

### Book Reviews

fully, and the factors that promoted the League and those that determined its downfall are carefully identified and skilfully dissected out. A broad approach is adopted throughout, so that Dr. Ledbetter's book is not only an important addition to the birth control movement, but also to the history of social change in general.

*Naval history. Part One: the Middle Ages to 1815*, London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1976, 4to, pp. xi, 209, illus., £12.00.

The Catalogue of the Library of the National Maritime Museum is in the process of publication, and this is the fifth volume. It is an elegant and scholarly production, and Mr. Michael Anderson, the Librarian, is to be congratulated on its excellence.

There are five sections: medieval, sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth (up to 1815) centuries; and a section on 'General works'. These are subdivided by localities and naval wars, and altogether there are 2,318 items, many with brief annotations. As well as printed books, reference is also made to periodical articles. A comprehensive index is provided and there are twelve well-chosen plates.

Like its predecessors, this catalogue will be a remarkably useful source-book, and, as it includes a number of references to naval medicine, it will also be of value to historians of medicine.

SIEGHARD NEUFELDT, *Chronologie Chemie 1800–1970*, Weinheim and New York, Verlag Chemie, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 359, illus., DM.78.00.

Each year is taken in sequence and the important contributions to chemistry during that year are recorded. The subsequent development of the idea or technique is briefly given. Thus one of the entries for 1929 is Fleming's classic paper and the work of Florey, Chain, and others is recorded, up to the first synthesis of penicillin in 1973. Accurate references to the primary sources are given, but without article titles. In the appendix outstanding additions to chemical knowledge are considered chronologically (Dalton, Berzelius, Kekulé, van't Hoff, Röntgen, etc.); there are lists of Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry, and physiology or medicine, and of like honours, important literature on chemical nomenclature, lists of chemical societies, journals, and history of chemistry literature. There follow name and subject indexes.

The author, therefore, provides a most valuable source-book for the historian of chemistry. It will also be useful to the historian of medicine because of the biochemical, pharmacological, and pharmaceutical material it contains.

EDWARD FORD, *Bibliography of Australian medicine 1790–1900*, Sydney University Press (Hemel Hempstead, Prentice Hall International), 1976, 8vo, pp. xv, 348, illus., £21.00.

Sir Edward Ford, the distinguished Australian medical scholar, has produced a most outstanding and important source-book. It contains, as far as possible, detailed annotated entries for every work on Australian medicine, domestic or overseas, from the period of national development, 1790, to 1900. Ancillary topics, such as nursing, dentistry, domestic, and fringe medicine, are included. Items are in alphabetical order and include notes on the author and the book, pamphlet, or broadsheet, and the location of copies. There is a subject index and a chronological list of publica-