

Book Reviews

ARTHUR KLEINMAN, PETER KUNSTADTER, E. RUSSELL ALEXANDER, JAMES L. GALE (editors), *Medicine in Chinese cultures; comparative studies of health care in Chinese and other societies*, Bethesda, Md., National Institutes of Health (Fogarty International Center), [1975], 8vo, pp. xvi, 803, \$11.00.

In order to assess American medical needs, systems in other countries are under review. In the case of China a conference on the comparative study of traditional and modern medicine in Chinese societies was held in 1974 and the forty-nine contributions are published here, grouped into five sections. The first 'Medical systems in Chinese societies', deals with historical perspectives and provides an excellent survey and discussion of traditional Chinese medicine. A second part of this section concerns 'Contemporary sociocultural studies'. The other sections are 'Medical systems in the periphery of China', 'Demographic and epidemiological aspects', 'Implications for future research', and 'Implications for health care'. Many reports are in the form of field studies, epidemiological, anthropological, and clinical. Each chapter is fully documented and there is an excellent index.

Those concerned with the history of Chinese medicine will find this book of the greatest value. Not only is the historical section most useful, but throughout there is information that will be pertinent to their studies and which will acquaint them with the present-day medical systems in Chinese cultures, although none of the material concerns mainland China.

EDWARD KREMERS and GEORGE URDANG, *History of pharmacy*, fourth edition, revised by Glenn Sonnedecker, Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, (Oxford, Blackwell), 1976, 4to, pp. xv, 571, illus., £19.20.

Since it first appeared in 1940 this book by Kremers (1865–1941) and Urdang (1882–1960) has been a classic, and it still has no rival. It has received acclaim on the appearance of each new edition and the reaction to the present one will not be different. The book has been totally replanned with double-column pages and has an increased number of illustrations, together with complete and extensive revision, which involves almost every page. There is ample documentation and a thoroughly scholarly treatment of the material throughout.

Without doubt it is the best history of pharmacy in English available today. It traces pharmacy from the Mesopotamian cultures to the twentieth century and, after dealing with pharmacy in Italy, France, Germany, and Britain, it incorporates a lengthy history of American pharmacy (pp. 145–351 and 377–386). No doubt the presence of this, together with the high price, will deter non-American intending purchasers.

Nevertheless the book should be available in institutional libraries for it will be in frequent demand both for reference and for more continuous reading.

JEAN LINDSAY, *The Scottish poor law. Its operation in the north-east from 1745 to 1845*, Ilfracombe, A. H. Stockwell, 1975, 8vo, pp. 265, £2.50.

The Scottish poor law differed markedly from that in England and Wales during the century of the Industrial Revolution, but historians have paid less attention to it.

Book Reviews

Dr. Lindsay's book is therefore particularly welcome. The system was a voluntary one of outdoor poor-relief administered by the kirk sessions, but dependence on charity frequently led to hardship and disputed settlements and economic factors increased the sufferings of the destitute. Dr. Lindsay concentrated on Aberdeen and the counties around it to illustrate the way in which the system operated, and all her work is based on the extensive use of primary sources, which have yielded a great deal of new information. She describes how the system worked in practice in both urban and rural areas, and, along with other materials, uses first-hand accounts of life in poor-houses. The period reviewed ends in 1845 with the Scottish Poor Law Amendment Act.

This is an excellent, scholarly study which must be consulted by all who work in the areas of Scottish history, problems of poverty, and the social history of medicine. It deserves a wide audience which it will probably achieve; the format of the book is somewhat inelegant, the paper coarse, the typography unattractive and the margins mean, but the price for a hardback is modest.

G. D. HARGREAVES (compiler), *A catalogue of medical incunabula in Edinburgh libraries*, Edinburgh, Royal Medical Society, 1976, 8vo, pp. xiv, 54, [no price stated].

It is estimated that over 50,000 items published before 1851 are to be found in Edinburgh libraries and of them one hundred are from the fifteenth century. This relatively small number is explained by the fact that only the University Library was founded earlier than the late seventeenth century. They are held in nine institutions and include some remarkable rarities, including the first printed book containing medical material, Rabanus Maurus' *De sermonum proprietate* (Strassburg, c. 1467).

They are listed here alphabetically and concisely with collation, incipit and colophon where necessary, main bibliographical references, the location in Edinburgh of the copy and its provenance, if known.

The project, which has in preparation a second volume, on sixteenth-century Edinburgh medical books, is financed by the Royal Medical Society, perhaps in an effort to expiate the regrettable sale of their library some years ago.

ANDRÉ ARMENGAUD, *La famille et l'enfant en France et en Angleterre du XVI^e au XVIII^e siècle. Aspects démographiques*, Paris, Société d'Édition d'Enseignement Supérieur, 1975, 8vo, pp. x, 193, [no price stated].

Based on a course given at the University of Toulouse-le-Mirail, this book is divided strictly into two parts: France and England. In each case there is an excellent survey of demographic methods and of all the factors, such as marriage, religion, fecundity, limitations of births, pre-marital births, amongst others, that have relevance to the family and the child. The main interest, however, is the account by a French demographer of historical demography in England, which, on the whole, is unusual. It is well worth perusal by students concerned with English demography, for an accurate summary of the topic is given, at their level. The bibliography is useful and lists the most important British sources in population research; there is, however, a conspicuous absence of medical references.