

Book Reviews

Society since its inauguration in 1660. There were several in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, and the present club probably began in 1731. However, during its lifetime other subsidiary clubs have been formed: Sir Joseph Banks', The Royal Society Club, 1775 to 1784; the 47 Club, from 1874 to 1901 when it amalgamated with the older club. Naturally there have been several accounts of these clubs produced, all published in the last century or in the first two decades of this. Since their appearance, however, a good deal of additional and vital information has come to light, including the diaries of Hooke, John Byrom and Thomas Birch, and the Minute Book of Banks' Club. A new history was, therefore, amply justified and the author has produced a well-researched study with which to supplement and complement the accounts already available. He has drawn liberally on primary sources and cites extensively from them, but unfortunately he gives no precise references to their origins. In fact there are no notes or references at all, and the text tends to be a recitation of events without much discussion or attempts at relating with comparable events elsewhere in the world. Welcome though this detailed history may be, yet another will be needed in which full documentation and wider scholarship are employed.

KEITH TAYLOR (translator and editor), *Henri Saint-Simon (1760–1825). Selected writings on science, industry and social organisation*, London, Croom Helm, 1975, 8vo, pp. 312, £3.95 (paperback).

The influence of Saint-Simon as the founder of social science and socialism was widespread in Europe, despite the fact that his writings made little immediate impact. Although it is 150 years since his death, few of them have appeared in English, and the author's aim in this book is to present a collection of comprehensive and representative selections from them, with the object of making his ideas better known and of dispelling the frequently manifested confusion over his thoughts.

The pieces are arranged chronologically to facilitate a survey of the evolution of his doctrine. They are divided into three parts, after an introduction to the man: 'Science and the progress of human mind (1802–13)'; 'Proposals for post-war reconstruction (1814–15)'; 'From the government of men to the administration of things (1817–20)'; 'The true Christianity (1821–5)'. Of particular interest are ideas which deal with the application of scientific method to the study of man and society, the advent of the new science and technology, and the state's role in the promotion of social welfare.

Medical historians will find much of value in this excellent book, in view of the fact that Saint-Simon was of the greatest importance for the development of social thought in Europe during the nineteenth century and since.

JOHN DONNE, *Devotions upon emergent occasions*, edited, with commentary, by Anthony Raspa, Montreal and London, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1976, 4to, pp. lvi, 192, \$18.00.

In 1623 Donne was convalescing from an illness, which was either typhus or relapsing fever, and he used the enforced inactivity to construct these devotions which are arranged chronologically. Each attempts a spiritual diagnosis for each stage of