

Book Notices

much of which illuminates the realities of hospital life. Like many of the genre, however, it suffers through a failure to set local developments in a wider context. There are also some glaring anachronisms, notably the claim that Bangour was still functioning as a “pauper lunatic asylum” in 1956 (p. 163). Overall, the authors are to be congratulated on recording the past in a manner which will be of considerable value to future historians.

GUNDOLF KEIL and PAUL SCHNITZER (eds), *Das Lorscher Arzneibuch und die frühmittelalterliche Medizin: Verhandlungen des medizinhistorischen Symposiums im September 1989 in Lorsch*, Lorsch, Verlag Laurissa, 1991, pp. 311, DM 24 (3-922781-74-8).

The Lorsch *Book of medicine*, formerly known as the Bamberg Codex from its modern home, the Bamberg Staatliche Bibliothek, is the earliest medical text to survive from Germany. It was written around 790 at the monastery of Lorsch (between Frankfurt and Heidelberg), and contains a series of dietetic, astrological, pharmacological, and deontological texts in Latin (with a few glosses in German). These learned essays set it in a variety of contexts—Late Antique pharmacology, monastic medicine, the monastery of Lorsch itself, and the whole development of medieval medicine, both early and late. There are general surveys as well as specific discussions of individual sections of the codex. An important parallel is provided by Bernhard Bischoff's publication, pp. 123–8, of previously unknown fragments of a manuscript of “popular medicine” written around 810 at the abbey of Fulda (Hesse), with which Lorsch had close contacts. For those with German, this can be warmly recommended as a sound and relatively inexpensive guide to early medieval medicine.

FELIX DRIVER and GILLIAN ROSE (eds), *Nature and science: essays in the history of geographical knowledge*, Historical Geography Research series No. 28, Bristol, Historical Geography Research Group, 1992, pp. vi, 79, illus. (1-870074-10-6).

This slim volume presents a collection of essays drawn from seminar papers given to the London Group of Historical Geographers. Their focus is the history of modern scientific thinking about the natural world. Medical historians will be interested mainly in essays by Ludmilla Jordanova, on ‘Environmentalism in the Eighteenth Century’, and by Roy Porter, on ‘Medicine, the Human Sciences and the Environment in the Enlightenment’. Jordanova offers a number of ideas about eighteenth-century environmentalism, which she examines by way of Lamarck's biological thinking, and of contemporary views on the family. Porter is concerned more particularly with the role of medicine (“deeply ambiguous”) in the emerging field of the sciences of man. David Livingstone's piece on the scientific sources of racial geography, which in turn provided a foundation for racial politics, is a bonus. All the essays are intended both to contribute to a new history of geography, and to stimulate current thinking about people and nature.

BOOKS 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.)

MARGARET BRAZIER, *Medicine, patients and the law*, London and New York, Penguin Books, 1992, second edition, pp. xxv, 495, £9.99 (paperback 0-14-012749-6).

WILBERT M. GESLER and THOMAS C. RICKETTS (eds), *Health in rural north America: the geography of health care services and delivery*, New Brunswick, NJ, and London, Rutgers University Press, 1992, pp. xiii, 314, \$37.00 (hardback 0-8135-1759-1), \$17.00 (paperback, 0-1835-1760-5).

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JAMES KIRKLAND, HOLLY F. MATHEWS, C. W. SULLIVAN III, KAREN BALDWIN (eds), *Herbal and magical medicine: traditional healing today*, Durham, NC and London, Duke University Press, 1992, pp. xii, 240, £42.75 (hardback, 0-8223-1208-5), £15.95 (paperback, 0-8223-1217-4).

PETER PARISH, *Medicines: a guide for everybody*, London and New York, Penguin Books, 1992, seventh edition, pp. xvi, 615, £7.99 (paperback, 0-14-051256-X).

CLAUDE QUÉTEL, *History of syphilis*, transl. Judith Braddock and Brian Pike, Cambridge and Oxford, Polity Press, 1990, pp. vii, 342, illus., £11.95 (paperback, 0-7456-1030-7). Hardback edition reviewed in *Medical History*, 1992, **36**: p. 359.