

## Book Notices

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MICHAEL MÖNNICH, *Tommaso Campanella: sein Beitrag zur Medizin und Pharmazie der Renaissance*, Heidelberger Schriften zur Pharmazie- und Naturwissenschaftsgeschichte 2, Stuttgart, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1990, 8vo, pp. 276, DM 68.00.

The Italian Dominican Tommaso Campanella (1568–1639) is remembered today largely for his utopian treatise *The city of the sun* and for his lengthy imprisonment for heresy (1599–1626). But as Dr Mönnich shows in this useful survey, he wrote on a wide variety of subjects, not least on medicine and pharmacology. His *Medicinalia*, begun in prison in 1607/8, appeared in print only in 1635, while the full text of the *Physiologia*, which had been almost finished by 1598, was not published until 1637. Campanella also wrote independent tracts on plague and heatstroke, and discussed medical problems in many other of his philosophical writings. This lucid introduction sets out his medical ideas, notably on *spiritus*, and relates them to contemporary writings on medicine, pharmacology, and natural magic, especially those of Telesio. It reveals both the flexibility of Galenism and the way in which the Renaissance synthesis of medicine and philosophy might produce radically new solutions to traditional problems.

TORE FRÄNGSMYR, J. L. HEILBRON, and ROBIN E. RIDER (eds.), *The quantifying spirit in the 18th century*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Oxford, University of California Press, 1990, 8vo, pp. vii, 411, illus., \$35.00.

Criticism and control were central to the programme of the Enlightenment. Amongst the great engines for its fulfilment was what Fontenelle called *l'esprit géométrique*, or what the contributors to this magnificent collection call “the quantifying spirit”. As John Heilbron emphasizes in a major introductory essay, around the mid-seventeenth century, knowledge of the world was still an assemblage of qualitative descriptions and guesstimates; by 1800, the number of stars in the sky, trees in the German forests, and taxpayers in every civilized country had been surveyed, docketed, analysed, and published with fair numerical accuracy. Recording figures—barometric pressures, personal weight and height—had become normal with many, obsessive for some. The 13 essays in this collaborative research project probe developments in quantification in a variety of Enlightenment scientific and practical disciplines. It is a pity that medicine is omitted, but all medical historians will benefit from the suggestive analyses to be found here.

M. J. VAN LIEBURG, *Bronovo 1865–1990: van 's-Gravenhaagsche Diaconessen-Inrichting tot Ziekenhuis Bronovo [Bronovo 1865–1990: from Deaconesses Establishment in The Hague to Bronovo Hospital]*, Kampen, J. H. Kok, 1990, pp. 249, illus., Dfl. 95.00.

The prolific Dutch medical historian, M. J. van Lieburg, has been commissioned to write a commemorative history in celebration of the foundation 125 years ago of what is now the Bronovo Hospital in The Hague, named after Sara de Bronovo, who was its director from the foundation in 1865 to her death in 1887. The book concentrates on the period of major expansion after 1945, but there is a substantial (80-page) chapter on the pre-war history of the institution as well, which Van Lieburg hopes to expand later as part of a general history of Dutch deaconesses establishments. The work is extremely well researched and documented, and the illustrations are apt and well produced. Alongside the purely factual account, the theme is the gradual replacement of the original Protestant (Calvinist) nursing home, staffed by deaconesses (who were nursing sisters something almost akin to Catholic nuns, but who never took the vows of an order), to a general all-purpose denominational hospital where medical care is no longer necessarily provided by the deaconesses. A full quota of notes, appendices, and an index completes this useful and attractive publication.

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JACK W. HOPKINS, *The eradication of smallpox: organizational learning and innovation in international health*, Westview Special Studies in Health Care and Medical Science, Boulder, Westview Press, 8vo, pp. xi, 139, \$26.50 (paperback).

*Smallpox is Dead* runs the title of a recent WHO book for children; this book tells the story—for adults—of how smallpox died. It is clearly written and readable, if somewhat repetitive. It records how the failed modern strategy of mass vaccination against this disease gave way to that of “surveillance-containment” after 1969. Hopkins emphasizes the significance of crucial technological developments (freeze-dried vaccine, bifurcated needles) to the success of the WHO eradication campaign, but stresses the importance above all of the managerial, administrative, and organizational aspects of the campaign, and the way in which these were developed or modified to meet local and changing circumstances. This is a valuable book, which views in intelligent, dispassionate, and appreciative perspective the process which finally accomplished that “by almost any measure . . . magnificent achievement”, the elimination from our world of one of the most loathsome of all diseases.

PAUL ADOLPHUS BATOR and ANDREW JAMES RHODES, *Within reach of everyone: a history of the University of Toronto School of Hygiene and the Connaught Laboratories*, vol. 1, 1927 to 1955, Ottawa, Canadian Public Health Association, 1990, 4to, pp. xi, 243, illus., Can. \$35.00, \$25.00 (paperback).

Institutional history, traditionally of limited vision and largely antiquarian interest, has in the hands of professional historians recently begun to become more closely integrated into social and scientific history. In the genre as applied to institutes of public health, Elizabeth Fee's excellent history of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene, *Disease and discovery* (1988), has already set an example. The present volume, although useful as a mine of information, conforms rather to the traditional pattern of such histories. It is printed in large format, with splendid pictures, but the individual chapters are divided into short sections of an essentially factual nature, with little contextual analysis and no attempt at comparison with developments in other countries, either in the realm of institutional development, or of scientific achievement.

### BOOK 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.)

S. ROBERT HILFER, *The emergence of experimental embryology in the United States*, Bethesda, National Library of Medicine, 1990, 4to, pp. 24, illus. Single copies may be obtained without charge from the Chief, History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD 20894, USA.

Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza Firenze, *Nuncius: annali di storia della scienza*, vol. 5, 1990, fasc. 1, Florence, Leo S. Olschki, 8vo, pp. 373, illus., (paperback).

ROBERT W. MANN and SEAN P. MURPHY, *Regional atlas of bone disease: a guide to pathologic and normal variation in the human skeleton*, Springfield, Ill., Charles C. Thomas, 1990, 8vo, pp. xvi, 208, illus., \$38.75.

*Medicine and history. Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, series 5, vol. 12, no. 2 (June 1990), pp. v, 119–304.

ANDREAS P. NAEF, *The story of thoracic surgery: milestones and pioneers*, Bern and Toronto, Hans Huber, 1990, 8vo, pp. xiv, 157, illus.