

Book Reviews

However, English nurses going to America and confused by the American educational and organizational system will find this not only a useful source book, but a comfort in the fact that although we are “two great nations separated by the same language”, our problems in educating and providing a nursing service capable of meeting changing health needs are much the same. Not least of these is providing organizational unity in the face of increasing diversity and specialization.

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E. F. CATFORD, *The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh 1929–79*, Edinburgh, Scottish Academic Press, 1984, 8vo, pp. xvi, 290, illus., £10.50.

Despite Edinburgh's considerable fame in matters medical, she has been unlucky in her historians. Unlike Glasgow, neither Edinburgh Colleges nor the University's medical faculty have had perceptive historians, and bland insider texts have been the rule. One exception is Logan Turner's *Story of a great hospital*, which informed and entertained while dealing with the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. This new volume is an update of the history of the Royal, and covers the period after Logan Turner's work, a difficult task when the events are so recent, and many participants alive. The author, a former health board administrator, charts a safe course in these difficulties, and his assumptions are to describe in detail the clinical, financial and administrative events, avoiding comment or analysis. The book inevitably disappoints, and gives a sanitized account more appropriate to the voluntary hospital era. This book will be a valuable reference work, but for the insights, historians will turn with gratitude to Colin Douglas's perceptive novels based on the life of this hospital. Predictably, comment on these novels is absent from this book, since they offended some Edinburgh sensibilities. The book is well produced and nicely indexed, and a trick of the bookbinder's art ensures that it falls open at the many photographs of royal visits. What a pleasure, however, to see a new book printed by letterpress on excellent paper: for this reason the book will last.

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JOACHIM RITTER and KARLFRIED GRÜNDER (editors), *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, Band 6, Mo–O, Basle and Stuttgart, Schwabe, 1984, 4to, pp. 1395, SFr. 180.00/DM.218.00

This volume of the *Historical dictionary of philosophy* fully lives up to the high standard established by its predecessors. Its entries feature several of major significance for historians of medicine, including the whole range of nature and the natural sciences, from *Natur* itself, “second nature”, and *Naturalismus* through *Naturphilosophie* and *Naturwissenschaften* to *Naturzweck*. Those of us not brought up in this German tradition will find these entries extremely helpful in understanding the concepts used in such discussions, which often seem, to unpractised ears, somewhat unreal. There are valuable entries too on the divisions of historical time (*Neuzeit*), on necessity and on nothingness, as well as surveys of more concrete themes such as music and the organism. No library can afford to be without this great work, and all scholars who seek a preliminary orientation into many of the concepts used by their continental colleagues (and even at times into those of their own speciality) would be well advised to consult its entries.

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