

## Book Reviews

the Ethiopian artist Admassu Mammo based on recent famine conditions in the country; and Pankhurst provides an introduction ('A forward view', pp. 4–6) in which he discusses current efforts to implement long-term solutions to the threat of famine in Ethiopia, and deplores current international aid facilities for their tendency to link development aid to considerations of economy and power politics.

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JUDITH WALZER LEAVITT and RONALD I. NUMBERS (editors), *Sickness and health in America. Readings in the history of medicine and public health*, Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1986, 4to, pp. x, 550, \$32.50 (\$14.95 paperback).

We welcome the second edition of this work, first published in 1978 (see review in *Med. Hist.*, 1979, 23: 360). Eighteen new essays are added, with new sections on 'Race and Medicine', 'Women and Medicine', and 'The Art and Science of Medicine'. Some older articles have been deleted. It is a comprehensive review of sickness and health in America and encompasses efforts to prevent or cure illness—their failure and success. There are thirty-six essays, each by a different contributor, including both editors, who work in the professorial department of the History of Medicine in Wisconsin University, Madison, USA.

The first essay is, to my mind, a strange introduction, dealing as it does with masturbation, especially the contribution of Tissot. Engelhardt, its author, tries to equate its effects with those of alcohol and drug addiction—surely illogical, because these are harmful diseases of society at large. The second essay is also psychogenic. It deals with neurasthenia—another example of the American obsession with neurosis.

The section on medical education is one of the most interesting and discusses the teaching of general (internal) medicine in America, stressing the problems and the place of Osler in helping to overcome them. Virginia Drachman's contribution considers women doctors and their initial difficulties in being accepted.

Are black people medically different from whites? Recent studies suggest that they are. They possess greater resistance to yellow fever and malaria and to heat, but suffer more from genetic disorders such as sickle-cell anaemia. Allan Brandt's essay on the Tuskegee Syphilis Study of 1932 in Alabama is a salutary reminder of the role of racism in research—in this case blacks not Jews, but note the date!

The late George Rosen's discussion on health centres questions the need for them—protagonists here should read it.

There is a table of contents and an index, and each essay ends with copious notes and details of the author. There are ten pages of further reading and a list of abbreviations of journal titles.

This is an excellent review, which can be recommended to the general or to the specialist reader. It is very reasonably priced.

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EDWARD BABAYAN, *The structure of psychiatry in the Soviet Union*, New York, International Universities Press, 1985, 8vo, pp. ix, 336, illus., \$40.00.

So far as one can make out, this is primarily the work of a Soviet psychiatrist (no information is given about Yu G. Shashina, Babayan's collaborator), and has been translated by two others, but very poorly, sprinkled with such neologisms as "idioplasm", "parabiosis", and "stressogenics". It has no references and contains no data or systematic information; the preface states that it has "concentrated on the organisation and delivery of psychiatric and narcological care, and on the judicial, legislative and legal standards adopted". Historians will be mostly