

Book Reviews

development of the medical schools. From the 1960s, Dowling detects a shift in which hospitals are becoming leaders in health care for their communities.

Dowling has made careful use of a variety of secondary and printed primary sources. However, he has not used hospital papers and seems to have used only those primary materials to which secondary works have referred him. It is a pity, too, that he seems not to have drawn upon the expertise of Charles Rosenberg in the area. Despite these drawbacks, Dowling has made a useful contribution to this field.

Lindsay Granshaw
Unit for the History of Medicine
University College London

RICHARD PALMER, *The Studio of Venice and its graduates in the sixteenth century*, Trieste, Edizioni Lint, 1983, 8vo, pp. xi, 204, L.20,000 (paperback).

In the sixteenth century, Venice was one of the richest and most influential states of Europe. Likewise, the university that it fostered and then controlled, Padua, was probably the most prestigious. The splendour of Padua has meant that historians have tended to overlook the educational institutions within Venice itself. One of these was the Venetian College of Physicians, which had the privileges of a *Studio* – it was an examining and degree-giving body, but with few teaching posts and no group of students of its own. The College also undertook the traditional functions of a city College of Physicians and regulated the practice of medicine, advised the authorities on medical matters, and supervised the pharmacists.

A fire in 1800 which destroyed the records of the College, and the doubts of historians as to whether the College could award degrees helped to add to the obscurity in which the College has remained until now. However, Richard Palmer, using seventeenth- and eighteenth-century copies of the records and a sixteenth-century minute book of the College now in the possession of the Bishop of Hvar, has been able to show that the College was far more influential and prestigious than previously believed.

Palmer's book makes it clear that the Venetian College was a serious rival to the Paduan College of Physicians – both bodies offered to examine and award degrees to Venetians studying at Padua and other universities. Although the Paduan College had more graduates, the list of physicians awarded degrees by the Venetian College reads like a Who's Who of sixteenth-century medicine. A large number of the graduates of the College became university professors and many published books on medicine.

The opening essay introducing the College gives a valuable description, not only of the College's history, but also of its relations with the Venetian authorities, the universities, and students. The reader is also offered an insight into the structure of higher education in Venice. There follows a list of the graduates of the College with succinct accounts of their careers, where available. The biographical information, which uses a wide variety of sources, must have involved a lot of industry and will be a very useful source of information.

In method, Palmer's book is reminiscent of the painstaking researches of nineteenth-century historians of the universities and the very modern archive-based social histories of renaissance Italy. The combination is a fertile one in which we have the internal history of an institution put into its social and political setting.

Andrew Wear
University of Aberdeen

WILLIAM R. WOODWARD and MITCHELL G. ASH (editors), *The problematic science: psychology in nineteenth-century thought*, New York, Praeger, 1982, 8vo, pp. xvii, 394, illus., \$51.00.

This collection of essays, as its title suggests, opposes the once established view, given classic expression in E. G. Boring's *History of experimental psychology*, that psychology firmly emerged as a distinct science and discipline in late nineteenth-century Germany, particularly through the work of Wilhelm Wundt. The editors hope that their contributors, freed to write historically about the exceedingly diverse intellectual traditions, methodological commitments,