

Book Reviews

RUTH HALL, *Marie Stopes. A biography*, London, Deutsch, 1977, pp. 351, illus., £5.95.

The fascinating story of Marie Stopes (1880–1958) has been told twice before, but this will rank as the best biography of a powerful and extraordinary woman. Mrs. Hall writes well, and by means of the voluminous material available, together with interviews with survivors who were involved, successfully comes to grips with her subject. She is the first to do so and may well be the last. This outstanding biography will be essential reading for historians of birth control, eugenics, race, and women's lib.

SANDRA L. CHAFF, RUTH HAIMBACH, CAROL FENICHEL and NINA B. WOODSIDE, *Women in medicine. A bibliography of the literature on women physicians*, Metuchen, N. J., Scarecrow Press; (London, Bailey Bros. & Swinfen), 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 1124, £29.75.

Many bibliographies turn out to be lists of references. This one, however, contains a wealth of annotated, some of them substantially, citations from the large and international literature that covers this topic. There are 4,087 entries altogether, and they are arranged under headings such as biographies, medical education, medical activity, specialties, psychosocial factors, fiction, etc. Each section is sub-divided topographically, and the entries give all the necessary bibliographical details. The indexes are extensive: to authors of the articles or books cited; to subjects; and to personal names of female physicians. The only major criticism is that much of the material is from American or British sources and European and Asian publications are less than fairly represented. Nevertheless, this book is a remarkably useful work of reference that will have wide popularity despite the price.

H. A. SNELLEN, *Selected papers on electrocardiography of Willem Einthoven*, Leiden University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. 306, illus., [no price stated].

Professor Snellen, lately occupant of the chair of cardiology in the University of Leiden, has collected together facsimile reproductions of thirteen classical contributions by Willem Einthoven (1860–1927), ranging in time from 1894 to 1926, and in English (seven), French (three), and German (three). They include mainly articles, but there is also correspondence with Thomas Lewis and Frank Wilson. Each has a short introduction, and there is also a brief 'Life and work' and a bibliography of Einthoven. Professor Snellen is to be congratulated on this elegant tribute to his countryman and useful contribution to the history of electrocardiography.

WAYNE HANLEY, *Natural history in America. From Mark Catesby to Rachel Carson*, New York, New York Times Book Co.; London, Harper & Row, 1977, 8vo, pp. xii, 339, illus., £8.95.

A book teeming with quotations, facts, and names needs two guides to its contents: accurate documentation and an index. This book has neither, and its value is immediately considerably reduced.

It is made up of excerpts from observations made during the past two hundred years by American naturalists. They are termed "readable passages" and range from