The undoubted hero of the piece emerges as George III himself. Beside him, the royal physicians all seem small men. Francis Willis, known as the 'duplicate doctor' because of his double qualification in divinity and medicine, got the credit for the cure because he and his son Dr. John were in residence when nature triumphed over art and spontaneous recovery restored the patient. Another son, the sinister Reverend Thomas Willis, also somehow managed to insinuate himself into the Royal family's confidence. Sir George Baker represented eighteenth-century medical practice at its dull, respectable and solid best, while Dr. Richard Warren's clinical acumen was blunted by his allegiance to the party of the Prince of Wales, whose physician he also was, as well as by his squabbles with the Lincolnshire mad-doctors and their methods.

But it is easy to be critical of the actors in that great drama of human, psychiatric and national history, in which confusion extended far beyond the mind of the patient. Yet Warren's pronouncement in the jargon of the time, that the King was suffering from 'seizures upon his brain'—that is a physical, not a mental illness—seems to fit the clinical features far better than the diagnosis of pathological mood change due to frustration, inhibition and conflict which we are offered here.

RICHARD HUNTER

*Das Viererschema in der antiken Humoralpathologie*, by ERICH SCHÖNER with introduction by ROBERT HERRLINGER, Wiesbaden, F. Steiner, 1964, (*Arch. Gesch. Med.*, Suppl. 4), pp. x, 114, 1 folding plate. DM.24

We all too easily identify ancient medicine as a whole and in all its strata with humoralism and in particular with the idea that four humours correspond to four elements and four qualities. In the book under notice a convincing case is made against this 'vulgar error', under the aegis of a medical historian (Herrlinger) and a classical scholar (Fridolf Kudlien). The genesis of the four-humour theory has really a complicated history up to its final development by Galen. Though recognizable in the Hippocratic Corpus, notably the treatise *On the Nature of Man*, it is by no means binding, let alone pre-eminent, even in Hippocratic medicine and a similar position emerges with regard to Aristotle, although it is the latter who is responsible for the first deliberate coordination of the four qualities with the four—Empedoclean—elements. Even Galen who came closest to a full development of the fourfold scheme of humoral pathology does not give it in a strictly systematic form; it still remained flexible. Only in the Middle Ages and through invasion by Astrology was the rigidity accomplished which has often been wrongly associated with the ancient Greek tradition. Nevertheless the scheme remains an essential, though not all powerful, component of ancient medicine. This is well shown in the material given in the present book, mostly in the form of tables which increase still further its great value. Perhaps more could have been said and made of the Pythagorean *Tetraktys* and its probable influence on the first creation of the scheme—but this is a wide field into which, we hope, the author will extend his researches at the proper time.

WALTER PAGEL

*Schiller. Sein Leben und die Medizin im 18. Jahrhundert*, by WILHELM THEOPOLD, Stuttgart, Gustav Fischer Verlag, (Reihe Medizin in Geschichte und Kultur, Band 6), 1964, pp. 251, DM. 24.90 boards, DM. 21.50 paper back.

Medicine played a part in several departments of Friedrich Schiller's life. His father was an army surgeon who was ordered to have his son educated at the local cadet school where the son was compelled, against his will, to take up the study of medicine.

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