

### Book Reviews

Professor Cohn draws the important comparison between the witch-hunts and similar modern events, the common denominator being an attempt to eradicate from society a group of evil and corrupt individuals. It is clear from his book that many aspects of witchcraft will have to be reassessed, and in addition the several fertile ideas he puts forward demand further study. His postscript is devoted to "Psychohistorical speculations" and deals with psycho-analytic interpretations. It tends to mar the precise scholarship of the rest of the work and could well have been omitted.

This book must be examined thoroughly by all who are studying the history of medicine in Antiquity to the eighteenth century. Moreover, it shows how historical errors and misinterpretations can be widely influential, and it therefore presents a salutary lesson to investigators of any period of history. It deserves a wide audience.

FRANCO ROMANO CLARA, *Giuseppe Giannini (1774–1818). Le traité, 'Della natura delle febbri e dei metodi di curarle'*, [Zürich], Juris Druck, n.d. [1975], 8vo, pp.147, illus., SFr30.00.

Dr. Clara's dissertation is Nr. 102 in the *Zürcher Medizingeschichtliche Abhandlungen* series and concerns a Milanese physician, who was a disciple of Brown and Cullen, and created his own medical system. It was a variation of theirs because in it all diseases were considered to be nervous in origin, with sthenic and asthenic components. He was also well versed in the works of the British physicians, such as Pringle, Lind, Haygarth, Ferriar, Percival and Howard, and was an important contributor to the rapid spread of vaccination in Italy.

In the book mentioned in the title, Giannini discussed his system and his method of preventing and treating infectious diseases with oral dilute acid. It was published in Milan 1805–1809, and had a certain amount of success. He is also remembered for his proposal in 1805 to create hospital isolation wards, and Dr. Clara claims that when giving acid in fevers he was the first to use a type of systemic chemotherapeutic agent, although this judgement is surely in retrospect and therefore of no historical value.

Giannini was obviously a subsidiary figure, and this scholarly study, which is well written and documented, and beautifully presented, allows us to obtain a more European view of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and to note the British influence in Italy during this period.

MAURICE CROSLAND (editor), *The emergence of science in Western Europe*, London, Macmillan, 1975, 8vo, pp. [3 11.], 201, £11.00.

In 1974 a conference on *The emergence of science in Western Europe in different national contexts* was held at the University of Leeds under the auspices of the British Society for the History of Science. The ten papers presented are here reprinted with an editorial introduction.

The purpose of the meeting was to show that the Scientific Revolution can be traced from the late sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century and that it was widespread in Europe. Its manifestations in six countries are presented here: northern Italian sixteenth-century mathematicians, mechanics and experimental machines (A.G. Keller); science in the Italian universities in the sixteenth and early seventeenth