

Book Reviews

JAMES G. BURROW, *Organized medicine in the progressive era. The move toward monopoly*, Baltimore, Md., and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977, 8vo, pp. ix, 218, £9.75.

This is a study of the organization of American medicine during the first two decades of this century. Burrow concentrates on the moves by the American Medical Association, and by various local and state medical societies, to create a unified, decently-educated profession. The primary obstacle facing medical reformers during the period was not so much rival groups, such as eclectics, osteopaths, homeopaths, and chiropractors, but the appalling apathy and ignorance of the "regular" doctors.

Burrow's book is divided into three parts. The first section sketches a brief portrait of American medicine around 1900. Burrow then looks at general forces favouring reform, including the growth of bacteriology and other basic sciences, and the perception by American doctors of the better conditions of medical education and practice in Europe, particularly Germany and Britain. The second section examines more specific aspects of American medical reform, including AMA attempts to impose minimal standards on medical schools, fights at both local and national levels between doctors and rival groups, and debates about medical licensing. The final section deals with economic aspects of medicine, especially organized resistance by medical groups to contract practice and insurance schemes. Burrow concludes that the "Progressive Era marks the most fateful epoch in the history of the American medical profession. . . . No other era fixed so firmly the profession's social attitudes or dictated so completely its political course for decades ahead."

Burrow's conclusions are probably justified, and this present study is based on extensive research in local archives and the medical journals of the period. It is somewhat diffusely written, and occasionally the reader loses the thread in a welter of obscure detail. But the book repays close attention, for it is a substantial contribution to our understanding of a formative period in American medicine.

SOPLY ZUCKERMAN, *From apes to warlords 1904–46. An autobiography*, London, Hamish Hamilton, 1978, 8vo, pp. xv, 447, £7.95.

Lord Zuckerman's autobiography (1904–1946) has received wide coverage in the public press (*Times lit. Supp.*, 3 March 1978; *Sunday Times* (review), 29 January 1978, and lengthy extracts 22 January 1978; *The Observer*, 29 January 1978; *The Times*, 2 February 1978 and 26 January 1978; *The Economist*, 28 January 1978; *New Scientist*, 23 February 1978). The period covered deals with his days as a medical student, research anatomist to the Zoological Society of London, research fellow at Yale University, and his university appointment at Oxford. From the last of these, he went in 1946 to the chair of anatomy in the University of Birmingham. But the majority of the book is concerned with his wartime work as a scientific adviser.

As well as being outstanding in science, Lord Zuckerman has maintained contacts with all parts of society, and his lively story reveals the many facets of his personality and intellect. As well as an absorbing autobiography, his book is full of useful information, with notes and references in the seven appendices, along with other details. A further instalment will be most welcome.