

Book Reviews

psychology. For five years he carefully observed, and with immense patience attempted to instruct. But he had eventually to admit that progress had been slight. When Victor died at forty, his mental age was about six years. Nevertheless, deriving from Itard's devoted labours arose new methods of handling and teaching the mentally defective. However, it seems likely that some at least of these wild children were autistic, and we know that the differentiation of this state from mental deficiency can be very difficult. It would be interesting to survey the reported cases again with this diagnosis in mind.

As this book offers the general and the particular approach it is a useful introduction to the subject and it complements the more scholarly treatise edited by Dudley and Novak and reviewed above. It too can be recommended without hesitation.

PIETER SMIT, *History of the life sciences. An annotated bibliography*, Amsterdam, A. Asher & Co. B.V., 1974, 4to., pp. xiv, 1071, D.fl.160.00.

There are available several bibliographies of books dealing with secondary sources in the history of the life sciences. Most of them, however, are mere book lists with little or no comment made by the compiler. Dr. Smit, who teaches history of biology at the University of Nijmegen, decided some years ago to extend that part of Sarton's useful *Guide to the history of science* which deals with the life sciences, and the results of his labours is an immensely valuable work. Each of the 4000-odd entries has an annotation averaging ninety words in length which obviously is of the greatest value to those beginning their studies in the history of medicine or biology because it is the bulk and diversity of the secondary sources that dismay the neophyte. On the other hand, the work will be likewise invaluable to many others at various stages of their careers in the history of the life sciences. The amateur too will be delighted to have a source-book of this quality and dimensions.

The material, which contains book titles only and no periodical literature, is grouped in three chapters: general references and tools; historiography of the life and medical sciences; selected lists of biographies, bibliographies, etc. Subjects include the history of general biology and its components, and the history of medicine divided by topic and speciality. In addition to this key to the contents provided by the list of contents, there is a name index too, so that entries can be readily traced. The selection is comprehensive, although it would have been useful to have included the bad books as well as the recommendable so that their inferior qualities could be made known to those who are not in a position to assess them adequately. Similarly with the annotations, most of them consist of excellent summaries of contents and references to further relevant literature, but the few critical comments are usually laudatory. One could argue that adverse assessments would not be encountered if only reputable items are selected for inclusion. However, there are some third-rate works included here, but with no warnings made. Concerning the layout of the book, the only criticisms would be that the headings dividing up the chapters are not distinctive enough and can be readily missed. The entries are not numbered, but perhaps those who would benefit mainly from numbering would be the booksellers. There are a few spelling errors, but we in this country should be honoured by the book's publication in English.

Book Reviews

Despite these criticisms, Dr. Smit's book can be hailed as one of the most important bibliographical tools made available in the history of medicine and of the biological sciences. It should be in every university library and library dealing with the history of science and of medicine.

TERENCE DOHERTY, *The anatomical works of George Stubbs*, London, Secker & Warburg, 1974, F°, pp. ix, 345, illus., £25.

For his paintings of horses George Stubbs (1724–1806) is justly renowned. It is also common knowledge that, like the artists of the Renaissance, to perfect his art he practised anatomical dissection. The extent of the latter, however, is revealed for the first time by this superb book. Stubbs' entire anatomical works have never been published before, but this has now been made possible by re-discoveries of his drawings in 1957 and 1963.

The author's introduction contains a short biography of the artist and there is a brief history of anatomy, with a consideration of his contacts with contemporaries, such as Dr. John Burton, Josiah Wedgwood and the Hunter brothers. The production of his famous book *The anatomy of the horse* (1766), and of *A comparative anatomical exposition* (1804–1806) is also discussed in detail.

Altogether there are 272 excellent illustrations in black and white, and mostly whole-page. They include 57 engravings illustrating Burton's *An essay towards a complete new system of midwifery* (London, 1751), those from *The anatomy of the horse* (24 plates) and from *A comparative anatomical exposition* (12 plates), and a final group of additional illustrations which is made up of classical anatomical drawings by other artists, and some of Stubbs. There is also a bibliography, facsimile reproductions of the introduction to Albinus' *Table of the skeleton and muscles of the human body* and of legends from *The anatomy of the horse*.

Although Stubbs made no discoveries in anatomy he should nevertheless be included amongst eighteenth-century dissectors. He can, in fact, be said to be unique in English art in this regard. His contribution to anatomy was entirely in the realms of dissecting techniques and illustrations. The exquisite reproductions of the latter in this book indicate the degree of his skill. Although not many individuals will own a copy of this book, its existence should be known to medical historians. Thanks to it, George Stubbs will merit more attention in future histories of anatomy than he has received in the past.

A. LYTTON SELLS, *Oliver Goldsmith. His life and works*, London, Allen & Unwin, 1974, 8vo., pp. 423, illus., £6.75.

Professor Lytton Sells aims his book at a general audience, and it contains little that is not already known of Goldsmith (? 1730–1774). The first portion (pp. 22–197) deals with his life and the second (pp. 201–379) with "The works". Each is likely to be dealt with harshly by literary critics.

Concerning Goldsmith's medical career, the mysteries surrounding it are not further elucidated, except that Professor Sells could find no record in the university, cathedral, or city archives of his stay in Padua during 1755. Our knowledge of his