

## Book Notices

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H. J. KÜHN (editor), *Index Hippocraticus, Fasc. II: Α–π*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1988, 8vo, pp. 465–678, DM 140.00 (paperback).

This latest fascicle of the Hippocratic Lexicon maintains the high standard of its predecessors (see *Medical History* 1987, pp. 239, 497). Its listings for such major words as *nosema* and *nousos* make it clear how much confusion can be laid at the door of editors who neglected the manuscripts, or who, like Kühn, allowed many printer's errors to slip by. It is perhaps unfortunate that while these nonce-words appear in the entries for the correct word, they have no separate listing to aid the unwary reader faced with a strange, but possibly genuine, word like *paphassein*, cf. p. 629, col.b.

THEOPHRAST VON HOHENHEIM GENANNT PARACELSUS, *Sämtliche Werke, II: Theologische und religionsphilosophische Schriften, Bd. 3: Dogmatische und polemische Einzelschriften*, in Verbindung mit Gisela von Preradovic, Hartmut Rudolph und Karl-Heinz Weimann bearbeitet von Kurt Goldammer, Stuttgart, Franz Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden, 1986, 8vo, pp. liv, 299, DM 140.00.

The modern edition of the original texts of Paracelsus begun by Sudhoff comprises not only 14 volumes on medicine, but an equal number of volumes on theology. Of the latter, volumes 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 have hitherto been published. This, volume 3, contains an introduction on the manuscript tradition. Indeed, six of the manuscripts of the texts in it have been discovered only during the last 25 years among the Harleian and Sloane codices in the British Library. The introduction attempts to attach dates to the various treatises and gives summaries of the chief ideas. The text itself is provided with a double apparatus: one of variant readings; and one explaining antiquated (Early New High German) grammar, words and phrases, and obscure passages, and supplying chapter and verse for the numerous Biblical quotations. The subjects are idolatry, false and true Saints, and the Trinity. The editors are to be congratulated on such a careful and accessible edition.

PETER WINGATE, with RICHARD WINGATE, *The Penguin medical encyclopedia*, third edition, London, Penguin books, 1988, 8vo, pp. vii, 519, illus., £5.95, \$8.95, (paperback).

Many of *Medical History's* readers will have found earlier editions of this book useful; the rest would be well advised to buy this one. The Wingates can convey their enthusiasm for such heroes as Laennec and Bernard, in the biographical entries, neatly summarize complicated matters with due regard to pre-twentieth-century definitions ("immunity"), and write with a degree of graceful common sense ("sex", "counter-irritation"). Some of the head-words ("gold") are surprising, but introduce highly instructive slices through the historical body of therapeutics. Many entries are, inevitably, mildly prescriptive: the only thing that hypochondriacs will not like about this book is the definition of "hypochondriasis". Misunderstandings are sorted out ("ethics", as opposed to etiquette), most usefully when the authors explain the peculiarities of British diction to the rest of the world ("doctor"). A decent amount of space is devoted to non-Western disorders and therapies: "The traditional remedy is to pull [the Guinea worm] slowly out by winding her round a stick over the course of a week or more. Otherwise, the worm can be killed with phenothiazine."

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JENNIFER NEWTON, *Preventing mental illness*, with a Foreword by Colin Murray Parkes, London and New York, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1988, 8vo, pp. xi, 275, £25.00.

Dr Newton is the Prevention Research Officer of MIND, the National Association for Mental Health. Like its American counterpart, the National Mental Association, MIND arose out of the early twentieth-century "mental hygiene" movement, as she explains in an introductory, historical chapter. The progress of preventative psychiatry is seen to have been slow, aside from two Copernican revolutions. The first was the conviction, shared by Clifford Beers and Sigmund Freud, that hospital practice has little to do with the development of a healthy personality; the second was the realization, during World War II, that such preventative measures as placing recruits in units where they could feel competent and useful would not only help to keep more of them sane, but all of them efficient. The subsequent chapters summarize the epidemiological research; present the alternatives of "disease-" and "health modeling" (the former is much more productive in this context); apply the models to what we do know about the distribution and causes of schizophrenia and depression; and evaluate both the opportunities for interventions, and some measures already attempted, with children and adults at risk. None of the difficulties are glossed over in this exemplary review of the literature. The most striking, for the non-clinician, are those which would perhaps inconvenience employers and local housing- and school authorities, among others.

SUSAN BAUR, *Hypochondria: woeful imaginings*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London, University of California Press, 1988, 8vo, pp. x, 252, £10.00, \$19.95.

Baur's elegant and thoughtful book is principally about hypochondria today—its definition, manifestations, its particular significance for the old and within the family, and its embeddedness in the specificities of our culture (one all too liable to equate sickness with failure). But she recognizes that hypochondria has its own history, and indeed opens with two sensitive historical chapters, one of which offers a particularly acute character analysis of James Boswell (self-styled "Hypochondriack"); throughout, her text is illuminated with historical tidbits. What one mainly misses, perhaps, is a sense of the historical *genderedness* of hypochondria—as the man's disease, in contradistinction to hysteria. Baur's book highlights the lack of an in-depth analytical history of the condition.

## BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.)

HERVÉ BARREAU (editor), *Théories biologiques: éthique et expérimentation en médecine*, Fondements des sciences, Paris, Éditions du Centre national de la Recherche scientifique, 1988, 8vo, pp. 262, illus., Fr. 120.00 (paperback).

LAZARE BENAROYO, 'L' Avis au peuple sur sa santé' de Samuel-Auguste Tissot (1728–1797): *la voie vers une médecine éclairée*, Zürcher medizineschichtliche Abhandlungen, no. 195, Zurich, Juris, 1988, 8vo, pp. 84, SFr. 22.00 (paperback).

EMILE G. BLIZNAKOV and GERALD L. HUNT, *The miracle nutrient coenzyme Q10*, Wellingborough, Northants, Thorsons, 1988, 8vo, pp. 228, £3.50 (paperback).