

Book Reviews

JAMES STEPHENS, *Francis Bacon and the style of science*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press, 1975, 8vo, pp. xi, 188, £7.50.

There is a very large literature on Bacon and his proposals for scientific enquiry, but so far no one has studied carefully his style of writing, his method of communicating upon which he laid so much emphasis. Professor Stephens here presents and analyses in four chapters the style that Bacon found appropriate for scholarly and scientific writing. First he deals with the problems facing Bacon, and his debt to Aristotle in creating a neo-Aristotelian stylistic. The second chapter is concerned with his theory of the relation of style to science and how style should not only engage the imagination but should also dispel preconceptions; these ideas can be traced from 1603 to 1623. In the third and fourth chapters Stephens discusses Bacon's own style and the methods he employed, including the intellectual games he played with his readers. By his various techniques he hoped to match the success of poets and prophets.

This scholarly study is by no means complete, but the author hopes it will inspire others to extend it. It certainly will be of great interest to historians of seventeenth-century science and medicine and can be strongly recommended to them.

A. RUPERT HALL and NORMAN SMITH (editors), *History of technology. First annual volume, 1976*, London, Mansell, 1976, 8vo, pp. [3 11.], 186, illus., £9.75.

The editors present this as the first of an on-going series which will give preference to the more general article on the history of technology, whilst not excluding those on technical details. Papers on technology before the Industrial Revolution will be especially welcome, and the editors are soliciting papers from all appropriate quarters.

The first three here were presented at a 1974 symposium, and of the remaining five readers of *Medical History* will find interesting: Dr. R. A. Buchanan on 'The Promethean revolution: science, technology and history', and Maurice Daumas on 'The history of technology: its aims, its limits, its methods' (translated by Professor Hall).

This first volume of a new venture deserves a warm welcome and good wishes for an extended viability. Its aims are praiseworthy and it should complement rather than duplicate the existing serials in the history of technology.

ANN MOZLEY MOYAL (editor), *Scientists in nineteenth century Australia. A documentary history*, Stanmore, N.S.W., Cassell (Australia), 1976, 8vo, pp. [4 11.], 280, [no price stated].

The author has had the interesting idea of collecting together letters written by major nineteenth-century scientists and their distinguished visitors so that together they present a picture of a colonial scientific society and its contacts and collaboration with Western science. Her material is arranged partly by subject: 'The botanical tradition'; 'The bizarre world of natural history'; 'The conquest of the rocks'; 'The progress of geophysics'; 'Evolution'; 'Applied science and technology'. Other chapters deal with 'Patrons and potentates', 'Scientific visitors', 'The scientific community', 'Bones of contention' and 'The rise of the universities'.

Much of the material is published here for the first time and the extracts from the