

### *Book Reviews*

nature but some dealing with more particular topics in the history of German medicine and science during the period 1871 to 1914. Amongst them Seidler writes on the political status of the doctor, Goerke on the panel doctor, Winau on the doctor and disease in poetry, Querner on Roux, Murken on Bad Nauheim, Jusatz on tropical medicine, Eichberg on body culture, and Rosner on the reception of Western medicine in Japan. As in other volumes in this excellent series, the articles are well documented and illustrated. They reveal closely the thriving state of scholarly medical history at present active in West Germany.

FRANCIS X. GROLLIG and HAROLD B. HALEY (editors), *Medical anthropology*, The Hague and Paris, Mouton, (West Berlin, W. de Gruyter), 1976, 8vo, pp. xvii, 485, illus., DM. 76.00.

There are thirty-one papers in this volume, including four introductory papers to the four sections into which the essays are divided: native cultural aspects of healing; specific subject papers; interaction of traditional and Western medical practices; and theoretic aspects of medical anthropology. A group of international experts present a great variety of topics, dealing with native cultural aspects of healing and the deep-seated nature of health beliefs which are basic to applied medical anthropology. The cultural background to these subjects is of vital importance, and Western healers have much to learn from their more primitive colleagues.

Much of this book is relevant to the history of medicine in view of the analogy between primitive and pre-historical medicine, and because of its value in the general history of therapeutics. It should receive wide attention in the fields of anthropology, clinical medicine, fringe medicine, ethnology, and medical history.

ADAM KUPER (editor), *The social anthropology of Radcliffe-Brown*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1977, 8vo, pp. viii, 296, £3.50 (paperback).

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown (1881–1955) was one of the first professional anthropologists, and he aimed to establish scientific comparative sociology, that is, a structural and sociological anthropology. In this collection of his writings there are eleven essays divided into three sections: 'Structure and function', on social structure, functionalism, the comparative method in social anthropology, etc.; 'Rites and values', on Andaman Island ceremonies, and on religion and society; 'The study of kinship systems' in Australian tribes, joking relationships, and systems of kinship and marriage. The editing, however, is quite inadequate and limited to a seven-page 'Preface' and a fourteen-page introduction to Part I. There is a bibliography and a limited index.

ROSANNA LEDBETTER, *A history of the Malthusian League 1877–1927*, Columbus, Ohio State University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. xxii, 261, \$12.50.

The League was the first organization to advocate birth control as the only way of solving the problems of the poor, and the first of many sexual reform groups. It was founded by Charles Bradlaugh, the leading British Freethinker of his day, and its aims were clearcut: to allow free discussion of contraception, and to preach the importance of family limitation. The author, a historian, depicts the League's rise and fall in a scholarly, well-written book. The complex background is analysed care-