

## Book Reviews

disappearance of national characteristics, except for the name.

Whilst most hospitals' histories are written by members of staff whose warmth in partially remembered narrative and anecdotal detail appeals to readers, this book seems at first glance somewhat dry. Also, one looks in vain for specialized case histories. On the other hand, meticulous attention is given to a vast amount of primary sources, among them ninety-nine volumes of hospital records and a list of ninety-five secondary sources in English and German. There is an instructive report of new architecture analysed with regard to Nightingale principles of ventilation and calculation of bed space. Statistical diagrams illustrate lucidly the rise and fall of patients' numbers and their national mixture. An index of doctors provides the optimum of available biographical detail. Clarity of style and structure distinguish this book as an exemplary monograph in the series of *Studies in the History of Hospitals*.

Renate Burgess  
Wellcome Institute

DIETER JETTER, *Geschichte des Hospitals, Band 4: Spanien von den Anfängen bis um 1500*, Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner Verlag, 1980, 8vo, pp. viii, 239, illus., DM. 74.00 (paperback).

This exhaustive survey of medieval hospitals in Spain (and in neighbouring Morocco) lives up to the high standards of its predecessors, and its maps and plans will be extremely valuable. Professor Jetter ranges widely from the Greek temples of Asclepius, through the Romans and their legionary hospital at Leon, to the Visigoths, Arabs, and the Christian monastic and charitable orders. He brings out the differences between the type of building favoured by each group, and stresses the multiplicity of functions of the medieval pilgrim hostels (cf. J. Sumption, *Pilgrimage*, 1975, pp. 198–202). The discussion of the literary evidence is at times unnecessarily complicated by a desire to include all mentions of a particular point in the secondary literature, errors and all, often before the actual evidence is given, but it is well to be reminded of the chaos that can follow from an uncritical reliance on second-hand information. For the sake of completeness, I offer the theory of Schulten that there was a hospital at the Roman siege camp of Numantia, and, more solidly, a dedication to four healing gods at Leon, including Aesculapius and Salus (AE 1967, 223). Professor Jetter has amply fulfilled his aim, and there is no longer any excuse for scholars North of the Pyrenees to remain in ignorance of the variety and magnificence of the hospitals of medieval Spain.

Vivian Nutton  
Wellcome Institute

DIETRICH KURZE (editor), *Büchelin wye der Mensch bewar das Leben sein. Eine Mittelalterliche Gesundheitslehre in Lateinisch-Deutschen Versen*, Wiesbaden, Guido Pressler, 1980, 8vo, pp. 173, illus., DM. 96.00.

Judging from the thick plastic slip jacket, the royal blue cover, the fine, thick paper, numerous photographic plates, facing-page facsimiles, vast margins and excellent typeface, the reader may be forgiven for expecting something of greater moment than

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another book on that inexhaustible mine of information, the Salerno Regimen of Health. But never mind; there's a bit for everybody here.

The palaeographer will enjoy pitting his skills against those of the editor in transcribing the text. The philologist can compare the Latin with its medieval German translation. The literary historian will benefit from Kurze's discussion of the verse forms used, and the medical historian can find the 153 verses in this fifteenth-century Michelstadt manuscript matched with their counterparts in other major compilations by using the table provided by the editor. There is a good bibliography. The non-specialist is the best served, as the historical introduction is elementary and uncluttered by footnotes, with the verses translated into modern German for those who need it.

An elegantly-produced publication of this sort can excite little criticism of a scholarly nature. The transcription is rarely faulty and, as it is a diplomatic "edition", one expects and receives little in the way of critical apparatus. More disquieting is the thought that this book, well-executed though it may be, will fall below the expectations of the serious scholar and pass over the heads of the general reader. Nonetheless, the book is highly recommended to any collector of the beautiful, well-wrought, historical medical book.

Fay Getz  
Wellcome Institute

J. RITTER (editor), *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, Basle and Stuttgart, Schwabe, 5 vols., 1971–1980. Vol. I, A–C, 1036 cols., S.Fr. 84.00; II, D–F, 1152 cols., S.Fr. 92.00; vol. III, G–H, 1292 cols., S.Fr. 125.00; vol. IV (ed. by the late J. Ritter and K. Gründer), I–K, 1470 cols., S.Fr. 165.00; vol. V (ed. Ritter and Gründer), L–Mn, 1447 cols., S.Fr. 165.00.

Until its disappearance from the book market some forty years ago, historians, scientists, and medical men had been well served by Rudolf Eisler's lexicon of philosophical concepts (*Wörterbuch der philosophischen Begriffe*), whose fourth edition in three volumes appeared in 1927–30. It has taken another forty years for a new venture to replace it in a completely different form. This lexicon, with almost 1,000 contributors and its emphasis laid on extensive historical presentation of each individual concept, has indeed superseded Eisler – essentially, though not completely. Its net is also cast much wider than Eisler's into fields marginal to or overlapping "philosophy" in the traditional sense, witness the numerous articles on mathematical, purely scientific, semantic, psychoanalytic and existentialist topics. On the medical side, the newly published fifth volume includes histories of such concepts as 'Body', 'Body and soul' (15 cols.), 'Suffering' (9 cols.), 'Life' (51 cols.), 'Vital force' (6 cols.), 'Magic, general and in medicine' (5 cols.), 'Macro-microcosmic analogies' (9 cols.), 'Matter, including alchemy' (56 cols.), 'Medicine' (35 cols.), 'Melancholia' (5 cols.), 'Man' (78 cols.), and 'Metamorphosis' (1 col.). The material collected is overwhelming – there are textual quotations, references, and allusions to primary (notably the classical and medieval) and secondary sources. Obviously one cannot expect completeness or total satisfaction from all the many and varied articles here presented, but there are disappointing omissions, for example the essential watershed between the ancient