

Book Notices

ALLEN B. WEISSE, *Medical odysseys: the different and sometimes unexpected pathways to twentieth-century medical discoveries*, New Brunswick, NJ, Rutgers University Press, 1991, pp. x, 250, \$36.00 (0-8135-1616-1), \$13.95 (paperback, 0-8135-1617-X).

This is a book for readers who like racy and colourful stories. Discoveries about mercury, penicillin, liver extract, cancer chemotherapy, heart surgery, artificial kidneys and Legionnaires' disease are among the fifteen topics reviewed. About a dozen references are given on each subject. No sources are quoted for many of the anecdotes, and it is difficult to know whether they are based on historical evidence or on the author's imaginative reconstructions. But the broad outlines agree well with better-documented accounts of the events described.

STELLA LOWRY, *Housing and health*, London, British Medical Journal, 1991, pp. ix, 109, illus., £7.95 (UK), £9.50 (abroad), (paperback, 0-7279-0304-7).

W. F. Bynum's historical introduction sets the stage for this book, which covers subjects like domestic accidents, sanitation, and high- versus low-rise dwelling, and such variables as humidity, noise, light, and stray electro-magnetic radiation, in succinct and vigorously-written summaries of the problems, prospects, and available literature. Public-health historians might be surprised at the way in which the links between housing and health still elude experimental demonstration and remain common-sense matters; they will certainly be interested by the modern findings. The chapters were first published as articles in the *British Medical Journal*: British general practitioners increasingly have to concern themselves with their patients' homes, or lack of them.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

PETER N. BENNETT (ed.), *Ethical responsibilities in European drug research*, Bath University Press for the European Ethical Review Committee, [c 1991], pp. iv, 84 (0-86197-111-6).

HEINZ STEFAN HERZKA, *Die neue Kindheit: dialogische Entwicklung—autoritätskritische Erziehung*, Basel, Schwabe, 1989, pp. 208, SFr. 32.00, DM 38.00 (3-7965-0900-2).

ROBERT A. MAXWELL and SHOHREH B. ECKHARDT, *Drug discovery: a casebook and analysis*, Clifton, NJ, Humana Press, 1990, pp. xxv, 438, £75.60, (0-89603-180-2), dist. in the UK by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

JORGE NAVARRO, *La imagen de ultramar en la medicina valenciana del siglo XIX*, Valencia, Comissió de la Generalitat Valenciana per al Vè Centenari del Descobriment d'Amèrica, 1990, pp. 136, (paperback, 84-7890-294-5).

CYNTHIA O'NEILL, *A picture of health: hospitals and nursing on old picture postcards*, (22 Church Meadow) Milton-under-Wychwood, (Oxon OX7 6JG), Meadow Book, 1990, pp. 106, illus., £7.65 incl. postage from Mrs O'Neill (0-9515655-0-8).