

Book Reviews

This would in some way explain his sudden departure for the first Italian journey soon after his wedding in 1494 which by some biographers was attributed to the outbreak of plague in Nuremberg.

The engraving 'The Doctor's Dream' dated before 1500 is, together with some other graphic works, interpreted as a moralizing warning of syphilis, but it has received a different interpretation by Robert Eisler (see article in *Burlington Magazine*, 1943, 82/83, pp. 101–3), who sees in it a satirical allusion to gout and thought it might have been produced as an accompaniment to W. Pirckheimer's *Apologia seu podagrae laus*, but this book was not published until 1522. The generally accepted theory that Dürer contracted malaria during his stay in the Netherlands is supported by a quotation from Pirckheimer's description of his dying friend when 'he looked like a bundle of dried straw'. A detailed historical chart beginning 123 years before Dürer's death in 1528 quotes, among the many outbreaks of plague in Nuremberg, three later epidemics which may have been responsible for Dürer's periods of absence from the city.

The book is well produced and beautifully illustrated and should not be overlooked by those interested in the medical history of Dürer and his times.

R. BURGESS

Perspectives in the History of Science and Technology, ed. by DUANE H. D. ROLLER, Norman, Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1971, pp. x, 307, illus., \$9.95.

In 1969 a symposium in history and philosophy of science was arranged at the University of Oklahoma. Instead of grouping the contributions around one or more themes, the organizers invited eight historians to present papers on topics of their own choosing, and arranged for each paper to be the subject of two commentaries. These papers and commentaries, together with two named lectures given at the same time, make up the present volume.

Not surprisingly, a miscellaneous collection has resulted. Several scholars deal with topics they have discussed elsewhere: for example, Marshall Clagett summarizes his well-known researches into medieval knowledge of Archimedes; Richard S. Westfall deals with the development of Newton's dynamics (on which he has since published a major volume), and Martin Rudwick writes on geological theory in the age of Lyell. Other contributions range from philosophico-historical papers by Joseph T. Clark and by John C. Greene (who investigates the Kuhnian paradigm as a framework for the study of the development of natural history in the period ending with Darwin and concludes 'its adequacy as a conceptual model for that development seems doubtful'), through papers in the history of scientific ideas by Robert E. Schofield and Erwin N. Hiebert, to two essays in which technology plays a major role: 'The car and the road: highway technology and highway policy' by John B. Rae, and 'Art, science and technology: notes on their historical interaction' by Cyril Stanley Smith. In short, a volume with individual contributions of distinction and interest, but lacking coherence.

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