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grounds. From the mean score of a group you cannot say anything at all about the score of one exceptional member of the group, as Simonton must know. In another case Simonton assesses the relationship of educational level to rated eminence in Cox's sample of 301 eminent figures from history. He finds that, among the 192 "creators" (artists, scientists, etc.) in this sample, the most eminent had education equivalent (for their time and place) to "a college education just shy of a bachelor's degree" (p. 66). Those with more education or less ranked lower on the eminence scale. His conclusion is that "the development of creative potential may be weakened by formal training", although he cautiously admits that "the more impressive intellects simply may not need a doctorate" (p. 73). But to reach such a general conclusion, on the strength of 192 individuals selected from the past 500 years precisely because they were exceptional, is clearly nonsense. This is the psychology of testimonials, and is equivalent to saying: the world's ten richest men never graduated from university, therefore graduating from university will not make you any richer either.

Fallacious reasoning such as this will inevitably reduce the credibility of Simonton's analyses overall. This is a pity, as there is much in the book that may be valuable. Simonton's approach deserves to be extended and developed, but a good deal more carefully.

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ULRICH TRÖHLER, *Der Nobelpreisträger Theodor Kocher 1841—1917*, Basle, Birkhäuser, 1984, 8vo, pp. xvi, 238, SFr.38.80

Emil Theodor Kocher was a native of Berne, Switzerland. He became Professor of Surgery in 1872 and remained there until his death, forty-five years later. He belonged to the group of modern surgeons in the second half of the nineteenth century, and established close contact with his colleagues. Thus, he was a pupil of Langenbeck and Billroth, and became the friend and, in some cases, teacher of Victor Horsley, Wm. Halsted, George Crile, Harvey Cushing, and A. von Eiselsberg. He followed the traditions of John Hunter and Astley Cooper. His energy and capacity for hard work were enormous, and he covered a huge field, producing many innovations in techniques for the surgery of hernia, osteomyelitis, military injuries, dislocations, the nervous system, dermatomas, and attempts at the surgical treatment of epilepsy. His best-known work concerned the physiology and surgery of the thyroid gland and his observations of cachexia strumipriva (1883), for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1909. At the time of his death, he had carried out personally 5,314 thyroidectomies. He eschewed the virtuoso technique, but was a surgeon of careful planning, meticulous precision, and great skill. He was one of the leaders of the group of surgeons who put surgery on a sound anatomical, pathological, and, above all, physiological basis.

All this is described extremely well in Tröhler's new and comparatively short biography, on which he is to be congratulated. He gives the local and international background of the period, the personal relations, and a description of Kocher, the man. The text is supported by extensive references. A subject index in addition to the name index would have been helpful.

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WOLF-DIETER MÜLLER-JAHNCKE, *Astrologisch-magische Theorie und Praxis in der Heilkunde der frühen Neuzeit*, (*Sudhoffs Archiv*, Beiheft 25), Stuttgart, Steiner, 1985, 8vo, pp. 328, illus., DM.68.00.

The introduction draws attention to the change in attitude towards the subject of astrology in the history of science during the twentieth century. The method became descriptive, and the "spin-offs" from antiquated theories for the development of the natural sciences started to be acknowledged. The author divides medical astrology into three phases: (1) natural astrology,

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when the relationship of planets to events on earth and the birth of individuals and to parts of the body is studied; (2) divinatory astrology, when from astronomical calculations prognostications for the development of diseases or of epidemics are deduced; (3) "artificial astrology". Here tables and calendars are used without reference to or even knowledge of the philosophical background. During phase 2 the term *iatromathematics* was introduced to exclude the idea of demonic magic which would make this kind of medicine suspect to the religious establishment. Nevertheless, the attitude of religious authorities fluctuated a good deal. This is one of the chief themes of the book under notice. It is an excellent source-book for the astro-medicine of the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries, from Ficino through the syphilis debate down or up to Kepler.

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MING WONG, *Les massages en médecine traditionnelle chinoise*, Paris, Masson, 1984, 8vo, pp. x, 128, illus., £16.50.

Massage belongs to the manual methods of treating ailments, which have a long history in Chinese medicine going back to the fifth century BC. The view of the body underlying it is the traditional one that compares man with the universe. The vessels convey fluids along the body the way channels irrigate the earth. The acupuncture points are like stars in the sky. There are five humours, five colours, five seasons, etc., and massage aids their harmonious interaction. The first twenty-nine pages tell the history of the development of these ideas and their application by way of massage into an empirically valid system advocated today by the government hospitals and institutions in different districts of China, each having developed its own variety of treatment by massage. The next few pages are devoted to diagnosis concerned with functions such as energies, breaths, and an intricate pulse lore. The rest of the book demonstrates with line drawings what massage is to be given for specific complaints. Points along the acupuncture "meridians" are stimulated and sometimes points above, below, or to the left or right of them. For certain complaints additional treatment by acupuncture and herbal injections is recommended. Any person trained in Western massage may benefit from this book. To the rest of us it affords the spectacle of the possible variety of human responses to pain.

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BURGHARD WEISS, *Wie finde ich Literatur zur Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften und Technik*, Berlin, Arno Spitz, 1985, 8vo pp. 289, DM 36.00 (paperback).

According to the author, this work is not intended as a specialized introduction to the problems, foundations, and methods of the history of science and technology, nor is it a bibliography which lists systematically and with a certain completeness titles of books on the subject. Its aim is to provide information on the means of finding books and articles relevant to the study of the history of science and technology. It is true that this guide does not deal in depth with the methodology and foundations of the subject, but the author is unduly modest when he claims that the bibliography, which occupies three-quarters of the book, may not be considered systematic. It may lack comprehensiveness and completeness (it does not include articles, nor is it annotated), but it seems to be astonishingly up to date and should prove very useful to the student and newcomer to the subject, whatever his or her native language.

The book falls into two parts: the first four chapters deal with the methodology and aims of the subject, the material available for study in libraries, the West German libraries where this material can be found and the way the literature can be located (in fact, a short guide to bibliographical organization and library technique). This part is aimed at the student or newcomer to the subject in West Germany. There is an interesting account of the origin and