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part of the treatise, which as a whole comprises nine parts devoted entirely to therapeutics. This is followed by a review of the historical sources and useful short biographical sections relating to Ibn Ezra and al-Haitham. The content of each part of the treatise, excluding the first which has already been dealt with, is described with reference to other medical writers. The psychological and symbolic significance of the remedies is discussed and the theories commented on in the light of modern scientific knowledge. An index to this fascinating elucidation of the text is given on pp. 339 ff.

The problem of comparing the extant Hebrew manuscripts is dealt with in the section preceding the translation and commentary of the Hebrew text. Nine manuscripts are described and the distinction between the books of *Nisyonot* of Ibn Ezra and *Segulot* of Ibn al-Haitham made. The difficult task of exploring the relationship between the manuscripts, noting their similarities and differences, is clearly set out and the apparatus employed shows with admirable clarity the many variants between the texts by means of a novel graphical method. The work concludes with four plates of manuscripts consulted, a useful bibliography, and the index already referred to.

The editors have every reason to be proud of the technical skill and erudition their work displays, and the Wellcome Trust can be well satisfied in having supported the publication of a considerable achievement of scholarship.

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IAIN PATTISON, *The British veterinary profession, 1791–1948*, London, J.A. Allen, 1983, 8vo, pp. x, 207, illus., £9.50.

A comprehensive history of the British veterinary profession would be a most welcome publication to many readers, especially those interested in the emergence of occupational hierarchies and a profession's role within society. The modern veterinary surgeon is a splendid example of upward social mobility, his status before the eighteenth century similar to that of other skilled craftsmen, but strikingly improved from the 1790s with increased professional awareness and higher educational requirements. Iain Pattison's survey begins in 1791 with the establishment of the London Veterinary College, under the direction of Vial de St Bel, whose early death from glanders made possible the appointment of a surgeon, Edward Coleman, as Professor. The choice was made by a prestigious "Medical Experimental Committee", which included John Hunter, George Baker, and William Fordyce. Throughout the book, Pattison deals harshly with Coleman, referring to his friends, such as Astley Cooper, as "cronies" and condemning him for earning some £3,500 a year from pupils' fees and army consultancies, commonplace sources of income for senior surgeons in the early nineteenth century.

The emergence of veterinary journals was clearly of importance in consolidating the profession, and Pattison relies heavily on four such journals, only one of which is earlier than 1875. An interesting range of other publications from the early nineteenth century is ignored, such as the short-lived *Veterinary Examiner*, which first appeared on 1 December 1832, seeking to facilitate "the Studies of the Veterinary Pupil" by publishing the lectures of such eminent teachers as Coleman, Dick, and Youatt. The protracted negotiations to secure a Royal Charter for the London College in 1844 provide an impressive tale of spite and obstruction. As in several other instances, Pattison cannot refrain from exclaiming at the wonder of it all, noting Thomas Walton Mayer's efforts in this field as "without telegraph, telephone, typewriter, carbon paper or internal combustion engine", just as he cannot avoid such homespun philosophizing as "animals never imagine they are ill" or referring to Aleen Cust, the first female to qualify, as a "veterinary lady". Pattison rightly observes that "the vital role of *The Veterinarian* in the early days of the British veterinary profession ... cannot be over-emphasised", but it is nevertheless unacceptable to take its views, news items, and personalities as the whole of the profession.

The 1865–6 outbreak of cattle plague deservedly receives the author's attention as "the beginning of a Government veterinary service in Britain", but he considers the epidemic can

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be “comprehensively followed from the official reports”. Fortunately, official publications and actual events at local level frequently show interesting discrepancies and nineteenth-century provincial newspapers are full of detailed and useful accounts of the epidemic that certainly deserve setting alongside these official records. Pattison clearly has veterinary heroes and villains, not all of whom perhaps deserve his praise or opprobrium; thus he writes equally enthusiastically of John McFadyean as a leader of the profession and of Alfred Adrian Jones, a sculptor-veterinarian.

If one accepts that the history of a profession in Britain is to be found in its journals and publications, then Pattison’s book will satisfy the reader. However, a comprehensive story of veterinary practice and practitioners remains to be told, especially the recruitment of veterinary surgeons, their social origins and contribution to community health. Much archive material survives on the early history of the profession; the records of the nineteenth-century provincial associations, practitioners’ own account books, prescriptions and correspondence, as well as the veterinary surgeon’s appearance in other contemporary records, being paid for his professional attendance, owning property and advertising his services in the press (permitted until 1894), and so on. A volume based on these materials has still to be written; in the meantime Pattison’s book can be seen as one contribution towards a larger account.

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H. MOCHMANN and W. KOHLER, *Meilensteine der Bakteriologie*, Jena DDR, Gustav Fischer, 1984, pp. 386, illus., M.60.00 (paperback).

The 100th anniversary of Robert Koch’s discovery of the tubercle bacillus in 1882 brought a number of celebrations and biographical volumes on Koch from East Germany, covering familiar ground and in most cases bordering on eulogy. The present volume has the same protagonist but spreads its net much wider among early bacteriologists. It is based on a series of articles celebrating ‘One hundred years of bacteriology’ published in the journal *Medicamentum* since 1976. The authors emphasize that theirs is no comprehensive history but merely a collection of “stories from the history of bacteriology”. As such, they provide an entertaining guide to many early achievements by the rival German and French schools of bacteriology and immunology, extending also to the works of Ehrlich and of Metchnikoff and including much general and some exclusive biographic information. “Stories” they may be, but based on a well-documented study of the original literature they are eminently factual and never descend to the level of anecdote.

As a curtain-raiser, there is a historical perspective on the appalling consequences, especially for European Jews, of the superstitions aroused by the phenomenon of “bleeding” caused by periodic contamination of food and in particular of the Eucharist host with the “blood bacterium” *Serratia marcescens* from the early Middle Ages until a scientific explanation was finally given in the nineteenth century. There is an extensive bibliography of early bacteriology, although publications in languages other than German are few and far between. For a paperback volume, there is a generous number of well-chosen illustrations.

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BRYAN GANDEVIA, ALISON HOLSTER and SHEILA SIMPSON *An annotated bibliography of the history of medicine and health in Australia*, Sydney, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, 1984, 4to, pp. xiv, 187, 38.50 Australian dollars (paperback).

Anyone interested in health and the development of medicine in Australia will find this comprehensive bibliography a valuable research tool. Although essentially medical in its orientation, it extends to works dealing with the social, economic, and political implications of