advertisement for a proprietary medicine appeared in British America, and Professor Young traces them from this date to the 1970s, drawing upon material already published in his two books: *The toadstool millionaires* (1961) and *The medical messiahs* (1967). The remainder of the book deals with present-day problems of self-dosage drugs and the American legislature that attempts to stamp out abuse. There are thirteen pages of notes.

MIKHAIL BULGAKOV, *A country doctor's notebook*, translated by Michael Glenny, London, Collins & Harvill Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. 158, £2.95.

Mikhail A. Bulgakov (1891–1940) is said to have been ". . . one of the most original and powerful Russian writers of the twentieth century". He graduated in medicine at Kiev University and after four years in practice took up a full-time literary career. This book is a collection of nine short stories, most of them dealing with his experiences as a general practitioner in a remote country practice during the First World War and the Russian Revolution. In addition to their high literary merit, they provide us with an excellent first-hand account of provincial Russian medicine in the second decade of the present century.

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E. SCOTT BARR, *An index to biographical fragments in unspecialized scientific journals,* Alabama, The University of Alabama Press, 1973, 8vo, pp. vii, 294, $12.50.

In order to provide information on distinguished persons who prior to 1920 and back to about 1800 were active in science, and on those respected by their contemporaries during the same period, but now generally unknown, the author has surveyed seven English language journals, including *Amer. J. Sci., Proc. Roy. Soc., Nature,* and *Science* from their origins up to 1920. He has thus assembled about 15,000 references to 7,700 individuals and about 1,500 portrait locations. Each entry gives the person's dates, his native country, the science or sciences in which he specialized, and the citation or citations in the journals dealing with him.

In all, this provides a most useful reference book which will be of the greatest value to historians of science and medicine, especially in the case of those scientists not in the first echelon and for whom biographical details are consequently always difficult to find. It is to be hoped that the author can be induced to extend this index to cover the years 1920 to 1975, a period in which searches for similar information can be even more time-consuming.

ROBERT ANDRÉ and JOSÉ PEREIRA-ROQUE, *La démographie de la Belgique au XIXe siècle,* Brussels, Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, 1974, 8vo, pp. 299, [no price stated].

The object of this book, and of those that will follow it in a planned series, is to examine closely the population of Belgium in the context of Europe, comparisons and contrasts being made especially with Holland and France in the second half of the nineteenth century. Natural population movements and migrations, fecundity, and the evolution of the structure of ages are dealt with in particular. A good deal of the text is composed of tables and graphs which will restrict the book's appeal to the historical demographer and to serious students of populations.

ALBERT ROTHENBERG and BETTE GREENBERG, *The index of scientific writings on creativity. Creative men and women,* London, Dawson, 1975, 8vo, pp. [xiii], 117, £8.00.

The authors have collected together articles dealing with the medical aspects of major creative figures in the arts. They are arranged according to the individual's name alphabetically, and range in time from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

It seems curious that no reference is made to Gilbert's *Disease and destiny* (London, Dawson, 1962) which contains exactly the same kind of data. There is in fact a considerable duplication, and a much more satisfactory plan would have been to produce a second edition or a supplement to it, rather than to publish this expensive volume. Furthermore, the compilers of the latter have paid special attention to papers dealing with psycho-analytic interpretations. Better by far to let them rest in the obscurity they richly deserve.

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