

### Book Reviews

and practice, as Margaret Pelling asserts, but on several issues theory was vital, namely quarantine and the separation of the sick from the healthy, especially in hospitals. The relationship of the work of the leading medical theoreticians analysed here, to other practitioners, to politicians, and to public opinion needs further examination. This book not only makes that task easier but makes an important contribution to the history of medical thought.

HANS-REINER SIMON, *Die Bibliographie der Biologie. Eine analytische Darstellung unter wissenschaftshistorischen und informationstheoretischen Gesichtspunkten*, Stuttgart, Anton Hiersemann, 1977, 8vo, pp. x, 315, DM.150.

Reviewed by Eric J. Freeman, B.A., Librarian, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

Potential users of Dr. Simon's book should pay attention to his sub-title if they are to escape the shock of the unexpected. This is no gentle, humane narrative of the rise and progress of the enumerative bibliography of science, such as may be found in the writings of Estelle Brodman and John Fulton. Much of the book is strictly for men, rather than boys; men, moreover, with more than the usual dash of numeracy.

There is a useful historical survey of the bibliography of biology containing familiar enough material, but analysed and arranged in ways not to be found elsewhere. One example, plucked at random from the section on periodical bibliography, is the thirty-six-page alphabetical subject index to *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* (1835–1927), complete with details of authors, date of contribution, volume, series, part, and page numbers. Inaccessibility of the original forbids a check, but if Dr. Simon has it all correct it will be a minor miracle.

A good half of the book is concerned with the stern and somewhat arid stuff of information theory and bibliometry. Study of the ways in which the movement of scientific information may be inferred from science's literature received its best-known, and fairly non-technical, treatment in Derek De Solla Price's *Big science, little science* (1963). Matters have darkened since then and this section of Dr. Simon's book is best avoided except by readers with basic statistical skills.

*Der Bibliographie der Biologie* will receive its peer reviews in the technical journals. For the rest of us the book will be occasionally useful, wholly admirable, but unlovable.

ARTHUR E. IMHOF (editor), *Biologie des Menschen in der Geschichte: Beiträge zur Socialgeschichte der Neuzeit aus Frankreich und Skandinavien*, Stuttgart, Frommann-Holzboog, 1978, 8vo, pp. 421, [no price stated].

This collection of essays edited by A. E. Imhof bears the same title in German as a recent American volume edited by R. Forster and O. Ranum (*Biology of man in history*, Johns Hopkins Press, 1975). Both are selections from an exciting area of historical investigation associated most intimately with the French journal *Annales, Économies, Sociétés, Civilisations*. All of the essays in the Forster-Ranum collection come from *Annales*, and many in Imhof's volume do. Most of the authors will be familiar to anyone interested in this topic; they include M.D. Grmek, E. Le Roy

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Ladurie, F. Lebrun, J.-N. Biraben, J.-P. Peter, and J.-P. Goubert. With the exception of one article by David Gaunt which originally appeared in Swedish, all of Imhof's choices were first published in French, so the translations into German are unlikely to be of particular use to English-speaking historians. However, Imhof has also written an excellent sixty-five-page introduction to his subject and provides a useful thirty-page bibliography of recent work in historical human biology. Unusual in collections of essays, the volume is indexed.

EDWIN HARTMAN, *Substance, body and soul: Aristotelian investigations*, Princeton University Press, 1978, 8vo, pp. xi, 292, £11.80.

*Reviewed by Vivian Nutton, M.A., Ph.D., Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.*

Historians of psychology will find this tough-minded study of Aristotle's views on personal identity greatly rewarding, although by no means easy reading. Aristotle, it is argued, sees the world as populated by individual material objects, rather than by their parts or by universals: material objects are identical with their particular essence, not a combination of form and matter. The author traces the consequences of this theory as applied to the person, a substance whose essence is his soul, and to the relationships between body and mind as expressed in perception, sensation, and thought. These investigations, even if not all equally convincing, have the great merit of taking Aristotle seriously, as a philosopher-scientist worth arguing with, rather than as a historical totem-pole to be noticed, respected, and then preserved as an ineffective curiosity.

GARY WERSKEY, *The visible college. A collective biography of British scientists and socialists of the 1930s*, London, Allen & Unwin, 1978, 8vo, pp. 376, £10.00.

Five British scientists who turned to socialism at about the time of the First World War are featured in this book by an American-born sociologist: J. D. Bernal, J. B. S. Haldane, Lancelot Hogben, Hyman Levy, and Joseph Needham. By their writings and publicity on science and socialism they became known as leading intellectuals, and they here relate the stories of their lives and of their times through their own eyes. One of the absorbing aspects is the difference between the individuals' approaches to their common interests, and their varying backgrounds. It is a scholarly work which will prove to be attractive and valuable to a wide range of readers, including scientists, politicians, and historians of the twentieth century and of its science.

WESLEY W. SPINK, *Infectious diseases. Prevention and treatment in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*, Folkestone, Dawson, 1978, 8vo, pp. xx, 577, illus., £22.50.

Dr. Spink has specialized in infectious diseases for almost fifty years and now presents a history of their control. There are three sections. The first, 'Background of the control and treatment of infectious diseases', includes very pedestrian chapters on early concepts of infection and its control, and the development of bacteriology, immunology, and virology, together with a survey of the evolution of public health in Great Britain and the U.S.A., and of the World Health Organization. The second