

### *Book Reviews*

theme is the anxiety experienced by many that science, although contributing immensely to the advancement of man, has at the same time brought about a change in his relationship with nature and his understanding of it. It is the purpose of this interdisciplinary discussion to examine the problem and to propose ways of avoiding the ecological crisis by seeking a better comprehension of the interaction of science and society and thus to improve their relationships. The group included scientists, historians, philosophers and sociologists; all but two were from North America.

They considered that scientific methodology is basically at fault, especially the variety that pursues a narrow authoritarian path. New approaches are needed, but few are suggested. Technology advancing without adequate control and a lack of regard for nature are other factors. Nevertheless a decreasing role of science and technology in society is not necessarily advocated. Political control would appear to be the prime necessity, with the modification of present-day social institutions.

There is no doubt that the issues discussed here are of an urgent nature and this book provides an excellent forum for their discussion. It should be read by a wide variety of individuals, wider than the disciplines represented by the symposium contributors.

**DEREK DENNY-BROWN** (editor), *Centennial anniversary volume of the American Neurological Association 1875–1975*, New York, Springer, 1975, 8vo, pp. xii, 610, illus., \$30.00.

Dr. Houston Merritt opens this commemorative volume with a history of American neurology in the past fifty years. It is, however, much too brief. It surely would have been preferable to have surveyed the last one hundred years, and to have traced in more detail the origins of the “neuropsychiatrist” and the reasons why clinical neurology did not flourish in the U.S.A. until after World War II, with comparative data concerning events in other countries. Admittedly the first half-century of the Association was also celebrated by an anniversary volume published in 1924, but the centenary offered an excellent opportunity of surveying and analysing the whole history of American neurology, for its corporate existence and development dates back to the foundation of the Society in 1875.

Most of the book (pp 57–375) is made up of ninety-seven useful biographies of the Association’s presidents (twenty-eight from the semi-centennial volume), but there are also reprinted papers on its foundation and early meetings. There is a regional history of neurology in the U.S.A. and Canada and a discussion of governmental contributions to neurological research and the contributions of neurology to the military services.

The main use of this book will be for reference and as such it will be most valuable. Unfortunately no real attempt has been made to discuss in depth and detail the way that neurology has fared under the aegis of the American Neurological Association, and there is no mention of neurology elsewhere in the world. It is purely domestic and parochial so that apart from information on individuals and places little else comes through. Despite the advances made in medical historiography in the last fifty years, there is little difference between this and the 1924 publication.