

Book Reviews

GERALD LEMAINÉ, ROY MACLEOD, MICHAEL MULKAY and PETER WEINGART (editors), *Perspectives on the emergence of scientific disciplines*, The Hague and Paris, Mouton, (West Berlin, W. de Gruyter), 1976, 8vo, pp. xi, 281, DM.50.00.

The disciplines represented in the twelve essays which comprise this book include agricultural chemistry, thermodynamics, physical chemistry, biophysics, x-ray protein crystallography, radio-astronomy, radar meteor research, and radio-astronomy, in this order. There is also an editorial introduction which brings together and clarifies some of the important issues in the study of scientific disciplines. The overall aim is that historians and sociologists should appreciate each others' research for their mutual benefit. The essays indicate the work in this area at present being carried out in Britain, and both the projects and intentions are most welcome. The integration of social and intellectual factors in the areas discussed can only be beneficial. This book therefore is an important contribution to past, and a stimulus to future, work in the social studies of science. It is a publication of the Paris-Sussex (PAREX) interdisciplinary group, which promotes scholarly collaboration in this area and deserves wide support and encouragement.

TRAIAN STOIANOVICH, *French historical method. The 'Annales' paradigm*, Ithaca and London, Cornell University Press, 1976, 8vo, pp. 260, £10.00.

The type of history purveyed by the French periodical *Annales* has of late received considerable publicity in this country, although it began in 1929 and has been especially active since 1946. It is, according to this author, a third kind of history, those of Herodotus and Ranke being the first two. This book is a survey of the school's history and an analysis of its conceptions in the history of ideas. It is a flexible historiographical method aiming at total history, which means the utilization of every conceivable source, no matter how obscure or fragmentary. However, this approach has led to widespread debate on its usefulness, which Professor Stoianovich details here, as well as the dilemmas of its practitioners. Making available masses of historical material from a multiplicity of sources is in itself useful, but interpretation and judgement may be impaired by the very bulk.

This is a history of the *Annales* movement, and of the ideas of scholars belonging to it and inspired by it. We can, at the moment, argue as to the nature and extent of the change that the school has brought about in the discipline of history, but there seems no doubt that whatever the outcome may be it will be permanent. It, therefore, behoves all historians of medicine to be familiar with it, and Stoianovich's book will provide a useful, if somewhat biased and at times unconvincing, account and explanation of it.

GUNTER MANN and ROLF WINAU (editors), *Medizin, Naturwissenschaft, Technik und das Zweite Kaiserreich*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1977, 8vo, pp. 338, illus., DM.78.00.

At the 57th Congress of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Science, and Technology (Bad Nauheim, 6 to 11 September 1973), the eighteen essays collected together here were presented. There is a wide selection of topics, most of a general