

Book Reviews

CHARLES E. ROSENBERG, *No other gods. On science and American social thought*, Baltimore, Md., and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xiii, 273, £9.45.

The practice of publishing an author's collected essays has in the past been indulged in mainly by the elder statesmen of science and the arts, or by their colleagues wishing to commemorate a birthday, death, or anniversary. There is today, however, a growing tendency for others to use the technique, thus allowing their articles to render double service, in periodical and in anthology.

Only the introduction and one of the twelve chapters of this book appear here for the first time, the remainder having been published already in journals. Nevertheless, Rosenberg's scholarly essays are stimulating and thought-provoking, dealing primarily with the ways in which the sciences, social thought and values, and the institutional structure of science have interacted, and how scientific concepts have ordered society, particularly as concerns the American scientific community. Being a historian of medicine, many of his examples come from this field: the medical profession and society; sexuality, heredity and disease; the influence of scientific research on medicine; the evaluation of health.

The book can therefore be recommended to those concerned with the history of medicine and science, although many may wish to avoid its high price by perusing the original articles which are to be found in readily available journals.

GEORGE ROSEN, *Preventive medicine in the United States 1900–1975. Trends and interpretations*, New York, Science History Publications, 1975, 8vo, pp. viii, 94, illus., [no price stated].

Professor Rosen produced this paperback as a background document to a National Conference on Preventive Medicine held in June 1975 “. . . to examine preventive strategies and tactics applied to health problems in the United States in the recent past which had produced significant achievements. . . .” and to elicit proposals for improving health in the future. There are five parts to it: ‘The situation c. 1900’; ‘Conservation, efficiency, prevention and social action: ideologies and concepts’; ‘Knowledge and its application: institutions, personnel and techniques’; ‘Population change, chronic disease and new problems’; ‘Whither preventive medicine?’.

Each is an excellent contribution to the recent history of preventive medicine, well written, well documented, well illustrated, and equal to the best of Professor Rosen's many scholarly essays. By studying them carefully present problems can be more readily understood and therefore tackled in a more informed and enlightened fashion. This type of publication will be most useful for student courses in public health, and as a depiction of the American scene it can be recommended unreservedly.

VERN L. BULLOUGH, *Sexual variance in society and history*, New York and London, J. Wiley, 1976, 8vo, pp. xvi, 715, £18.00.

Until quite recently sex has been allowed only a minor role in history, or at times excluded entirely. The results of this have been unfortunate and adequate evaluations of certain individuals or events have been impossible, or worse, exaggerated and inaccurate beliefs have flourished unchecked, often transmitted by otherwise reputable