

Book Reviews

His first two dissertations were unsuccessful, but the third was on a congenial subject, *The Connection of the Animal Nature of Man with his Spiritual Nature*. He showed great skill in dealing with a fellow-cadet suffering from melancholia. He was not, however, successful as an army doctor and he left that *métier* as soon as he could live from his plays. From then on his role in the field of medicine was that of the patient. On and off he suffered from tuberculosis until his death at the age of forty-five in 1805.

The author gives a lively description of Schiller's life, though his treatment has little bearing on Schiller's main activity. The presentation of eighteenth century medicine seems more biased in the direction of the author's own interests than directly relevant to Schiller. A separate chapter each is devoted to Mesmer, to Lavater and to Gall, though the work of these men was of only episodic importance in Schiller's life and thought. There is, altogether, not much on Schiller's philosophy but that is perhaps as it should be because science did not hold the place for him that it held for Goethe (cf. p. 188). There is a very impressive list of sources comprising over eight pages, an index of persons mentioned, and an index of the numerous, charming illustrations.

The book is designed for the layman in medicine as well as in literature. Modern literary historians use a rather different style. But even this modest aim does not warrant apodictic statements like 'When Goethe's name is mentioned today . . . nobody thinks of Goethe the scientist' (p. 192).

MARIANNE WINDER

Albert von Bezold (1836–1868). Ein Pionier der Kardiologie, by ROBERT HERRLINGER and IRMGARD KRUPP, Stuttgart, Gustav Fischer Verlag, (Reihe Medizin in Geschichte und Kultur, Band 4), 1964, pp. vii, 131, DM. 19.80.

In this monograph the stress is rightly laid on Bezold's work, with just a twenty page introduction on his life. Bezold's contribution to physiology is appraised, and details of his working methods and the people and ideas which influenced him provide a picture of the man and the problems of his time. His work is put into the framework of previous research. A final short chapter deals with his influence on present-day physiology. Bezold's experiments on the nerves, the muscles and the heart and their reaction to electrical stimulation are described in a manner interesting to the layman although, on the whole, a medical training would be a great help in understanding the finer points. The list of references contains, besides 119 printed documents, seventeen passages from letters and fourteen extracts from Archives. There is also a chronological table of the events in research on the innervation of the heart from Galen to Janisch. One wonders if nothing has happened in the twenty-six years since 1939?

MARIANNE WINDER

History, Psychology, and Science: Selected Papers, by EDWIN G. BORING, edited by R. I. Watson and D. T. Campbell, New York, 1963, pp. xii, 372.

Professor Boring, whose career in academic psychology spans more than half a century (he is professor emeritus at Harvard), is already well known to historians for his classic *History of Experimental Psychology*, first published in 1929. It was a splendid idea of two colleagues at North Western University to bring together and so make accessible in one volume a representative collection of thirty of his papers previously scattered in journals, reports and proceedings of societies and congresses. The references are handily placed in a continuous alphabet at the end with separate indices of names

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and subjects. The papers are grouped under five headings: The *Zeitgeist* and the Psychology of Science; History of Psychology; Scientific Method; The Mind/Body Problem; and Communicating Science.

All are pervaded by that clarity of thought and thoughtfulness born of a sense of history which are found in all Boring's writings and, unlike much contemporary psychological literature, it gives them not only shape and scholarship but wisdom and permanent value. In Boring's own words 'a knowledge of history . . . has a huge capacity for adding significance for the understanding of the present. It gives the scholarly mind a context that enormously increases its capacity to perceive the meaning of the objects of its attention'. The writing is clear and crisp, the editor's overall and sectional introductions are models of their kind, and the production is excellent. The book is of interest to all those working in psychology and related fields, not least psychiatry, as well as historians and all others interested in man's scientific attempts to understand how he works and how he perceives and reflects on his world.

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